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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY
OFFICE OF NUCLEAR ENERGY
OFFICE OF FUEL CYCLE MANAGEMENT

GLOBAL NUCLEAR ENERGY PARTNERSHIP
PROGRAMMATIC ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT
PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING
February 27, 2007
9:00 a.m.
Pecos River Village Conference Center
711 Muscatel Ave.
Carlsbad, New Mexico

HELD BEFORE:

Hearing Officer Richard Black,
Associate Deputy Assistant Secretary
Office of Nuclear Energy

Holmes Brown, Facilitator

REPORTED BY: DEBORAH L. O'CONNOR, RPR, CRR, CCR #297
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(3163A) DEB

1 MR. BROWN: If folks will take their
2 seats, we'll get started. And there's plenty of
3 empty seats up front for those who are standing in
4 back. Can't hear me? I think the mic's on. I
5 think our crowd is too enthusiastic. Folks, if
6 you'll take your seats. There we go. This is
7 always a very enthusiastic crowd. So thanks.
8 Again, if folks will take their seats, and there are
9 a number of seats here near the front for those in
10 back.

11 Twenty-five years ago when I worked for
12 the National Governors Association we brought a
13 group of state officials here to your Potash mine,
14 so it's nice to be back in Carlsbad above ground.
15 So it's a lovely facility you have here and, as
16 usual, a very nice turnout.

17 Good morning. Welcome to this public
18 scoping meeting on a Programmatic Environmental
19 Impact Statement for the Global Nuclear Energy
20 Partnership. The development of an Environmental
21 Impact Statement for this program is required by the
22 National Environmental Policy Act.

23 My name is Holmes Brown. I'll serve as
24 facilitator for this event. My role is to make sure
25 the meeting runs on schedule and that everybody has

1 an opportunity to speak. I'm not an employee of the
2 Department of Energy nor an advocate for any
3 particular party or position.

4 At the registration table you should have
5 received a participant's packet. If not, please
6 raise your hand and staff will provide you one. It
7 contains important information on the presentation
8 and is a convenient place to take notes during the
9 briefing that will follow in a few minutes.

10 There are three purposes for this
11 morning's meeting. First, to provide information on
12 the content of the proposed Programmatic
13 Environmental Impact Statement and on the National
14 Environmental Policy Act which governs the process.
15 Second, to answer your questions on the GNEP PEIS
16 and on NEPA. Thirdly, to receive and record your
17 formal comments on the proposed scope of the EIS.
18 The agenda for this morning's meeting reflects these
19 three purposes.

20 We will begin with a video presentation by
21 Dennis Spurgeon, who is assistant secretary for
22 nuclear energy for the Department of Energy. Next
23 we will hear a presentation from Mr. Richard Black
24 regarding the proposed environmental impact
25 statement for GNEP. Mr. Black is the associate

1 deputy assistant secretary for nuclear energy. To
2 answer your questions, project staff will be
3 available throughout the morning at the display
4 tables around the room here to answer your
5 questions. They can discuss the proposed PEIS and
6 the NEPA process, the contents of the printed
7 materials available, and the contents of Mr. Black's
8 presentation.

9 Following Mr. Black's presentation we will
10 recess so that the public may pursue further
11 questions with available project staff. Once we
12 reconvene, the court reporters will be available to
13 receive your comments and suggestions regarding the
14 scope of the GNEP proposed PEIS. All of your
15 comments will be transcribed and made part of the
16 permanent record. We'll begin with a video
17 presentation by DOE's Dennis Spurgeon.

18 (A videotape was played.)

19 MR. BROWN: Let me encourage anyone
20 standing in back, if you'd like a seat, we have a
21 number of seats still available in the front four
22 rows or so. So, again, anybody who would like to be
23 seated, you can come forward at this time.

24 I'm now pleased to introduce Mr. Richard
25 Black, who is associate deputy assistant secretary

1 for nuclear energy. He will discuss the background
2 of the project and the purpose and basic elements of
3 the proposed Programmatic Environmental Impact
4 Statement.

5 MR. BLACK: Thank you, Holmes, and good
6 morning, ladies and gentlemen. It's nice to be here
7 in the warmth of New Mexico, both the people and the
8 weather. Coming back out of the northeast, it was
9 snowy when we left. It is great to see such
10 interest in these proposals and it's my pleasure to
11 welcome you to the public scoping meeting for the
12 department's Nuclear Energy Partnership, GNEP.

13 As Assistant Secretary Surgeon indicated
14 in his remarks, this meeting is really for you.
15 It's your opportunity to give us your statements,
16 your suggestions, your comments on the proposed
17 alternatives that we have for GNEP as well as the
18 impact that may impact you here, yourself, your
19 community, and your surrounding environment. This
20 is your opportunity to let us know as we begin this
21 process what your concerns are. So we welcome your
22 comments, we welcome your participation, and we
23 certainly welcome your interest.

24 We are here today because local
25 organizations, mainly the Eddy-Lea Energy Alliance,

1 responded to a request by DOE in August 2006 to find
2 out what public and commercial entities would be
3 interested in hosting facilities that support the
4 GNEP proposal and would be willing to conduct
5 further siting studies that would help us make a
6 decision. You are one of 13 communities that were
7 selected by DOE for further siting analysis and
8 work.

9 Before we provide you an opportunity to
10 make statements, let me describe how we wish to
11 proceed this morning. First of all, I'd like to
12 just frame this up a little bit and give you a
13 little bit of background, nuclear power basics and
14 spent fuel management basics and then I want to talk
15 about the National Environmental Policy Act and what
16 that process does in terms of giving us the
17 infrastructure to give us a sound and reasonable
18 decision regarding the GNEP proposal. And then I
19 want to talk -- just give you a little -- basics
20 about the Global Nuclear Energy Partnership, the
21 GNEP proposed facilities, its goals, its objectives,
22 both domestically and internationally, and then I
23 want to talk about the process to move forward to
24 make a sound decision based on the Programmatic
25 Environmental Impact Statement.

1 Nuclear power basics. Nuclear power, you
2 people here in New Mexico, particularly Carlsbad,
3 I'm sure, are familiar with nuclear power in the
4 United States, commercial power industry. It
5 produces 20 percent of the power in the United
6 States today through 103 licensed reactors. As
7 Assistant Secretary Spurgeon said, you know this,
8 I'm sure, it's considered -- nuclear power
9 generation is considered clean in the sense that it
10 doesn't emit air pollution or greenhouse gases that
11 contribute to the climate change issues that are
12 confronting us today, and in the United States it
13 produces 70 percent of the emission-free generation
14 of electrical power. The rest of the 30 percent is
15 mainly hydro with a little bit of solar, a little
16 bit of wind.

17 A typical commercial nuclear power plant
18 generates electricity by the fissioning process, the
19 splitting of uranium to produce heat and drive a
20 pure turbine. In this particular instance we have
21 the uranium fuel in the bottom of the reactor core
22 here. When the control rods are removed from the
23 core, the fissioning process starts. That
24 fissioning process, the splitting of uranium,
25 creates tremendous heat. The heat then heats up

1 water in the reactor core. The water then is
2 transferred to a steam generator that water -- the
3 heated water creates steam in the generator. Steam
4 then exits the containment to a turbine building
5 where the turbines are turned by the high pressure
6 steam. The turbine in turn turns the electrical
7 generator that produces the electricity. Nuclear
8 power 101.

9 After completing an operating cycle,
10 typically 18 to 24 months, some of the fuel is
11 considered used, spent. It no longer supports
12 effective fissioning of the uranium and it must be
13 replaced with fresh fuel. Now, when that fuel is
14 removed from the core it's stored on site and it's
15 put into first a cooling pond and then it's removed
16 from the pond or the cooling pool and put in dry
17 cast storage. And now in the United States
18 that's -- they're stored on-site and it is
19 considered a once-through cycle, meaning the fuel
20 goes through the reactor once, it is stored on-site
21 safely and securely until ultimately it can be
22 removed off-site to go to a geologic repository,
23 which is now scheduled to be Yucca Mountain, Nevada.

24 Now, what GNEP's proposal is is we recycle
25 that spent fuel. That spent fuel still contains a

1 tremendous amount of energy, and the GNEP proposal
2 is to close that spent fuel loop at the back of the
3 reactor cycle and recycle that spent fuel to gain
4 energy from it and reduce waste.

5 Why is GNEP proposing this at this time?
6 What compels us to think about GNEP? Well,
7 electrical demand worldwide is expected to double.
8 This may be old information, but it's roughly
9 expected to double in three or four decades, let's
10 say. And indeed that is driving people -- nations
11 looking at the nuclear option. So as US and the US
12 policy, we want to pursue increased energy from
13 diverse sources in ways that protect and promote the
14 environment, enhance our nation's energy security.
15 That's important, particularly since the events of
16 9/11.

17 Now, what is the NEPA process that will
18 lead us -- give us the process, give us the
19 infrastructure and will lead us to hopefully a sound
20 and reasoned decision. Now, the NEPA requires
21 consideration of potential environmental impact of
22 proposed actions. And as we have been discussing
23 here today, your involvement, your public input, is
24 very important for us to build the record that leads
25 to an informed decision.

1 Now, building that record. Part of that
2 record is built up in a document called the
3 Environmental Impact Statement, and this document is
4 a collection of information that will be part of the
5 record that will lead to the secretary's record of
6 decision to support the GNEP proposal. We are using
7 a vehicle called a Programmatic Environmental Impact
8 Statement in this particular action because of the
9 broad programmatic aspects of GNEP. It has broad
10 programmatic aspects because we're looking at
11 multiple facilities, at possibly multiple sites, and
12 clearly the GNEP as proposed right now has both
13 domestic and international implications. So we use
14 a broader Environmental Impact Statement to build
15 the record for the sound decision.

16 Now, where we are at in the process, the
17 NEPA process right now, is we're at the public
18 scoping process. We have issued some notices of
19 intent of what we are attempting to do in GNEP.
20 Those were issued prior. We're now at the public
21 scoping process. We expect to issue a draft
22 Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement in the
23 summer. That will also give you an opportunity to
24 provide comments, statements or concerns that will
25 be considered by DOE in the final Programmatic

1 Environmental Impact Statement that will be issued
2 in the spring of 2008, and we now expect the
3 secretary's decision on this proposal to be issued
4 in June of 2008.

5 The purpose of the GNEP PEIS is to assess
6 reasonable alternatives that encourage the expansion
7 of the nuclear energy option for production of
8 electricity, to reduce the nuclear production --
9 nuclear proliferation risk, and to reduce the
10 volume, the thermal output, and the radiotoxicity of
11 spent fuel before disposal at Yucca Mountain.

12 The programmatic alternatives that we will
13 be looking at in terms of the GNEP piece are two
14 programmatic alternatives at this time. I want to
15 stress the word "programmatic alternative." The
16 first programmatic alternative is really to do spent
17 fuel management like we currently are doing in the
18 United States today. That's the once-through fuel
19 cycle. We will continue to do the once-through fuel
20 cycle in the light water reactors today, store spent
21 fuel until DOE can dispose of it safely in the
22 geological depository.

23 We will also, because we've been doing
24 this for years, we will continue to do research on
25 nuclear fuel cycle technologies. We do this at our

1 national labs and have been doing that for decades.
2 We will still continue to do that, look for possible
3 technological breakthroughs for nuclear energy in
4 the future.

5 The alternative 2 is a GNEP proposed
6 action. It's a broad implementation of the closed
7 fuel cycle, includes one or more nuclear fuel
8 recycling centers, one or more recycling advanced
9 reactors that we'll talk about in the next couple of
10 slides.

11 We are evaluating three facilities under
12 the GNEP proposal for design, construction, and
13 operation here in the United States. One is the
14 nuclear fuel recycling center. The center will
15 separate the spent fuel into reusable uranium and
16 transuranic materials and then it will also separate
17 nonreusable constituents without separating out
18 pure plutonium. And without separating out pure
19 plutonium is done for proliferation reasons. Pure
20 plutonium, if it's separated out of the spent fuel,
21 could be used -- without too much further process,
22 be used for the development of nuclear weapons.
23 It's a weapons grade material, as we call it. We
24 will not separate out plutonium in its pure form for
25 that proliferation reason.

1 The PEIS will analyze alternative
2 technologies and alternative spent fuel throughput
3 for this recycling center. Technologies being,
4 right now we understand the chemical process,
5 whether it be UREX or PUREX, as a way to separate
6 out the materials. We're also looking at other
7 alternative technologies that may be a more
8 effective, more efficient, and a safer way of
9 reprocessing, recycling the fuel. In a throughput
10 you have some material in terms of what those
11 various throughputs mean in terms of what kind of --
12 how it will be able to produce the stockpile, let's
13 say, of spent fuel in the United States of those
14 various throughputs.

