

BOB TAYLOR: My name is Bob Taylor,

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7 T-a-y-l-o-r, and I am happy to hear one other person is  
8 for the dump at Yucca Mountain.

9 I worked for the Atomic Energy Commission  
10 starting 50 years ago exactly in the raw materials  
11 division in Grand Junction, Colorado, and at that time  
12 the country was short of enough uranium to continue  
13 without foreign supplies on the atomic program, and, of  
14 course, it was necessary at that time, our leaders  
15 thought.

16 I worked in and around uranium mines a good  
17 part of my career as a mining engineer, and there are  
18 hazards and were very bad hazards in uranium mines. In  
19 the early days when we knew very little about radiation  
20 and ventilation was inadequate, I have many friends who  
21 died from lung cancer, but as we learned more and  
22 provided better ventilation and more engineering and so  
23 forth, we've made the mines fairly safe. The mines, of  
24 course, are not traditionally very safe, but we made them  
25 much better, and although there's probably been four or

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1 five hundred uranium miners who have died with lung  
2 cancer, most of this was a delay of 15 to 20 years from

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3 original exposure, and so it -- it happened many years  
4 before the problem was fully recognized, and we do learn  
5 as we go along, and I think in the program there at the  
6 test site, those early problems were probably a similar  
7 thing where we knew very little.

8 I happened to be in the Pacific when the  
9 bombs were dropped and wondered what "e equals mc  
10 squared" meant when we read it in Stars and Stripes, but  
11 most of us were kind of happy to get to go home a little  
12 earlier.

13 I've followed this. I've been in Reno about  
14 20 years, coming from Colorado and working, as I say, in  
15 the Colorado plateau in the uranium areas, uranium mining  
16 areas, and I guess I came here about the time that this  
17 whole study started and have gone through many phases,  
18 including formation of Bullfrog County down in Nye  
19 County, an offshoot of Nye County.

20 There's been many delays and reasons to stop  
21 this whole program, and I can't see what more can be done  
22 to study this program in this area. I'd say it's  
23 probably the most studied area in the world from a  
24 scientific standpoint. The DOE has had many hearings,  
25 they've had tours. Anyone that wants to go down there,

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1 as I understand, can go through there, and my wife and I  
2 went through the test site and over Yucca Mountain about  
3 10 or 11 years ago. It was just -- there wasn't anything  
4 underground at that point, but it was laid out to us and  
5 seemed pretty logical, and I was kind of impressed,  
6 thinking back, that it looked to me like it was only  
7 about five miles from -- from the area where all the  
8 bombs were exploded and the Sedan Crater is over where  
9 Yucca Mountain is, and if that area isn't polluted  
10 forever and if it doesn't affect the groundwater and so  
11 forth, I'd be very surprised.

12       So I think personally that putting the 77,000  
13 tons or whatever it is of the nuclear waste that's  
14 planned for Yucca Mountain underground in casks in a very  
15 secure location where it can be easily guarded at several  
16 portals, and that's all there is, it's on a secure base,  
17 which is the Nevada Test Site, and security has always  
18 been very good there, and it's impressive to go there,  
19 and I would suggest that anyone that has these great  
20 concerns go down and go through the situation. I'd like  
21 to go down and I assume that you can still get  
22 underground and see the facility. This has whetted my  
23 appetite and I'm going to see if I can do it.

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24           Just to summarize, I just think we're better  
25 off, especially with the security hazards that have

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1 developed here in the last month, to get this material  
2 moved to a secure place. We can guard those trucks and  
3 we can get them across the country. It's certainly  
4 better in one location under guard where it's on a secure  
5 reservation than in 70-some-odd sites at 104 different  
6 nuclear plants.

7           Thank you.

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