

SEP 05 2001

550602

DONALD DECKER: Thank you very much. I'm

10 Donald Decker, a geologist who lives here in
11 Nevada, in Elko. I've only been in -- primarily in
12 Nevada since 1963.

13 The proposed Yucca Mountain project is an
14 ideal opportunity for the State of Nevada to take a
15 proactive approach to developing several issues
16 which were critical to Nevada. I propose the
17 State of Nevada step up and say yes to the Yucca
18 Mountain Project in order to allow to address these
19 issues.

20 As we all know, the U.S. is a major -- a
21 primary producer and user of electricity, which
22 obviously comes from nuclear power. At the present
23 time approximately 20 percent of our needs in the
24 U.S. are produced by nuclear energy. Nevada is a
25 prime producer of renewable resources of

0014

1 electricity. Senator Reid recently put more funds
2 to ensure our renewable geothermal energy
3 production. Nevada is a progressive leader
4 energizing local and state, national -- and
5 national needs.

6 So the issues that could be addressed
7 through the Yucca Mountain Project, one is national
8 security. The products that are to be stored at
9 the Yucca Mountain Project should be and need to be
10 localized from a national security standpoint in
11 order to be more secure.

12 Two, patriotic duty. For over 50 years
13 Nevada has approved of and benefitted from the
14 research and development of military and civilian
15 uses of nuclear energy. The Yucca Mountain project
16 is simply an extension of this policy. The nearby
17 Nevada Test Site has been productive in this regard
18 for over 50 years.

19 And I would like to suggest that perhaps
20 the Strip population in Las Vegas has progressed at

550602

21 the same rate as the testing on The Test Site. It
22 doesn't seem as though The Test Site has negated
23 the visitation to Las Vegas.

24 Number three, economic diversity. The
25 state of Nevada is in a precarious position to
0015

1 develop economic diversity and long-term economic
2 viability. That's primarily because of the federal
3 control of the state lands as just mentioned by
4 Mr. Jefferson.

5 This is well recognized by our elected
6 officials, especially in the numerous legislative
7 acts which allow privatization of more land in the
8 Las Vegas Valley area. Private land is always
9 essential to economic diversity and viability. And
10 it seems like our elected officials recognize that
11 about every two years. It seems like when we hit
12 an election year, they have to find some more land
13 to sell.

14 The Yucca Mountain Project can be
15 compared -- from an economic standpoint it can be
16 compared to the beginnings of the space program in
17 the late 1950s. With the Yucca Mountain program
18 the opportunity is at our doorstep to develop the
19 best nuclear research facility in the world.
20 Through this many spin-off benefits will be
21 realized.

22 As we saw in the late 1950s and '60s there
23 was many, many things which were developed through
24 the space program which we had absolutely no idea
25 what they were going to be. Through proper

0016

1 controls and scientific research we could benefit
2 as a state in having this research facility to
3 develop throughout the world.

4 We need to take this opportunity to
5 develop, to spur our elected officials to step up
6 to their responsibility to become proactive in

550602

7 securing the Yucca Mountain Project for Nevada to
8 ensure economic sustainability and diversity for
9 our state.

10 This should include privatization of
11 public lands of the state for state controlled
12 rather than people from out of state, including
13 consideration for the Native Americans living
14 within the state. And I would like to suggest that
15 we look at this and encourage our elected officials
16 to consider taking Yucca Mountain for the state.

17 The Yucca Mountain program entails about
18 one percent I believe of the land that's covered by
19 the Nevada Test Site, and I think that we need to
20 look seriously at that. Thank you.

21 MS. TICE: Thank you, Mr. Jefferson.

22 DONALD DECKER: Decker.

23 MS. TICE: Mr. Decker, I'm sorry. That's
24 or last commentor.