15 The advanced recycling reactor is a new
16 reactor technology. It's new in the sense that
17 we're not deploying it commercially here in the
18 United States today, but it's not new in the sense
19 that we haven't developed a -- this type of reactor
20 called a fast reactor. But it's designed to burn
21 the transuranic fuels that come out of the recycling
22 center while generating electricity. We're burning
23 up the transuranics through a loop that will send
24 this fuel back to the recycling, send it back to the
25 advanced reactor, and through this process of

1 transmuting the transuranic, all the transuranics,
2 including plutonium, will be destroyed or
3 eliminated.

4 The proposed technology in the GNEP
5 proposal right now is a sodium-cooled fast reactor,
6 and we have deployed several of those in research
7 modes in the United States. So it's not a new
8 technology, but to bump it up into a bigger scale
9 requires some more technology. We will analyze
10 alternative power ratings from 250 to
11 2,000 megawatts. The footnote basically says that
12 we're looking at an alternative here too, that these
13 two facilities could be privately owned and
14 operated. In other words, it would have a
15 commercial application, it would be run as a
16 for-profit enterprise by a company with potentially
17 some government input and involvement yet to be
18 determined. So we're looking at that. Economic
19 studies are ongoing, technology studies are ongoing
20 to help us make that decision too.

21 The last facility in the GNEP domestic
22 proposal is the advanced fuel cycle research
23 facility. This will support research and
24 development not only on reprocessing or recycling
25 technologies, separation technologies, but also the

1 fabrication of fuel for the fast reactor. It will
2 also support long-term research and development for
3 a host of advanced fuel cycle technologies. Really
4 we need to, in the United States, restore our
5 worldwide leadership in the nuclear technology and
6 this research will be really a huge building block
7 and cornerstone for that rebuilding of the
8 leadership role. This facility would be built and
9 operated at a current DOE site.

10 Here are the 13 sites that I mentioned
11 previously. The DOE sites are located here, and
12 I'll show you the breakdown of those sites and what
13 is being proposed for each of those sites. And the
14 non-DOE sites. Here's Hobbs, New Mexico, which is
15 part of your county, your city's participation, and
16 the non-DOE sites are there. Also Roswell,
17 New Mexico, is being considered as well.

18 Now, in the environmental impact process,
19 NEPA process, we use a screening technology to
20 screen out some of these -- some of these sites.
21 Actually, I should say, we don't know whether any of
22 these sites will be screened out, but it is possible
23 that one or more of these sites will not have some
24 of the characteristics that we're looking for for
25 these types of facilities. So during the initial

1 scoping process we will -- might screen out some of
2 these 13 sites because we don't have the
3 characteristics that we're looking for. It could be
4 environmentally, can be security, it could be safety
5 characteristics that we're looking for for certain
6 sites. So some of these may fall out during the
7 screening process.

8 Now here's a table showing some of the
9 sites we're looking at in terms of consideration.
10 Some of the sites, like Hanford and Idaho, we're
11 looking at all three facilities at that site, but in
12 terms of Hobbs, New Mexico, as I said, the research
13 facility is not going to be located at a non-DOE
14 site, so the Hobbs, New Mexico, site is only going
15 to be looked at for the recycling center and the
16 recycling reactor. And here's the site -- or a
17 slide that says that.

18 What are the international programmatic
19 objectives for GNEP? We will work with our partner
20 nations -- the partnership aspect of GNEP -- work
21 with our partner nations to do a couple things. And
22 when I talk about partner nations, I'm talking about
23 those nations that now currently have advanced
24 nuclear technology capabilities. We're talking
25 about France, Great Britain, Russia, and there's --

1 and Japan. But basically we'll try to enter into
2 partnerships with these nations to make sure that
3 those nations -- those developing nations that wish
4 to pursue the nuclear option for generation of
5 electricity to meet their expanding economies and
6 their energy needs will be able to have a nuclear
7 power reactor, and we're going to couple that with a
8 fuel services program. This is a key step of this,
9 that this spent fuel management program will assure
10 these nations of a nuclear fuel supply if they
11 refrain from pursuing uranium enrichment and
12 reprocessing programs. If you read the news, you
13 know that Iran and North Korea are pursuing
14 enrichment reprocessing capabilities to develop a
15 nuclear weapon, and we want to make sure that other
16 nations that want to go that route to nuclear power,
17 we will have this management agreement to have them
18 agree to refrain from those technologies.

19 Part of this program internationally is to
20 develop the reactor that is right-sized for their
21 needs in these developing nations, right-sized being
22 they're going to be a smaller reactor, smaller than
23 that which we deploy here in the United States,
24 let's say, for most commercial applications. It
25 will be in the range of 300 to 500 megawatts. It

1 will be modular and it will be based on really
2 advanced technologies. And clearly the nations,
3 Canada and France, Russia, and the United States are
4 pursuing these reactors right now in terms of
5 looking at R and D forums. They're called safe and
6 secure reactors. As I said, they will be based on
7 advanced technology. They may be modular so that
8 some of it can be fabricated outside of the country,
9 off-site, shipped to the country, shipped on-site
10 for fabrication on the site.

11 In terms of these two programs, the GNEP
12 PEIS is only going to be looking at them in a very
13 broad, qualitative manner. We are not advocating
14 alternatives to this at this time. So we're only
15 going to be looking at the potential impacts to the
16 United States or to global comments as a result of
17 these two programs. In -- domestically, if we're
18 looking at the three facilities at one or more of
19 the sites that I mentioned, here is a range of
20 environmental impacts or environmental issues that
21 the PEIS will consider and analyze. As you can see,
22 some of them relate to people, some of them relate
23 to property, some of them relate to socioeconomic
24 impacts. But there is a full range of environmental
25 issues that we will be looking at as we consider the

1 scope of the PEIS domestically and, also, your input
2 here today is crucial for us to look at maybe local
3 impacts in Hobbs, New Mexico, that we have not
4 considered. So your suggestions, your statements
5 here today as well as comments that you may write in
6 are crucial for us to understand the full range of
7 impacts that these facilities may have on your
8 community and your surrounding environment.

9 As I mentioned, we're going to have a
10 record of decision. The secretary will look at
11 these issues and make a decision in -- expected June
12 of 2008. We will determine whether to proceed with
13 the construction and operation of the GNEP recycling
14 facilities and, if so, where will they be located
15 and what technologies and capabilities will they
16 possess and use. The DOE's decision will be based
17 on information in the PEIS as well as other
18 information that's currently being developed,
19 economic studies, we need to build a business case
20 here. We need to make sure the technologies are
21 sound and right for deployment and also there's --
22 because of both domestic and international
23 considerations, there is some policy information
24 that must be considered by the secretary before he
25 or she makes that decision.

1 How can you help us make that sound
2 decision that we keep talking about? And I must
3 mention, we're really early in the process.
4 Secretary Spurgeon said and I keep reiterating it,
5 we are very early in the process. We have not made
6 any decisions, we are not foreclosing any decisions,
7 so please help us.

8 How can you provide comments? Well, you
9 can identify some other alternatives, let's say
10 reasonable alternatives to our proposed actions that
11 we will analyze in the GNEP PEIS. And as I
12 indicated, you may have some significant
13 environmental issues that you feel that we need to
14 consider as well. So we certainly welcome your
15 input to that.

16 How can you stay informed? Here is a web
17 site. I think it's in your materials. Here is a
18 web site. We will continuously load up good
19 information, keep that web site rich with
20 information to help you stay involved and be
21 interested and continue to see how our progress is
22 going. There is a distribution list for getting out
23 the draft PEIS. We may have some more public
24 meetings around here. So stay involved, stay tuned
25 and, as I said, we welcome your input.

1 How can you provide your comments? You
2 can do them here today. They will be on the record.
3 You can make oral or written comments or you can do
4 it by mail, you can do it by e-mail, you can do it
5 by telephone or you can do it by fax. The comment
6 period for all of this expires April 4, 2007.

7 So with that I do want to again thank you
8 for your interest, thank you for your participation,
9 thank you for continuous involvement in this
10 important effort. Thank you.

11 MR. BROWN: At this time we're going to
12 take a break to allow you an opportunity to browse
13 the exhibits and ask questions of the staff and of
14 also DOE personnel. In addition, Dr. Paul Lisowski,
15 deputy program manager for GNEP, is with us today.
16 Any representative from the media who would like to
17 interview Dr. Lisowski should see Mike Antacorta,
18 who is, I think, sitting -- there he is at the very
19 back of the room and see him about arranging for an
20 interview.

21 So we will now take a break to ask
22 questions and when we are ready to resume, I will
23 make an announcement and we will begin taking formal
24 comments. If you would like to provide a formal
25 comment this morning and have not yet signed up to

1 do so, again, at the back of the room you can sign
2 in and we will add your name to the list. So let's
3 take a break now and follow up on any questions that
4 you've got.

5 (A recess was taken from 9:46 to 10:01.)

6 MR. BROWN: If folks will take their
7 seats, we'll get started with the public comments.
8 Folks, if you'll be seated, we'll begin the public
9 comment period, and there are plenty of seats up
10 here in the front. Thanks very much.

11 It's now time to receive your formal
12 comments on the scope of the proposed Programmatic
13 Environmental Impact Statement. This is your
14 opportunity to let DOE know what you would like to
15 see in the draft document. The court reporters will
16 transcribe your statement. Our court reporters this
17 morning are Debbie O'Connor and Jane McGill, and
18 they're tireless. They worked last night as well.

19 Let me review the ground rules for the
20 formal comment period. Please step up to the
21 microphone over there and introduce yourself,
22 providing an organizational affiliation where
23 appropriate. If you have a written version of your
24 statement, please leave that with the court
25 reporters when you're finished, just to make sure we

1 have a very accurate record of your statement. If
2 you have additional materials that you would like
3 entered in the record but don't intend to read, you
4 can leave those as well. Those will be marked and
5 entered as part of the formal comment.

6 I will call two names at a time. First
7 the name of the person who will be speaking and
8 second the person who will be coming next. In view
9 of the number of folks who have signed up, I'm going
10 to ask that people confine their remarks to three
11 minutes, both because that will allow us to end on
12 time and, secondly, it is a workday and I'm sure
13 some people are here during their work period and
14 I'd like to be able for everyone who signed up to
15 have a chance to speak. I will let you know when
16 you have a minute left in your time.

17 Mr. Black will be serving as the hearing
18 officer for the Department of Energy during the
19 formal comment period, but he will not be responding
20 to questions or comments. I guess -- did you have a
21 question about procedure?

22 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: No, I would like to
23 ask a question to the speaker because after the
24 break you told us that we would have opportunity to
25 ask the question before our comments.

1 MR. BROWN: No, what I meant was the
2 questions should be posed to people during the break
3 because -- I'm sorry. I'm sure if there's
4 someone -- there are people available at the back of
5 the room, DOE and other folks. If you have a
6 remaining question, please feel free. Are you
7 planning to make a comment?

8 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Yes.

9 MR. BROWN: Do you need to pose your
10 question before you make your comment? Because
11 there are people available, if you'd like to.

12 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Okay.

13 MR. BROWN: Okay. Fine. Thanks. By way
14 of introduction, let me start with the folks who
15 have signed up to speak. Our first speaker is Norma
16 Smith, and she will be followed by Cliff Stroud.

17 MS. SMITH: Good morning. I'm Norma Smith
18 with Congressman Steve Pearce's office. I have a
19 letter from the congressman.

20 "I want to thank you for holding this
21 scoping meeting in New Mexico to learn about our
22 region's interest in becoming the permanent site for
23 the Global Nuclear Energy Partnership facility. I
24 hope that you will hear about the tremendous
25 interest this project has generated from the people

1 whom it will affect most.

2 "Over the last decade our state has
3 embraced nuclear energy and its enormous potential.
4 Our communities have transformed themselves into
5 national leaders in the field of handling and
6 processing nuclear material. The Waste Isolation
7 Pilot Project in Carlsbad constitutes just one
8 example of the vigor, determination, and skill that
9 distinguishes our community's approach to such
10 projects. Moreover, the establishment of the
11 National Enrichment Facility in Eunice, New Mexico,
12 became possible by virtue of strong local support.

13 "I trust that your visit to New Mexico
14 will leave you with no doubt regarding New Mexico's
15 commitment to a safe, effective, and economically
16 vibrant nuclear energy sector, building upon the
17 state's central role in the infancy of atomic
18 research itself.

19 "Please enjoy your time here in New Mexico
20 and know that we are committed to seeing GNEP settle
21 here in southern New Mexico."

22 MR. BROWN: Thank you. Cliff Stroud, and
23 Farok Sharif will be next.

24 MR. STROUD: Thank you, Mr. Hearing
25 Officer, ladies and gentlemen here this morning.

1 It's a pleasure to address you. First I'd like to
2 read a letter into the record from Senator Vernon
3 Asbill, who represents Eddy and Otero counties.
4 And, as you know, he is in Santa Fe now as they work
5 toward the tail end of their 60-day session, and
6 then I'll make some brief comments on my own behalf.

7 Senator Asbill's letter is addressed to
8 Secretary Bodman. "Dear Secretary Bodman: As a
9 New Mexico legislator representing Eddy County and
10 the City of Carlsbad, New Mexico, I want to offer my
11 strong support for location of the Global Nuclear
12 Energy Partnership in southeast New Mexico. Through
13 a merger between our city and county leaders, the
14 Eddy-Lea Energy Alliance, L.L.C., has received a
15 Department of Energy grant to do site studies in a
16 Lea County area. I believe this site meets the GNEP
17 criteria for utility access, seismic stability and
18 infrastructure as outlined in the grant
19 announcement.

20 "These criteria are but part of the
21 equation. To succeed the Department of Energy will
22 need significant public and political support. I
23 believe you will find no other area in the country
24 that is more unified in its support of the program
25 or the Department of Energy.

1 "I can assure you that Eddy and Lea
2 counties will commit to providing the necessary
3 resources to undertake this very large and complex
4 project. Between our counties, we offer some of the
5 nation's best scientific and engineering talent for
6 meeting the needs of the federal government. Our
7 communities work closely with the Department of
8 Energy in support of the Waste Isolation Pilot
9 Plant.

10 "This grant is very important to our
11 communities, just as we realize that GNEP is
12 important to our nation. You will not be
13 disappointed with our efforts. Thank you for your
14 consideration.

15 "Sincerely, signed, Senator Vernon D.
16 Asbill."

17 Again, my name is Cliff Stroud. Today's
18 meeting is somewhat of a deja vu experience. In my
19 very early childhood, in the 1970s -- maybe it
20 wasn't quite that early.

21 MR. BROWN: You're not under oath.

22 MR. STROUD: Thank you. I was going to
23 clarify that. If it's not under oath, I'm going to
24 let that stand. I attended similar meetings out
25 south of town at a hotel regarding a project that

1 later had been called the Waste Isolation Pilot
2 Project. Change is difficult for all of us. Change
3 is difficult for me, change is difficult for the
4 state of New Mexico and the nation, but after 20
5 years of working locally closely with the Department
6 of Energy, many, many trips to Washington DC, the
7 Waste Isolation Pilot Project successfully opened.

8 Today we now see those that opposed it
9 working to get the waste off of areas such as the
10 mesa in northern New Mexico, Hanford, South
11 Carolina, and many other sites. They now recognize
12 that that waste being buried nearly a half a mile
13 under ground in salt beds 250 million years old is
14 much safer than sitting on the surface around the
15 country.

16 With that lead in, I will talk briefly
17 about GNEP. As Senator --

18 MR. BROWN: You've got about 30 seconds or
19 so.

20 MR. STROUD: Don't I get six minutes? I
21 had three for Senator Asbill. As he mentioned, we
22 have the technical and other expertise for this
23 project, and it's never made sense to me, as I've
24 been asked to speak about GNEP in Carlsbad and other
25 communities in New Mexico, that a country would

1 take -- and there is a water bottle by one of the
2 court reporters, but a spent nuclear fuel canister,
3 use maybe 10 percent of it and dispose of the rest.
4 What a tremendous waste of an energy resource.

5 I've had the pleasure of visiting The
6 Hague, the Ariva facility in northern France,
7 spending several days there as well as Great Britain
8 and Germany, Belgium. Downtown Paris they have a
9 tracking facility and you can see ships coming from
10 countries such as Japan who recognize that for our
11 nations in the world, our global environment, energy
12 power through nuclear is the key to success in terms
13 of nonproliferation, in terms of global warming, and
14 protecting the environment. And it's interesting to
15 see a group of school children such as we saw at
16 WIPP here for quite some time tour these nuclear
17 power plants in Europe and begin to accept them as
18 they go through this generational change.

19 I'd like to just close by saying in regard
20 to global warming, Bruce King is reputed to have
21 said many years ago when he was governor of
22 New Mexico in WIPP's early days, when asked if he
23 supported WIPP, that some of his friends were for
24 WIPP, some of his friends were opposed to WIPP, and
25 as the governor, he always went with his friends. I

1 would suggest that as time goes on, the decision, as
2 decisions tend to be when groups of human beings are
3 involved, particularly when groups of governmental
4 officials are involved, will come down to politics.
5 Carlsbad, Eddy County, and southeastern New Mexico
6 was country when country was not cool, and that has
7 to do with the Waste Isolation Pilot Project, the
8 changing of a nation's views as regarding nuclear
9 cycle, which includes the disposal of fuel. So I
10 encourage the Department of Energy, our elected
11 officials, to keep that in mind as they decide on
12 the site for GNEP. Thank you for the additional
13 time.

14 MR. BROWN: Thank you. Okay. Farok
15 Sharif, and Mayor Bob Forrest will be next. Good
16 morning.

17 MR. SHARIF: Good morning. I'm here
18 reading a letter from State Senator Gay Kernan. She
19 is the senator for District 42. This letter is
20 addressed to the Secretary of Energy, Sam Bodman.

21 "Dear Secretary Bodman: The purpose of
22 this letter is to encourage your serious
23 consideration of the Eddy-Lea Energy Alliance site
24 in southeastern New Mexico as the primary site for
25 construction and operation of Global Nuclear Energy

1 Partnership facilities.

2 "The Eddy-Lea Energy Alliance represents
3 several important county and local governments that
4 have a long and successful history of hosting
5 significant nuclear facilities. Lea and Eddy
6 counties and cities of Hobbs and Carlsbad have
7 provided consistently strong support to advance
8 nuclear programs undertaken by the Energy Department
9 and the nuclear industry, WIPP, LES, and WCS, to
10 promote national defense and energy security.
11 Members of the alliance have evaluated and are
12 satisfied that comprehensive safety and
13 environmental protection programs were implemented
14 in those projects. The alliance's proposal to offer
15 a site in Lea County for GNEP facilities builds on
16 that history.

17 "I encourage the Energy Department to
18 seriously consider the site in Lea County as well as
19 the unique capabilities of the workforce in the
20 state of New Mexico and in the region to
21 successfully site, construct, and operate advanced
22 nuclear facilities.

23 "Sincerely, Gay Kernan."

24 MR. BROWN: Thank you. Mayor Forrest, and
25 Ned Elkins will be next.

1 MAYOR FORREST: Does the mayor get any
2 more than three minutes? When you say "Hobbs," you
3 need to put a slash Carlsbad because this is a joint
4 partnership, and I almost took that marker out last
5 night in Hobbs.

6 But welcome to Carlsbad, and we're glad to
7 have you here. We talked last night at Hobbs and he
8 said, "You know, I'm looking forward to my visit in
9 Carlsbad. I remember ten years ago at the pit
10 hearing the great crowd you had." And I said,
11 "Well, you're right about part of it. We had a
12 great crowd, and it was only three and a half years
13 ago."

14 I had Carlsbad put on the list. They kind
15 of bypassed us, but it's a shame not to miss the
16 most important meeting. The biggest turnout you're
17 going to see is right here in Carlsbad. Let's give
18 ourselves a big hand. We've got letters from
19 Senator Domenici and Pearce, but I want for the
20 record, I want you to take back to Washington and
21 show all the people at DOE this paper that was
22 published Sunday in the Carlsbad area. Half a page,
23 three-quarters of the front page is about the GNEP
24 hearing. There is a great editorial in there. It
25 talks about all the concepts and everything.

1 But this is a pretty good editorial
2 realizing that 30 years ago we started this WIPP
3 project really not knowing what we were getting
4 into, and you couldn't have written a better script.
5 And here we are 30 years later, the public has sent
6 the message to the elected officials, we'd like to
7 look at another project. And GNEP has come up on
8 the table and we have a great team with the LES and
9 the Hobbs group, the WIPP success.

10 The only two nuclear success stories.
11 WIPP is the only facility since 1970 to get a
12 license and the LES is going to get their license
13 and operating, but here is a team that has more
14 experience than any other of the sites that you have
15 out there looking for the project. I think that
16 WIPP reaches a peak and I thought when we got open
17 in 2000 that might be the high point of our
18 facility. But then I watched last October, the RH
19 permit get passed. I watched the governor of the
20 State of New Mexico come down here two weeks before
21 the general election, which would be political
22 suicide five years ago, and sign that RH permit and
23 move forward for WIPP. Then I watched this
24 newspaper article Sunday and see this great crowd.
25 I just think we have a great path forward and I

1 think that we'll use the same philosophy in getting
2 GNEP open that we used to get WIPP open. And I
3 think the number one, most important thing that we
4 have for this city is the community support. And
5 you hear realtors talk about location, location,
6 location. I think it's community support, community
7 support, community support.

8 And I'm not talking about Carlsbad. I'm
9 talking about southeastern New Mexico, west Texas,
10 and things have changed. We've got a nuclear
11 corridor down here, and it's all happened because of
12 WIPP and WIPP's success, and I think we have a great
13 future.

14 Workforce is tremendous. In ten years
15 from now, the GNEP comes on line, we're going to be
16 downsizing WIPP. It's a perfect workforce to
17 transfer its nuclear energy experience, and I think
18 that will be a big plus for us.

19 Another one is the transportation. We
20 designed the only operating nuclear regulatory
21 licensed transportation system in the United States.
22 It was done by the local citizens in Carlsbad, the
23 people in New Mexico that went up to Sandia Labs,
24 watched it tested, watched it drop, watched it
25 burned. The containers are made right here in

1 Carlsbad. If you were at those hearings in
2 Santa Fe -- and Cliff Stroud was there -- in the
3 late '80s and the early '90s I thought -- I told my
4 wife, I said, "If WIPP never gets open, it will be
5 because of the transportation issue." And today it
6 isn't on the radar screen.

7 And we designed those containers.
8 Basically we'll put them in a box and make them look
9 like a Wal-mart truck or a produce truck and today,
10 you know what they look like going down the highway?
11 They look like a nuclear waste facility container.
12 And that's just what they are, and the public's
13 accepted that.

14 The loyalty to DOE has been tremendous.
15 We came to their aid 30 years ago when no one wanted
16 anything to do with them. We took the waste that
17 was in Idaho that they couldn't get rid of, we took
18 the waste in Rocky Flats that they couldn't get rid
19 of, and we have turned this whole thing around. We
20 were dealing with WIPP. We were the only site. We
21 were the only people that wanted any part of this
22 facility. Today with GNEP, there was 17 cities,
23 communities that wanted part of this project, and a
24 lot of that credit goes to the success of WIPP. And
25 people are seeing for the first time that we can

1 handle this waste and we can handle it safely.

2 And then I think the last or next to last
3 thing is the pro nuclear state that we have in New
4 Mexico. We're a very nuclear state. We have two
5 national labs, we detonated the first atomic bomb;
6 we mined uranium here. We've got the strongest
7 senator in the United States Senate that supports
8 nuclear waste, and I think that has a lot to do with
9 coming to New Mexico.

10 And last, it's something that I think
11 every site needs to take a look at, what are you
12 going to do with that waste if Yucca Mountain
13 doesn't open? And we're the only site that has a
14 backup process where that waste can be put. And
15 when you take the RH waste, as I understand it, and
16 you take this other waste that's coming in here and
17 you reprocess it and here they are, the two packets.
18 Once that gets reprocessed, it's my understanding
19 that half of it become RH waste and half of it the
20 other waste and that we're already putting that RH
21 waste underground. And it makes no sense to talk
22 about Yucca Mountain when I don't think it's going
23 to open when you can go right out there to the GNEP
24 site -- or the site right under the GNEP, store the
25 waste, and you can solve all your problems. Thank

1 you again.

2 MR. BROWN: Thank you. Ned Elkins, and
3 Janell Whitlock is after Ned.

4 MR. ELKINS: Three minutes is a short
5 period of time for me to do anything like that, so
6 I'm going to try to be a little bit more brief than
7 that.

8 First of all, being here this morning
9 makes me proud to be part of this community. This
10 is the kind of turnout we expect here in Carlsbad
11 and have always had. This tremendous support in
12 southeast New Mexico is that these types of nuclear
13 programs to me should be something that catches the
14 eye of the Department of Energy. I know it already
15 has.

16 This 30-year history is a tremendous
17 history of support in this region and this community
18 specifically. However, you know, I do want to
19 stress that this is a new day here and the
20 partnership and the Eddy-Lea Alliance, it's a whole
21 new step, we're hopeful communities and counties
22 banding together with a joint nuclear vision and
23 future in existing work. And the track record of
24 WIPP is not on the drawing board. It's not looking
25 for a mission. It has that mission. It's expanded

1 it with the coming of RH waste. This has become an
2 extremely comprehensive solution to a big nuclear
3 problem. And I'm pleased, as I talked on the
4 political side and had a chance to visit with
5 decision makers and policy makers, I believe this
6 nation is on the cusp of finally coming to grips
7 with an energy issue that has been on the books for
8 a long time.

9 This world needs a safe and secure energy
10 policy if it has any hope to be able to sustain
11 itself and to be what we as a society need to be.
12 The Global Nuclear Energy Partnership, I think, is a
13 tremendous step in that direction. I think that
14 it's the right step, but the only way that works and
15 the reason we're here today is you cannot have a
16 nuclear future without a fully closed cycle for
17 nuclear material. Without that closed cycle, we
18 cannot have a safe and secure nuclear future.

19 I think Carlsbad and Hobbs and the two
20 counties are stepping up to that plate and saying,
21 we want to be a part of the only solution that will
22 work. Whether we get all or a part of this, I think
23 that Carlsbad and Hobbs have a very valid and
24 rightful reason to be considered by the Department
25 of Energy to host some part, if not all, of these.

1 And to echo what the mayor said, I believe we also
2 offer an element that is not on your table today,
3 but a demonstrated ability to handle residual waste
4 in a full, full disposal mode, not in an interim
5 storage capacity. When you put it in the salt bed,
6 you put it there forever, and I think that is a
7 factor that needs to be looked at in an expanded
8 mission. I appreciate the opportunity --

9 MR. BROWN: All right. Thank you. Janell
10 Whitlock, and Jack Valpato will be next.

11 MS. WHITLOCK: Good morning. I signed in
12 at the very last thinking I might be the last person
13 to speak. Thank you very much for being here and
14 giving us the opportunity to speak. Cliff Stroud
15 mentioned back in the '70s the WIPP project -- I'm
16 probably the only person in the room that remembers
17 Project Plowshare. That was many, many years ago,
18 in the late '50s, early '60s.

19 Eddy County, southeastern New Mexico,
20 we're not new to trying to help solve the energy
21 crisis and also providing support for a nuclear
22 project. Project Plowshare, if you remember, they
23 drilled -- dug out a cavity off of the Jal highway
24 and they were looking for peaceful uses for atomic
25 energy. I believe they may have set off a bomb that

1 was not successful, but at least we were there
2 trying to help with this problem.

3 The mayor mentioned the TRU packs. I was
4 traveling back from Santa Fe recently, and I believe
5 I met seven trucks with the TRU pack containers.
6 And I thought, years ago, people were panicking over
7 the transportation problem. Today they're traveling
8 on the highways virtually unnoticed. I think if
9 you're not from this area, you don't pay much
10 attention, but it was with a great deal of pride
11 that I watched those vehicles travel down the
12 highway.

13 My late husband, Louis Whitlock, and many,
14 many others in this community worked for years to
15 see WIPP become a reality and, unfortunately, a
16 large number of those people did not live to see
17 that first shipment come into that facility. We are
18 proud of what has been accomplished in this area and
19 we feel we have a great partnership with WGI,
20 Arriva, Eddy, Lea County, Carlsbad, Hobbs. All of
21 you in this room have supported the projects.

22 I don't have the expertise -- goodness
23 knows, I was reading all of the articles and I
24 thought I'd say something scientific or something
25 that was really -- and knowledgeable about the

1 project. My basic concern is that the site that's
2 selected will be safe and will be an economic
3 benefit to this area. Are we looking for that. You
4 bet we are. But we're also looking for the ability
5 to help with the global problem, not just here in
6 our area, and I think all of you have the expertise
7 to see that it's done safely and that it does work.
8 Thank you.

9 MR. BROWN: Thank you. Jack will be
10 followed by Jeff Diamond.

11 MR. VOLPATO: Thank you for coming to our
12 community. When the WIPP project was first
13 proposed, I was very skeptical about it. I was a
14 lot younger and had longer hair too. But as time
15 has shown, we have been widely successful with the
16 WIPP project beyond anybody's dreams, and the fact
17 that all these other communities are wanting this
18 project shows that they see the value in what WIPP
19 has done for this community.

20 However, I think we have a better shot at
21 getting this because we are -- we are establishing a
22 nuclear corridor down here, a nuclear energy
23 corridor, with the enrichment program and with WIPP.
24 This is just another piece of the puzzle to get
25 safe, reliable energy to Americans.

1 It's going to be a great asset for
2 southeastern New Mexico as far as jobs. We already
3 have a lot of the technology down here with WIPP.
4 We have the transportation system setup that's
5 second to none. There's never been an accident with
6 any kind of shipment coming down to Carlsbad, which
7 is just amazing. Wal-Mart can't say that about all
8 their trucks on the road, but yet WIPP can.

9 This is the wave of the future. We need
10 to look forward for southeastern New Mexico, for
11 New Mexico in general, and for America. And this is
12 what we need to do to make this happen. We need to
13 decrease nuclear proliferation, we need to find a
14 suitable use for this 80 percent or 90 percent of
15 unspent fuel, and this is -- it just makes perfect
16 sense.

17 When you get a project, you look at the
18 pros and cons. And there are so many more pros with
19 this project than there are cons and it's just -- I
20 think it's a valuable asset for America to have and
21 I think we are the ideal place to put it. You know,
22 we will decrease our dependence on foreign oil.
23 Coal, you know, it has a lot of greenhouse
24 emissions. You know, this is a clean energy. When
25 managed properly, it is the way we need to be going.

1 As far as an economic boost to this --
2 southeastern New Mexico, it would just be tremendous
3 for all communities, Hobbs, Carlsbad, all the
4 smaller and surrounding communities. It will pave
5 the way for things to come. Thank you very much.

6 MR. BROWN: Thank you. Jeff Diamond. And
7 then Brad Day will be following Jeff.

8 MR. DIAMOND: Thank you to the secretary
9 of energy for agreeing to hold this meeting in
10 Carlsbad. I represent the people of west Carlsbad
11 as a city councilman, and I'm real proud to say that
12 Carlsbad anxiously awaits the future. We're working
13 for affordable housing, we're working for workforce
14 housing, we're engaged in workforce development.
15 Our workforce development program is a partnership
16 between the City of Carlsbad and the Arrowhead
17 Center of New Mexico State University with Dr. Gary
18 Carruthers, our former governor, working with us.
19 We're working on affordable housing and workforce
20 housing with the state mortgage finance authority
21 and with our local business, banking, and consumer
22 community here in Carlsbad.

23 We're very future oriented. We're working
24 closely with the City of Eunice. We're working
25 closely with the City of Hobbs and with Lea County

1 on housing issues and workforce development. We are
2 proud of the history of Carlsbad being a supporter
3 of the nuclear industry. We see that as our future.
4 It's not just jobs. It's the intellectual capital
5 that a project like WIPP brings to our community.
6 It raises the level for all people in the community.
7 It makes our schools better, it makes our local
8 state college, New Mexico State, Carlsbad, a better,
9 more responsive institution. It makes our hospital
10 and medical community better.

11 We think that nuclear energy -- we know
12 nuclear energy is the future, but we're interested
13 in all types of energy projects. Our city council
14 is strongly supporting biodiesel fuel production
15 here in Eddy County. We're strongly supporting wind
16 power, solar power projects. We're green. The
17 scientists, the engineers, and the workers of the
18 WIPP project respect the environment, and we were
19 honored -- we were honored Friday when the secretary
20 of interior came to Carlsbad to use the Carlsbad
21 resource area as an example of cooperation between
22 government officials, the BLM, ranchers, people in
23 agriculture, hunters, and others in the community to
24 make -- and especially the oil and gas industry to
25 leave a very small footprint, to increase the supply

1 of hydrocarbons for our nation, and to leave our
2 environment clean and safe. We welcome -- we
3 welcome GNEP. Thank you.

4 MR. BROWN: Thank you. Brad Day. Joyce
5 Keen will be next.

6 MR. DAY: Thank you all for being here and
7 for the opportunity to speak. I'm going to speak
8 today on behalf of constituents that I represent,
9 the city councilmen of Carlsbad, and also from the
10 perspective of a nuclear packaging engineer.

11 I've had the opportunity to work for
12 Washington TRU Solutions and as a packaging engineer
13 for the last -- in this industry for the last 11
14 years and, you know, that work in large part has
15 been motivated by a belief that stakeholder
16 acceptance of nuclear technologies and the future of
17 nuclear power in this country was highly dependent
18 upon our ability to successfully demonstrate our
19 ability to safely transport these nuclear materials
20 and dispose of them properly.

21 And I believe that the Carlsbad community
22 has played a very important, crucial role in
23 supporting the WIPP project and along with its
24 WIPP-employed citizenry has helped to make the
25 project a success. And, in turn, the WIPP project

1 and DOE involvement in our community has
2 demonstrated that there are benefits to the local
3 community in working together to further the
4 national interests while being mindful and
5 preserving our quality of life. And as outlined in
6 your earlier presentations, the GNEP principles
7 supported US reduction in foreign energy dependence
8 and expansion of proliferation resistant fuel
9 sources, it's -- it reduces the toxicity and the --
10 increases the environmental responsibility. And I
11 believe that the support and the work that's being
12 done by the Eddy-Lea Energy Alliance resulted in a
13 compelling case -- I'm very hopeful and optimistic
14 of this, of relocating this fuel recycling facility
15 between Carlsbad and Hobbs and I'm very hopeful that
16 our community has the opportunity to play a major
17 role in this program and look forward to working to
18 support the initiative in the future.

19 MR. BROWN: All right. Thanks. Joyce
20 Keen, and Larry Henderson will be next.

21 MS. KEEN: I am presenting a letter from
22 my daughter, Jerri McTaggart, since she is traveling
23 with her work.

24 "Dear Committee: My name is Jerri
25 McTaggart. Kevin, my husband, and I work at

1 Los Alamos National Laboratory here in Carlsbad, but
2 today I am testifying on behalf of myself. Kevin
3 and I worked at Rocky Flats Nuclear Facility in
4 Denver for a combined total of 41 years. We have
5 worked for Los Alamos for the last five years. I am
6 sorry I am unable to read this in person, but I have
7 to travel for work. This project is so important
8 that I have asked my mother to read my letter that I
9 submit for testimony today. Thank you for the
10 opportunity to participate in this hearing.

11 "GNEP should be located in Eddy and Lea
12 County because the communities want the project
13 here. As long as I worked at Rocky Flats, the
14 community wanted to shut the facility down and
15 finally did. GNEP needs to be located around
16 communities that believe in the project and are
17 willing to support the needs.

18 Rocky Flats is a great example of where
19 not to locate GNEP. The Denver metro community
20 chose to listen to people and groups not to -- that
21 wanted Rocky Flats shut down. Some of the
22 antinuclear groups carried titles such as physicians
23 for social responsibility. Because the word
24 'physician' was in the title, the community thought
25 they were all physicians and must know what they

1 were talking about. As it turned out, only one out
2 of 3,000 members was a real physician. All of the
3 testimony given by the many in this organization was
4 inaccurate. However, their message that Rocky Flats
5 was causing the, quote, sky to fall, was believed by
6 the majority. We were shut down.

7 "Many of us that worked at Rocky Flats
8 feared telling people where we worked because the
9 public wanted us shut down at any cost. The only
10 time schools were excited about Rocky Flats was on
11 the first day of school. Children with parents that
12 worked on federal property got more money for each
13 child. Here in Eddy and Lea County, the community
14 welcomes us into schools and understands that our
15 science and engineering background can help shape
16 our children.

17 "I tell you this only to emphasize the
18 fact that Eddy and Lea County is willing to step up
19 to the plate once again and help with this project.
20 These communities go out of their way to support
21 projects when no other community will. Please do
22 not forget that Carlsbad stood up once before and
23 said yes to WIPP when no one else wanted the
24 facility. Not only did Carlsbad welcome WIPP, but
25 the community had faith that the project would be a

1 safe neighbor. Today the project is a wonderful
2 success story. Thank you. Sincerely, Jerri
3 McTaggart."

4 MR. BROWN: Thank you.

5 MS. KEEN: And I would like to submit my
6 own personal statement.

7 MR. BROWN: All right. Larry Henderson,
8 and Norbert Rempe will be next. Larry.

9 MR. HENDERSON: Good morning. Thank you
10 for the opportunity to speak. I'm a retired
11 Carlsbad city councilman. Not retired. I just
12 didn't run again. But retired national parks
13 service manager, and I speak as a resident of
14 Carlsbad and active member of the Chamber of
15 Commerce.

16 After over three decades this community
17 has presented a united front supporting a safe and
18 clear, clean waste depository here. In spite of an
19 unbelievable number of roadblocks, that support led
20 to the successful opening and an exemplary operation
21 of WIPP. I'm joined by an overwhelming majority of
22 regional citizens in the knowledge that southeast
23 New Mexico can once again provide the best overall
24 location and resources for successful implementation
25 of the GNEP program, and I appreciate you all coming

1 and giving us a chance to speak on it. Thank you.

2 MR. BROWN: Thank you. Norbert will be
3 followed by Valerie Murrill.

4 MR. REMPE: Good morning. I'm Norbert
5 Rempe, and I'm a geologist and engineer. I work at
6 WIPP, but I am here to speak for myself.

7 I understand GNEP to be a part of the
8 nuclear renaissance, and that's quite appropriate
9 because there is no other use for uranium or thorium
10 than nuclear weapons or to produce nuclear power.
11 We don't have to agree with the ideas about
12 anthropogenic -- anthropogenic global warming to see
13 that we should be using nuclear fuel for creating
14 energy and not waste our chemical feedstock that is
15 coal and petroleum unnecessarily for power
16 production.

17 Nuclear power obviously reduces pollution,
18 but on the way to nuclear renaissance I believe we
19 need to remove some self-imposed roadblocks, some
20 potential ones and actual ones that cost needless
21 time and money. So either in the Programmatic
22 Environmental Impact Statement or in parallel to
23 that, I think we need to address a few other issues,
24 and among those are that I think if we really are
25 serious about nuclear renaissance, we need to

1 address our insane radiation protection standards
2 that a review of those standards that are currently
3 far too tight and that we are laboring under
4 unnecessarily. It's actually advocated also by the
5 American Nuclear Society and the Health Physics
6 Society.

7 And the cost of this radiation protection
8 regime is not just a cost that can be expressed in
9 money, but it expresses itself in radiophobia, fear
10 of anything nuclear, and that found very practical
11 expression in Europe after Chernobyl when there were
12 thousands of abortions by people who aborted their
13 babies for fear of being exposed to additional
14 radiation that was actually within the natural
15 variation of the natural background that people were
16 exposed to.

17 By the way, that leads me to another
18 sidetrack. I am a citizen of the United States by
19 choice. I am so grateful that I became a US citizen
20 in 1979 because that way I didn't have to
21 participate in the insanity that is currently
22 reigning in Germany where they are getting out of
23 nuclear energy. As a matter of fact, if you want a
24 totally silly third alternative to the two that you
25 are considering, that would be get out of nuclear

1 power. Because that would be the idiotic one that
2 you should discard right away.

3 MR. BROWN: You're just about at the
4 three-minute mark, so if you could wrap up.

5 MR. REMPE: I have one more point, and
6 that is I advocated in the preparation of the PEIS
7 you consider the lessons that we can learn from WIPP
8 and apply to it that we might avoid some things such
9 as exhaust fan filter buildings, magnesium oxide,
10 and regulation through RCRA and by the New Mexico
11 Environmental Department which do not add anything
12 to the safety of WIPP. There is no technical or
13 scientific reason why WIPP could not take waste
14 beyond transuranic waste. That is actually one of
15 the key advantages of this particular site.

16 And I had a few very pleasant experiences
17 during my life. One was the Berlin Wall and the
18 Iron Curtain came down. The second one was that
19 WIPP opened. And I think if we can make this
20 nuclear renaissance a reality, that would be the
21 third one.

22 MR. BROWN: Valerie will be followed by
23 Jeff Neal.

24 MS. MURRILL: Good morning. My purpose
25 here today is twofold. One is as this year's

1 president of the Carlsbad Department of Development,
2 I would like to state that the Carlsbad Department
3 of Development fully supports the Carlsbad-Hobbs
4 site. Secondly, I'm here today to read a letter
5 from State Representative John Heaton. And I, of
6 course, due to time constraints, will have to be
7 paraphrasing.

8 Clean electricity from renewable sources
9 such as wind, solar, geothermal, and biomass deserve
10 strong support, but the collective capacity of these
11 technologies to produce electricity in the decades
12 ahead is limited. Expert studies have shown that
13 even with continued subsidy and research support,
14 these new renewable sources can only provide a
15 maximum of a few percent of the energy need both
16 here in the US and around the world in the next 20
17 to 30 years.

18 Nuclear power, like wind hydro, and solar
19 energy, can generate electricity with no carbon
20 dioxide or other greenhouse gas emissions. The
21 critical difference is that nuclear energy is the
22 only prudent, safe, and environmentally sustainable
23 option with the capacity to produce vastly expanded
24 supplies of clean electricity on a global scale.
25 That is why the Department of Energy proposal for

1 GNEP is so important to both America and the entire
2 world.

3 GNEP marks the beginning of a renaissance
4 in nuclear energy here in America. DOE plan
5 recognizes the need for nuclear energy to play a
6 prominent role in the world's energy future while
7 minimizing the risks associated with proliferation.
8 Other developed countries around the world have been
9 enjoying the benefit of nuclear energy with fuel
10 recycling for decades, but GNEP goes one step
11 further. By promoting proliferation-resistant
12 technologies and fuel services to developing
13 nations, GNEP will bring the benefits of nuclear
14 energy to the world safely and securely without
15 having all countries invest in the fuel cycle,
16 enrichment and reprocessing.

17 Twenty-five years ago the Department of
18 Energy was in need of a site to develop a permanent
19 deep geologic repository. The cities of Carlsbad,
20 Hobbs, and Eddy and Lea counties stepped up and
21 hosted the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant in southeast
22 New Mexico. Over the ensuing years, we have been
23 extremely supportive of WIPP operations, have even
24 assisted DOE in overcoming state challenges to
25 improve WIPP operations through the political

1 process.

2 Today another major DOE need brings the
3 community to this meeting to look -- to discuss the
4 location of some or all of the planned GNEP
5 facilities. Southeast New Mexico has formed the
6 Eddy-Lea Energy Alliance, ELEA, and proposed an
7 ideal site between Carlsbad and Hobbs. DOE's work
8 to evaluate all of the many sites that have been
9 proposed will take some time, but we believe that
10 the National Environmental Policy Act will lead to a
11 clear preferred alternative. GNEP and America will
12 best be served by locating the nuclear fuel
13 recycling center and the advanced recycling reactor
14 at the ELEA site. Thank you, Representative Heaton.

15 MR. BROWN: Thank you very much. Jeff
16 Neal, and Don Kidd will follow him.

17 MR. NEAL: Hi. I'm Jeff Neal. I am a
18 native of Carlsbad. I was born and raised here, and
19 I'm here today as a private citizen.

20 Let's get right to the point. Why
21 Carlsbad, why Hobbs. Because our citizens are best
22 educated in nuclear waste, our citizens are best
23 educated in nuclear enrichment and nuclear fuels,
24 because of the WIPP project and National Enrichment
25 Facility. We understand the science of nuclear

1 energy and engineering. We understand
2 overengineering and the safety of the WIPP project.
3 We understand protecting our environment, and we
4 understand protecting our employees. We understand
5 100 percent safety and, most of all, we trust the
6 Department of Energy.

7 The Carlsbad and Hobbs and Eddy and Lea
8 Alliance is head and shoulders above any other
9 location in the country. We are the best location.
10 Let's say this facility is built ten years from now
11 and let's say it's fully operational. Let's say
12 something unordinary happens, like terrorism or an
13 act of Mother Nature, and there is a contamination.
14 Our location can be containment. We're out there in
15 the middle of nowhere. Our location has no
16 population like in Illinois with Argonne and Morris
17 with Chicago in their backyards or in North Carolina
18 in Barnwell or Savannah where they have Charleston,
19 Augusta, and Columbia. Our location has no major
20 waterways like they do in Kentucky and Tennessee
21 with the Ohio River and the Tennessee River and
22 other major lakes. And our area has a positive
23 political environment, not like in Ohio or Idaho
24 where their political environment is negative.

25 Eddy and Lea has the best geological site

1 than any other location. We have proven permitting
2 approval. We have a positive New Mexico
3 Environmental Department. We have a -- the
4 Environmental Protection Agency just recertified the
5 WIPP project for five years. Ten years of
6 operation. The NRC, the National Regulatory
7 Commission, approved the National Enrichment
8 Facility. These two projects have never been built
9 anywhere in the United States. And most important
10 of all, this piece of land that we have, this region
11 of our country, has had -- never had as many major
12 Environmental Impact Statements performed and
13 studied as this region has. We have had more
14 Environmental Impact Statements than anybody.

15 They talk about the nuclear corridor.
16 It's not the nuclear corridor. It's the nuclear
17 knowledge that this area has. We have more -- we
18 could be the research facilities. We are a DOE
19 facility. We have the Carlsbad field office right
20 here in Carlsbad. We have Sandia, we have Los
21 Alamos, we have the Washington Group International,
22 who is the contractor for the national WIPP
23 facilities, and Washington TRU Solutions is the
24 operation and maintenance and M and O of the WIPP
25 project.

1 And here in New Mexico we also have the
2 national Nuclear Security Administration. They have
3 a service center here in New Mexico.

4 MR. BROWN: You're at the three-minute
5 mark.

6 MR. NEAL: Okay. I have five -- a little
7 statement. We are the best site for GNEP. We have
8 the land, we have the location, we have the
9 security, we have the geology, we have the positive
10 community and political environment, we have the
11 requirements to get permits approved, we can dispose
12 in our salt, and we will support the United States
13 in their successful goal to get nuclear energy.
14 Thank you.

15 MR. BROWN: Thank you. Don Kidd. Edward
16 Askeu will follow.

17 MR. KIDD: Good morning. Thank you for
18 allowing us to be here and make comments this
19 morning.

20 My name is Don Kidd. I'm speaking as the
21 president/chief executive officer of Western
22 Commerce Bank as well as a private citizen, and I
23 support the GNEP location in Lea County.

24 You know, Cliff is right. I remember
25 Cliff as a young man eager to help his community,

1 and I also remember, as Commissioner Whitlock
2 pointed out, some of the people that are not able to
3 be here this morning, that their vision of the WIPP
4 project and their leadership is what made it
5 possible. The first time I remember hearing about
6 WIPP was Mayor Jarrolds hanging on the parking meter
7 out in front of the bank telling me this idea he had
8 of using the salt beds south of Carlsbad for nuclear
9 waste disposal. You know, he and Senator Gant had
10 come up with this wild-eyed idea and, of course,
11 with Mayor Jarrolds you just nodded your head and
12 said, "You bet. Sounds good to me."

13 And I also remember Senator Whitlock in a
14 meeting with the secretary of energy in Washington
15 and how important his knowledge and ability to make
16 things happen was to the project. And thank
17 goodness Mayor Forrest came along with his
18 leadership, and here we are some 30 years later.

19 I've had the privilege of working with the
20 WIPP project for over 30 years as a local banker, a
21 former president of the Carlsbad Chamber of
22 Commerce, the former president of the Carlsbad
23 Department of Development, the former president of
24 the Board of Regents of New Mexico State University,
25 and for 12 years representing southeastern

1 New Mexico in the State Senate. When you get that
2 many formers, you know, you start to look in the
3 mirror and you have some problems.

4 But I believe the citizens of southeastern
5 New Mexico are very knowledgeable about radioactive
6 material. The vast majority is and has been very
7 supportive of WIPP. I believe they will be just as
8 supportive of GNEP. From my experience, DOE will
9 insure the GNEP project will be as safe as humanly
10 possible, and I encourage you to locate the GNEP
11 project where it will be understood and appreciated.
12 Thank you very much.

13 MR. BROWN: Thank you. Edward Askew,
14 Douglas Lynn. Again, I appreciate people keeping to
15 the three-minute mark. We are just a third of the
16 way through the signed-up speakers, so that's why
17 we're trying to keep the schedule.

18 MR. ASKEW: So one minute?

19 MR. BROWN: You still get three.

20 MR. ASKEW: My name is Ed Askew. I'm the
21 associate director for Carlsbad Environmental
22 Monitoring and Research Center, which I will call
23 CEMRC now due to the time constraints.

24 CEMRC was put in place to provide a
25 neutral third party monitoring for the WIPP site.

1 We look at soil, water, air, dust, but most
2 important we have the lie down and be counted
3 program, which was put in place prior to WIPP
4 bringing any waste on-site so DOE would have in
5 place a historical database to look at the risk
6 assessment in your Environmental Impact Statement.
7 It would also have a large database on water, air,
8 and you would have this facility, CEMRC, here in
9 place to perform those services for the new
10 facility.

11 So cutting this very quick. I am a
12 hundred percent supporting this coming here. This
13 is the logical place in the whole United States. I
14 come from the Midwest. I know exactly what you're
15 going to run into in Illinois and Ohio. We have the
16 capabilities here. CEMRC will be more than happy to
17 share the data when you do the Environmental Impact
18 Statement. I would suggest that anybody from DOE
19 that would like to talk to me or to my director, Jim
20 Conca, who will be speaking here lately -- or a
21 little later, please grab us by the end of the
22 meeting we can give you contact information for that
23 data for your impact statement. Thank you.

24 MR. BROWN: Thank you. Douglas Lynn, and
25 Jim Conca will be next.

1 MR. LYNN: Hi. My name is Doug Lynn. I
2 appreciate the opportunity to stand up here and
3 express my support for GNEP. I'm a resident of
4 Carlsbad. I'm currently employed as an interim
5 director for a local organization that does research
6 and development in alternative fuels. I am here
7 today to talk to you as a private citizen.

8 I am a resident of Carlsbad. I was born
9 here. I was educated in Texas, came back to
10 New Mexico, and I choose to live in Carlsbad. I
11 have a particular passion for Carlsbad, for this
12 region, specifically the Chihuahuan Desert. I was
13 educated in natural resources, and I love this area.

14 I think GNEP is right for this area. I
15 have six kids, the youngest of which are -- is six
16 years old. I want to raise my family here. I want
17 to stay here. I believe that the GNEP makes perfect
18 economic sense and is providing jobs for this
19 region. I believe it makes perfect environmental
20 sense, and I believe it also makes sense from the
21 merger of two intrinsically dynamic communities,
22 that being Hobbs and Carlsbad, and particularly
23 Carlsbad, because it has such a high nuclear IQ.

24 People in Carlsbad simply understand the
25 dynamics of nuclear energy and, therefore, I

1 wholeheartedly endorse this project and I appreciate
2 the opportunity to provide this testimony. Thank
3 you.

4 MR. BROWN: Thank you. Jim is next, and
5 Manny Anaya will be following Jim.

6 MR. CONCA: Good morning. I'm Dr. James
7 Conca. And before I give my personal statement, I'd
8 like to read a letter from Senator Pete Domenici to
9 the secretary of energy, Samuel Bodman.

10 "Dear Secretary Bodman: Earlier this
11 year you announced plans for the Global Nuclear
12 Energy Partnership and proposed to close the nuclear
13 cycle and recycle spent nuclear fuel. As you know,
14 I have endorsed this initiative as it supports this
15 country's goals for promoting domestic energy
16 production and relieve and reduce the volatile
17 material that must be disposed of in that
18 underground repository. I am writing today to
19 further encourage your consideration of a proposal
20 by the Eddy-Lea County Energy Alliance to evaluate
21 the site in southeast New Mexico between Hobbs and
22 Carlsbad as a potential site for the development and
23 operation of GNEP facilities.

24 "The Eddy-Lea Alliance was formed by
25 the Eddy and Lea counties of New Mexico and the

1 cities of Carlsbad and Hobbs to represent the public
2 interest in two key areas, to pursue an initial
3 study of a proposed site in Lea County that could
4 host the facilities needed for GNEP and to work with
5 the Department of Energy in support of the future
6 construction and operation of these facilities. I
7 fully support both of these objectives.

8 "The state of New Mexico offers
9 unique capabilities that can support the GNEP
10 initiative, including a workforce that has
11 experience in siting, developing, and operating
12 advanced nuclear facilities. In communities that
13 have proactively and successfully partnered with the
14 energy department and private industry in other
15 nuclear installations, the Eddy-Lea Energy Alliance
16 reflects and builds on all of these capabilities,
17 and I urge the department to fully consider the
18 Eddy-Lea Energy Alliance's proposal and look forward
19 to working with you in the implementation of the
20 GNEP initiative.

21 "Sincerely, Pete Domenici, US
22 Senate."

23 Thank you. Personally, Jim Conca, I
24 live in Carlsbad, New Mexico, and I am the director
25 of the Carlsbad Environmental Monitoring and

1 Research Center and the College of Engineering at
2 New Mexico State University. We have been
3 radiologically monitoring the people, the air,
4 water, and soil in a 100-mile radius of the WIPP
5 site since well before operations began. We have
6 found no effects from WIPP operations, a testament
7 to the fact that nuclear facilities can operate in a
8 perfectly safe environment.

9 I am a geologist by training and an
10 environmentalist by choice. I have been in the
11 nuclear field for over 20 years and have worked on
12 almost every nuclear energy program in the world, so
13 it is with great experience and knowledge that I
14 recommend the Eddy-Lea County site in Hobbs and
15 Carlsbad for this GNEP facility. It is the only
16 site under consideration that can successfully
17 address this mission from cradle to grave.

18 Scientifically, geographically,
19 politically, and sociologically the site can
20 complete this mission on time, on budget, and with
21 full public support, as we have seen from the WIPP
22 site. No other site has such a successful, safe,
23 and financially responsible track record, and that's
24 quite important in this age of fiscal
25 responsibility. And certainly no other site can

1 handle the reprocessed waste generated from the
2 recycling of fuel. From an environmental,
3 professional, and personal standpoint, I recommend
4 the site without reservation. Thank you.

5 MR. BROWN: Thanks. Manny Anaya is next,
6 and Steve Kouba will follow.

7 MR. ANAYA: My name is a Manny Anaya.
8 I've been a member of the council back in the '80s
9 when we started the project. We've been for this
10 since the very inception. I think over the last few
11 years we've demonstrated that we are the community
12 in this country that is better prepared to meet the
13 challenge of the future when it comes to natural
14 resources, energy, and the environment. We believe
15 that all those three factors being taken into mind
16 and all the preparations, the technical support, the
17 expertise in the field that we have, we cannot
18 choose any other community in this country that will
19 be better qualified to do a better job.

20 We've actually done our country a favor in
21 establishing that we're willing to support a greatly
22 needed resource as far as nuclear storage. We
23 believe that in the future we'll be able to
24 neutralize nuclear energy and become the foremost in
25 this particular area.

1 I am a member of the Human Development
2 Natural Resources Community, I'm the national
3 representative. I'm also a member of the energy --
4 environment agency at that national level. I
5 believe that this time for you to choose any other
6 community other than Carlsbad, New Mexico, will be a
7 mistake. It will be reinventing the wheel when we
8 have already done all that progress. We need to
9 look at ways we can save money as we set the
10 research for this industry's future. We believe
11 we're it. Nobody else can compete with Carlsbad and
12 Eddy County at any level because we started it,
13 we're here, and we're going to see a future in this
14 field. Thank you very much.

15 MR. BROWN: Thank you.

16 MR. KOUBA: My name is Steve Kouba, and
17 I'm speaking as a private citizen. I have been a
18 resident of Carlsbad for over 18 years I've been
19 educated and trained as a health physicist. I have
20 over 31 years of experience in the nuclear industry,
21 all of which have been with the Department of Energy
22 as an employee or a contractor for the DOE. During
23 my career I have made hundreds of safety and
24 regulatory evaluations of nuclear facilities and the
25 plans, the people, and the equipment that would

1 allow them to safely operate without any negative
2 impact on the surrounding population or the
3 environment.

4 I'm here today to speak in favor of the
5 GNEP and the preparation of a Programmatic EIS that
6 would include the proposed site between Carlsbad and
7 Hobbs, New Mexico. I believe it's imperative that
8 the United States begin to quickly develop next
9 generation nuclear capabilities for producing
10 electricity in the near and distant future.

11 Research tells us that existing stores of fossil
12 fuel like coal and natural gas in addition natural
13 resources of wind, solar, and water will not be
14 sufficient to produce the electricity needed to meet
15 this country's growing demands. Nuclear energy used
16 to produce electricity has proven to be safe.

17 Southeast New Mexico has a long history of
18 supporting the nuclear industry. This relationship
19 between the local community and the federal
20 government began in the 1960s with the Nome project.
21 It continued in the 1970s as exploratory work began
22 on WIPP, followed by construction in the '80s and
23 the first waste shipment arriving in 1999. Today
24 more than 45,000 cubic meters and 87,000 containers
25 of transuranic mixed waste are safely buried

1 2150 feet underground. It has been forever isolated
2 as -- so as not to harm future generations.

3 The region's support continues today as
4 Louisiana Energy Services, having received a license
5 from the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, is building
6 a uranium enrichment facility near Eunice,
7 New Mexico, and just over the state line Waste
8 Control Specialists is currently working with Texas
9 regulators to obtain approval to permanently bury
10 radioactive waste. The local support of the nuclear
11 industry is unprecedented in the United States.

12 GNEP has the potential for keeping spent
13 nuclear fuel under control, thus limiting global
14 nuclear threats. The concept is that other
15 countries could submit their spent fuel assemblies
16 to the US for reprocessing in exchange for new
17 assemblies for their power plants. The process
18 could minimize the chance of nuclear materials
19 falling into the wrong hands.

20 It is the time, it is the place, now and
21 in southeast New Mexico. I would like to go on
22 record in support of the DOE GNEP program and the
23 location of the nuclear fuel recycling center and an
24 advanced recycling reactor at the proposed southeast
25 New Mexico site. Thank you.

1 MR. BROWN: Thank you. Joe Epstein will
2 follow Tim.

3 MR. BURNS: Hi. My name is Tim Burns.
4 I'm a Los Alamos National Laboratory employee
5 involved with the WIPP, but today I'm here on my own
6 time and expense to provide input into the site
7 selection process for the Global Nuclear Energy
8 Partnership.

9 The Hobbs-Carlsbad site offers unique
10 features that make it an ideal location for many
11 GNEP activities. Number one, the land is nonarable
12 and not near any major population centers.

13 Number two, the nearness to WIPP, LES, and
14 WCS, ensures that a trained workforce is available
15 to meet the personnel needs of additional nuclear
16 facilities.

17 Number three, the DOE has already
18 established an enviable safety record at the WIPP,
19 and this has readied public acceptances for
20 additional nuclear missions.

21 Number four, we have the basic ingredients
22 to field the reprocessing facility at the Lea County
23 site and dispose of the resulting waste in the
24 salada formation in a repository similar to WIPP.
25 The near-site disposal is a significant factor over

1 the lifetime of a project such as GNEP.

2 Number five, we have the expertise already
3 resident in Carlsbad to ensure that the waste
4 generated by the GNEP project is done so in a
5 compliant manner that meets all disposal criteria
6 and allows for direct and immediate disposal of the
7 waste as it is generated.

8 Number six, we have demonstrated the
9 ability to work through thorny regulatory issues,
10 develop a consensus, and get facilities permitted.
11 The RH311 permit is a recent example of this
12 success. And, lastly, we have the ability to field
13 the power reactors themselves, rendering the
14 transport of nuclear fuel cross-country unnecessary.

15 Imagine, if you will, a nuclear park
16 located under ground in played-out salt mines near
17 the reprocessing facility and at the nexus of
18 cross-country rights-of-way that already transport
19 natural gas, oil, and rail to the far reaches of the
20 contiguous states. Rather than transport the
21 nuclear fuel cross-country, the only thing that we
22 would be transporting is clear, clean electricity
23 generated in underground nuclear parks built out in
24 those played-out salt mines, safe from environmental
25 hazards and terrorist strikes by sea or air.

1 As a citizen of Carlsbad, I look forward
2 to such a nuclear future because DOE has already
3 blazed the path and demonstrated that nuclear can be
4 done safely when it is done right. Thank you.

5 MR. BROWN: Thank you. Joe Epstein, then
6 Bob Kehrman.

7 MR. EPSTEIN: Good morning. Thank you
8 very much for this meeting and for the opportunity
9 to speak. My name is Joe Epstein. I'm a resident
10 of Carlsbad. My professional career was spent in
11 the nuclear field starting with Navy nuclear
12 engineering, then commercial nuclear power with
13 Westinghouse, and then DOE facilities as a
14 contractor at Hanford waste disposal, low level
15 waste disposals, and then WIPP.

16 This experience just gives me the
17 perspective of the valuable resource that nuclear
18 represents but at the same time to be respected and
19 controlled. And that's exactly what you have with
20 GNEP and southeast New Mexico, Lea and Eddy County.
21 The DOE GNEP program is very supported and applauded
22 for being a wonderfully comprehensive program.
23 National security protection with nonproliferation,
24 energy security improvement, reduction of greenhouse
25 gases, CO₂, addressing the global warming issue, and

1 reduction of long-lived nuclear waste.

2 But the most highly supported and
3 encouraged portion of what we have talked about
4 today is the Lea-Eddy counties, Hobbs-Carlsbad
5 involvement. What you get with this energy alliance
6 is absolutely stalwart community support in helping
7 the US and the Department of Energy, and we have the
8 expertise and experience in nuclear issues,
9 licensing, operations, safety, research, et al. And
10 the site has major advantages, which have been
11 pointed out, including remote population -- remote
12 from population centers and rail transportation
13 availability on the corridors already established.

14 What the Lea-Eddy County Energy Alliance
15 offers is a duplicate of what we saw with WIPP,
16 which happens to be the best site in the DOE
17 complex, which happened to pave the way for waste
18 repositories in the US. We have the most enduring
19 community support with strong congressional support
20 and superior performance of the facilities. Thank
21 you.

22 MR. BROWN: Thank you. Bob Kehrman.
23 David Moody will be next.

24 MR. KEHRMAN: Thank you. My name is
25 Robert Kehrman. I've been a Carlsbad resident for

1 23 years and employed by Washington Group
2 International. I currently serve as a technical
3 reader for performing the detailed site studies for
4 the Eddy-Lea Energy Appliance GNEP energy site east
5 of here. With a 90-day grant clock at 30 days and
6 ticking, our team is getting to know the site quite
7 intimately.

8 Most of the team is here to support this
9 meeting. I'm glad to see that. But, guys, get back
10 to work. I attended the meeting at Hobbs last night
11 and based on the Hobbs model, I had about five
12 minutes worth of comments here, so I'm going to
13 eliminate the personal stuff and the humorous stuff
14 and just get down to business.

15 I listened carefully to Mr. Black's
16 presentation and was particularly interested in his
17 statement on slide 12 that says, quote, the DOE will
18 use a screening process to determine which sites are
19 reasonable alternatives for detailed analysis in the
20 PEIS. Last night he indicated that developing these
21 screening criteria was a future activity of the DOE.
22 Since these criteria do not exist at this time, I'd
23 like to offer a few suggestions.

24 First and foremost, consider the support
25 of the local citizenry. You have seen and will

1 continue to see outstanding support for this site
2 during your two days here. This support comes from
3 informed citizens, not just people in search of jobs
4 and economic development. While the economic
5 benefits are important, I haven't met any citizens
6 or civic leaders who are willing to mortgage the
7 future of this area for today's jobs. Instead, what
8 I have observed is careful consideration of both the
9 benefits and the risks in the decision making
10 process. So this support is genuine, it's informed,
11 it's broadly based, it runs across county lines and,
12 as you heard last night, even across state borders.

13 The next criteria you should consider is
14 the commitment of the local elected officials. As
15 you heard last night, Johnny Cope, chairman of the
16 Eddy-Lea Energy Alliance, explained that the elected
17 officials in Carlsbad and Hobbs and Eddy and Lea
18 counties unanimously agreed to form the alliance and
19 to move forward with the proposed site. You
20 received letters from every state legislator from
21 this area supporting the site. The DOE should rate
22 this participation very highly in the selection
23 process since finding a willing host for
24 controversial facilities is refreshing in today's
25 not-in-my-backyard society.

1 A third criteria I would suggest is the
2 availability of technical expertise. With the WIPP
3 facility, the National Enrichment Facility, and the
4 expanded role that Waste Control Specialists is
5 seeking in the low level waste market, there will be
6 an excellent pool of builders and operators of
7 nuclear facilities in the area. These are the
8 nuts-and-bolts guys who can recognize a counterfeit
9 part and who understand the importance of nuclear
10 quality assurance. Coupled with this is the offer
11 from the colleges and universities in the area to
12 help in any way they can, including ambitious
13 training and retraining programs to assure there is
14 an adequate pool of mechanics, welders,
15 electricians, health physics technicians, nuclear
16 operators, quality assurance inspectors, energy
17 responders, laboratory specialists, and other highly
18 trained individuals.

19 MR. BROWN: And you're just at the
20 three-minute mark. If you can summarize. Thanks.

21 MR. KEHRMAN: I'll wrap it up here.
22 Fourth, consider the advantages this greenfield site
23 as a site without existing facilities. The owners
24 will be able to define how clean is clean when it
25 comes to decommissioning the site, forestalling

1 arguments that impede cleanup at other DOE
2 facilities. Fifth, consider the remoteness of the
3 site. And, finally, I recommend that you weigh the
4 proximity of the site to the transportation corridor
5 that has successfully obtained or received nuclear
6 materials from throughout the nation.

7 In conclusion, I predict that DOE has many
8 battles ahead to advance the nuclear future of this
9 nation. I'm sure you welcome as many allies as you
10 can get. As was so aptly put last night in Hobbs,
11 you are in the nation's new nuclear corridor or the
12 world energy epicenter. You will find allies
13 everywhere you turn here as well as a site that can
14 meet these criteria and whatever criteria you use
15 for screening to the next level.

16 MR. BROWN: Thank you. Dave Moody.
17 Marian Borkowski will be next.

18 MR. MOODY: My name is Dave Moody and I'm
19 the manager of the Department of Energy, Carlsbad
20 Field Office. My comments today are those of a
21 private citizen, a resident of Carlsbad, and not as
22 the manager of the field office or as a
23 representative of the Department of Energy. I'm
24 here on my own time because I believe that nuclear
25 energy is the long-term solution to our nation's

1 energy needs and that recycling of spent nuclear
2 fuel is important to the resurgence of the nuclear
3 industry in this country.

4 I have a doctorate in chemistry and have
5 spent more than 30 years in the nuclear field. My
6 work experience ranges from nuclear weapons
7 research, nuclear medicine, environmental
8 remediation, and nuclear waste management. I
9 strongly support the Global Nuclear Energy
10 Partnership initiative and believe that the US
11 should fast track the recycling decision and the
12 decision as to where the facilities are to be built.

13 As to the site of an advanced reactor and
14 a spent fuel reprocessing facility, there is no
15 better place than the site proposed by the Eddy-Lea
16 Energy Alliance. This area of southeastern
17 New Mexico is graphically well suited for the
18 mission and has already established a viable nuclear
19 corridor with the successful operation of the Waste
20 Isolation Pilot Plant and the recent groundbreaking
21 for a uranium enrichment facility. The proposed
22 site brings the safety and security of open terrain
23 and isolation from population bases, is seismically
24 quiet, and is an area whose geology is better
25 evaluated than other proposed sites. There is also

1 easy access to rail transport and a mature local
2 trucking industry for the transport of nuclear
3 waste.

4 Most importantly, the citizens of this
5 area have a long history of supporting the nuclear
6 future of this country. When other locations were
7 being evaluated for defense transuranic waste
8 disposal, stakeholders overwhelmingly objected to
9 siting the repository near their location. Carlsbad
10 stepped up, embraced the Waste Isolation Pilot
11 Plant, and really set only one major condition. It
12 must be safe.

13 No other community has been as supportive
14 of the Department of Energy's cleanup mission as
15 Carlsbad. The citizens and elected officials in
16 New Mexico -- Carlsbad, New Mexico, my neighbors,
17 make me proud to stand with them today and commit to
18 you that this location is where the nuclear future
19 of this country has already started. We're ready
20 for the next step. We have the best site
21 technically and overwhelming support of the local
22 residents. No other site in the nation can match
23 this support and enthusiasm.

24 MR. BROWN: Thanks. Ray Camp will follow
25 Marian.

1 MR. BORKOWSKI: I am a citizen of
2 Carlsbad. I represent myself. I am 37 years in the
3 nuclear industry business, so I would like to share
4 a few remarks.

5 First the question to Dr. Black. He
6 presented his talk today and first to question was
7 should we go with GNEP means no action or we should
8 go with. My question is, how many percent of energy
9 is unused and can be used from spent nuclear fuel?
10 Can you answer for this question?

11 MR. BROWN: Well, I think that --

12 MR. BORKOWSKI: The two speaker before me
13 mentioned that it is about 80 to 90 percent still is
14 present in so-called spent nuclear fuel. So my
15 question is, can we buy a car, drive 10,000 miles,
16 and put in the junkyard? I think nobody will do
17 this. So from the economical point of view, fuel
18 reprocessing is necessary in the United States like
19 is now performing in many other countries.

20 I agree with the first two points of GNEP
21 to develop fuel -- build a facility for fuel
22 reprocessing and also build advanced recycling
23 reactor. But according to first point -- third
24 point, advanced fuel recycle research facility, I
25 have a little bit different point.

1 In United States we have many sites, like
2 Argonne National Lab, like Los Alamos National Lab,
3 Idaho Falls, and PNNL when the literature scientists
4 are designated to work for nuclear energy purposes
5 or the fuel reprocessing which have been used in
6 United States for reprocessing fuel is well known
7 and developed in these laboratories. So I don't see
8 the necessity to spend money to build facility if
9 you can save some money using existing facility for
10 the same purposes. This is first question.

11 The second, what benefit GNEP can bring
12 us. One is an environmental protection, means
13 greenhouse -- greenhouse gases generation. This is
14 obvious. We have to switch from the use of the
15 natural crude oil or gas to generate electricity
16 because we will generate more and more greenhouse
17 effect and we will self-damage our planet. We have
18 to avoid this and we have to switch to different
19 sources of energy and only sustainable energy we can
20 get from nuclear energy. So building a new reactor,
21 a new facility, is extremely important, but I
22 understand that we are talking today about the
23 pioneer facility.

24 MR. BROWN: You're at the three-minute
25 mark. If you can give us one summary point.

1 MR. BORKOWSKI: I am close.

2 MR. BROWN: Yes.

3 MR. BORKOWSKI: Okay. So because in
4 United States you have about hundred reactors and
5 producing 20 percent of energy, we have to build
6 much more than one reactor. So these 13 sites which
7 have been already selected, I think all of them
8 should be picked up.

9 Now only one minute about the
10 localization. Tim Burns just pointed out all the
11 necessity points, location, remote location, low
12 density of population, monitoring, but we have
13 something else. We have community. The employee of
14 WIPP already demonstrated they can safely handle
15 radioactive material, and this is a huge advantage
16 of this place if you compare with any other because
17 you have support of community to build such a
18 facility. Everywhere where we will go with such a
19 meeting the people will say yes, it's great for our
20 community because we will have more good jobs, we
21 will develop our community, but everywhere will
22 happen the same. It is not good justification.
23 Justification is how we are prepared, and our
24 community is excellent prepared. Our community
25 government, Westinghouse, Washington TRU Solutions,

1 and people living in Carlsbad working in WIPP are
2 just already demonstrated. So I support the GNEP
3 and building and location for new facility.

4 MR. BROWN: Okay. Thank you. Ray Camp.
5 John Moon will follow Ray.

6 MR. CAMP: I want to thank the Department
7 of Energy for letting us have this hearing here and
8 the opportunity to speak. I'm a native of Carlsbad,
9 76 years old. My family came here in 1930, which is
10 one year before I was born.

11 My first reaction about nuclear energy, if
12 memory serves me right, was in 1961 when the Nome
13 project happened here in southeastern New Mexico and
14 southeastern Eddy County. It was when they had the
15 underground blast of the atomic bomb and it was
16 contained underground. That was a testing whether
17 the salt beds were adequate enough to hold this
18 nuclear waste and store it here. It proved to be
19 that it is the right choice and so that development
20 going on in the future, WIPP was made and come and
21 we all got out and supported it.

22 I did long before I became a county
23 commissioner supported the activity of the WIPP
24 project. Senator Whitlock taught me very well on
25 what it meant to our community and what it meant to

1 our nation, and I stand here today thankful for the
2 opportunity to know Senator Whitlock and his vast
3 knowledge.

4 Also, I might add that I served as a
5 county commissioner for ten years and nine months.
6 That's a long time. I'm a retired commissioner now
7 as well as retired businessman from this community.
8 I've raised my family here, my grandchildren are
9 here, and if I had ever thought in one minute that
10 it was not a safe place to be, I would not have
11 stayed here, even though it is my home, this is
12 where I chose to live, the quality of life here is
13 better than anywhere in the United States. And I
14 encourage you to listen to our citizens and their
15 concerns.

16 You have an overwhelming support of this
17 community, of Eddy County, of Chavez County, and of
18 Lea County. We're all in this thing together. All
19 these communities, all these counties will prosper
20 from what happens and what the decision making is
21 and whether we get this location here. You cannot
22 find a better place to have it than here in
23 southeastern New Mexico. The railroads are here,
24 the transportation has been proven, the technology
25 of our scientists that are involved with the WIPP

1 project, national labs that are here, the --
2 everything is just perfect, and I would think it
3 would cost the federal government a lot of money if
4 we choose a different site than Carlsbad. Thank you
5 very much.

6 MR. BROWN: Thank you. John Moon will be
7 followed by Guy Lutman.

8 MR. MOON: Good morning. My name is John
9 Moon. I'm a resident of Carlsbad. I am here today
10 to let you know that I'm in favor of locating the
11 GNEP project, such as fuel recycling center,
12 advanced recycling reactor, here. Although we are a
13 small community, you'll find that there are a number
14 of positives. There will be a more desert location,
15 extensive railway system and highway system for
16 spent nuclear fuel transportation, excellent
17 weather, friendly people who support GNEP, and
18 extremely supportive local politicians.

19 I know that there are other sites to
20 consider. In the last 20 years as a nuclear
21 engineer, I have worked in Hanford, Argonne, Oak
22 Ridge, Mountain site and the Savannah River site. I
23 believe that Carlsbad is the best place for GNEP.
24 People and local politicians have embraced the
25 nuclear technology here. Projects such as Nuclear

1 Fuel Enrichment manufacturer, Louisiana Energy
2 Services and waste -- and, of course, WIPP, Waste
3 Isolation Pilot Plant have chosen this area. When
4 other cities have concerns, issues, and antinuclear
5 demonstrations, Carlsbad has always welcomed. I am
6 in support and welcome GNEP to be located here.
7 Thank you.

8 MR. BROWN: All right. Thanks. Guy
9 Lutman. Janet Carbary will be next.

10 MR. LUTMAN: Hi. Welcome to Carlsbad,
11 Eddy County. My name is Guy Lutman. I'm an Eddy
12 County commissioner. Forgive my voice. I'm a
13 little under the weather today, so I won't be able
14 to speak that long, so I'll be very, very brief.

15 I'd just like you to look around, look
16 around outside. There is a lot of people spoke with
17 some terrific technical expertise, and I'm not one
18 of those people. But, you know, as a person coming
19 here from London ten years ago, you know, when I
20 look out here and I think to myself, 30 miles east
21 of here is the one and only place in the world where
22 nuclear waste is stored in salt beds. Isn't that
23 amazing to you? The middle of the desert. And look
24 at the quality of life.

25 You know an old saying, you know -- and

1 I'll read it out to you. "Actions speak louder than
2 words." And it's been said here today. This is a
3 very undersold community, in my opinion. They're
4 very, very low key in how they promote themselves,
5 and yet for 30 years they've persevered, and look
6 what they've done. I've been here for ten years,
7 and I can't believe what they're achieving at such
8 an incredible rate.

9 I fully support the GNEP project. This
10 community should reap the benefits. They've done
11 their homework, they've worked hard at this, and I
12 as an outsider really, really want them to do this.
13 They have the expertise, they have their families
14 here, they've got a vested interest in their
15 communities.

16 Remember, in a community, like you've
17 mentioned other places, quality of life is what I
18 think is also a very, very important part of this
19 whole project. Remember, these people have to go to
20 bed at night. They have to have peace of mind that
21 that waste is safe out there. What better for
22 nuclear waste pilot plant to facilitate this new
23 GNEP project. These people have to entertain
24 themselves, they have to entertain their families,
25 sports, that sort of thing. Some of these other

1 sites I don't think are so unique as what we've got
2 to offer. So I hope I've given a slightly different
3 spin on the other speakers earlier on. So with
4 that, thank you very much.

5 MR. BROWN: Janet, and Bertha Cassingham
6 will be next.

7 MS. CARBARY: Good morning. I'm Janet
8 Carbary, and I'm the chief operating officer at
9 Carlsbad Medical Center and I'm here today as a
10 private citizen but more importantly representing
11 the 550 employees representing the medical center at
12 Carlsbad.

13 We want you guys to know that we're very
14 supportive of the GNEP recycling facility in our
15 region. The success with WIPP has lent to our
16 enthusiastic support of this. The collaboration
17 we've had as a result of WIPP being here between the
18 businesses, the city, the county is unparalleled.
19 The safety record with WIPP and the emergency
20 preparedness plan speaks to that success. The fact
21 that we already established these relationships only
22 makes us a stronger candidate to pursue the
23 continued growth of this nuclear corridor. We hope
24 that you consider us for that because we really feel
25 the continued growth of this industry contributes to

1 the growth in our community as a whole. Thank you.

2 MR. BROWN: Thank you. Bertha Cassingham,
3 and Mike Reynolds will be next. Hi. Welcome.

4 MS. CASSINGHAM: Thank you. I am a WIPP
5 employee, but I am very definitely here on vacation
6 time and these are my personal opinions. Based on
7 my years of nuclear facility experience including
8 commercial nuclear reactor work as well as at WIPP,
9 I do totally support GNEP. I also support the
10 international programmatic initiative and, of
11 course, I consider southeastern New Mexico the ideal
12 location for the currently proposed GNEP work
13 because of the other components of the nuclear fuel
14 cycle and the expertise to manage and operate those
15 facilities with excellence are already located in
16 southeastern New Mexico.

17 I support the commercial scale
18 demonstrations of GNEP technologies versus the
19 engineering scale demonstration alternatives that
20 are being proposed. I support a DOE/private
21 industry approach that would allow a much quicker
22 startup.

23 Folks, we won't be around for 10,000
24 years, so let's get started. I also understand that
25 the scoping process is an opportunity for the public

1 to assist DOE in determining, among other things,
2 reasonable alternatives and that's what I would like
3 to submit, the request for some reasonable
4 alternatives. You've heard a lot of talk about
5 WIPP. Well, first of all, for the domestic
6 programmatic alternative number one, I would like to
7 propose that DOE consider as an alternative in the
8 PEIS that the WIPP geologic repository or a new
9 repository built on WIPP Land Withdrawal Act lands,
10 or in the Eddy-Lea County area be considered as an
11 alternative for permanent storage.

12 Second, that for domestic programmatic
13 alternative No. 2 and for project specific
14 alternative No. 2, that the WIPP or a new repository
15 built on the WIPP Land Withdrawal Act lands be
16 included in the PEIS evaluations as a potential
17 repository for all nuclear recycling, including
18 providing storage or spent fuel prior to recycling
19 as well as storage of waste generated from recycling
20 to include all potential waste streams and forms,
21 all waste levels, and that such a repository be
22 considered as the GNEP disposal repository, be
23 considered as the GNEP disposal repository no matter
24 where the final GNEP projects are located. At this
25 time, even if the GNEP is finally located in the

1 Eddy-Lea County area, the disposal is not currently
2 planned for this area and we have already proven the
3 ability to handle that.

4 Third, as you stated, after studies some
5 sites may be determine to be not eligible, so in
6 case of that, and although I am very supportive of
7 the Carlsbad-Hobbs area, I would like for the DOE
8 lands in this area to also be looked at for the full
9 GNEP facilities, to include nuclear fuel recycling,
10 advanced recycling reactor, and even portions of the
11 research, as we do have two excellent national
12 laboratories here in Carlsbad, Sandia and Los Alamos
13 National.

14 I support a closed nuclear fuel cycle, and
15 I would like to see the full cycle reside here in
16 Eddy and Lea counties. As an employee of WIPP that
17 has spent years auditing safety, including
18 conducting audits throughout the DOE complex, I know
19 the level of quality, safety, and excellence and the
20 caring and pride by employees that goes into all the
21 work that is conducted at WIPP. That excellence
22 cannot be matched in the current DOE complex.

23 The community has been very supportive of
24 the DOE missions and so have employees. This the
25 success, in fact, of DOE and even the improvement in

1 congressional perception of DOE's abilities to
2 accomplish its mission can at least in part be
3 directly attributed to WIPP. So if you're looking
4 for real success in these new projects, the new
5 methodologies, the innovative ventures that you're
6 hoping to succeed and if you want real help in DOE
7 succeeding in this mission, then southeastern
8 New Mexico, Eddy and Lea County, and actually WIPP
9 expertise must be part of the PEIS initiative. Thank
10 you.

11 MR. BROWN: Mike Reynolds, and Steve
12 Massey will be next.

13 MR. REYNOLDS: I'm Mike Reynolds. I'm the
14 chief the Carlsbad Fire Department. I'm a native of
15 Washington, DC, but I'm grateful to have escaped
16 from there unscathed and can claim that I've lived
17 the largest part of my life in southeastern
18 New Mexico and am grateful for that.

19 WIPP has set an example for the world in
20 how to safely operate a nuclear facility. No better
21 location exists than here in southeastern
22 New Mexico. The citizens in Lea County and in Eddy
23 County embrace the presence and economic impact of
24 the Department of Energy's WIPP project and eagerly
25 anticipate the decision to locate the home of GNEP

1 in southeastern New Mexico.

2 No other community in the nation, no other
3 community in the nation, embraces the Department of
4 Energy as proactively as Carlsbad, Hobbs, and
5 southeastern New Mexico. An example of what
6 happened when a community does not embrace the
7 Department of Energy as we do here was expressed
8 very well by Jerri McTaggart's words earlier through
9 her mother. Rocky Flats is a good example of what
10 happens when a community does not embrace these
11 projects. Look outside. You see a sign that says
12 "Thank you for visiting Carlsbad." Thank you for
13 visiting Carlsbad. What you don't see outside are
14 people carrying signs, people protesting your
15 presence here.

16 Carlsbad and the Department of Energy have
17 a mutually proactive relationship. The knowledge
18 and experience of emergency responders in this
19 region is exponentially greater than anywhere else
20 in the nation with regard to response and recovery
21 from a variety of nuclear emergencies, emergencies
22 that are frequently imagined, drilled, and exercised
23 by planners and emergency preparedness agencies.

24 The impact on the environment, on
25 sensitive and threatened and endangered species, is

1 minimal to nonexistent. In fact, collaboration
2 between the multiple agencies as a result of the
3 Department of Energy's presence here has proactively
4 addressed these issues, these environmental issues,
5 and actually it's resulted in projects such as the
6 cooperative conservation agreements with assurances,
7 the propagation projects, and other projects that
8 reach out to prevent and mitigate species from being
9 threatened or endangered in the first place. These
10 joint endeavors mitigate or eliminate the need for
11 the more restrictive and costly conservation
12 measures upon landowners, ranchers, and the oil and
13 gas industry.

14 The impact on the environment by a nuclear
15 facility here in southeastern New Mexico is
16 essentially nonexistent. This has been proven by
17 WIPP in the salt beds. To support Mayor Bob's
18 statement that -- about the unlikely opening of the
19 Yucca Mountain facility, who would build a nuclear
20 waste repository in a geothermal region or hotbed or
21 essentially on a volcano? The impact here in
22 southeastern New Mexico is minimal. There is no
23 impact on large population centers. They're
24 nonexistent out here in this remote location.

25 Southeastern New Mexico is the only

1 reasonable and responsible location to place GNEP
2 for all the various reasons we've heard all morning
3 long. Thank you.

4 MR. BROWN: Thank you. Okay. Steve
5 Massey. Virginia Kelliher will follow.

6 MR. MASSEY: My name is Steve Massey. I'm
7 a native of Carlsbad and southeastern New Mexico. I
8 raised my family here. Thank you for coming to
9 visit our community.

10 I currently serve as the Eddy County
11 manager, but what I want to really emphasize is what
12 Mike touched on just a little bit -- a minute ago
13 was I've been serving as the chairman of the Eddy
14 County Emergency Management Association
15 organization, which is a partnership of all of our
16 emergency responders, law enforcement, WIPP is
17 involved in that as well for over the past ten
18 years.

19 I think anytime there is a hiccup in
20 anything that happens, the first ones that the
21 citizens turn to are the local governments, and I
22 think you will be hard pressed to find in the highly
23 unlikely event that an incident would happen with
24 the GNEP project as we have not had any incidents
25 with WIPP as well, you're not going to find a better

1 trained, better equipped group of professionals in
2 emergency response than what we have locally here in
3 Eddy County and Carlsbad, both with our
4 professionals and our volunteers.

5 I just want to make sure that that is
6 something that's looked at as well when you do your
7 impact study because we're very proud of where we're
8 at and we continually -- like Mike had said, we
9 exercise on a regular basis, we keep our equipment
10 and everything up-to-date, and I think you're going
11 to find the finest in the nation right here. Thank
12 you.

13 MR. BROWN: Okay. Virginia Kelliher? Is
14 she here? C. M. Power? Dick -- is it Raaz? Good.
15 Dick will be followed by Don George.

16 MR. RAAZ: Good morning. My name is Dick
17 Raaz. I'm the president of Washington TRU
18 Solutions. We're the M and O operators of the WIPP
19 Isolation Pilot Plant.

20 I haven't been at this problem for 30
21 years like most of the people in this room. I'm
22 kind of new to it. Been in the nuclear industry my
23 entire life, and I understand and appreciate the
24 benefits it brings to not only our country but the
25 world. The site that you're researching now will

1 stand the scrutiny of a detailed environmental
2 study, which will validate that it is certainly
3 qualified and most likely to be the best technical
4 location for the GNEP facilities.

5 That's not why I want to talk to you
6 today. The -- the reason this is the best site is
7 because of the massive public support these
8 industries receive from these communities. This
9 community is knowledgeable. They've been studying
10 these issues for a long time. It is enlightened
11 support. It is not a short haul jobs today support.
12 We have knowledgeable officials and an extremely
13 knowledgeable citizenry who understand a reasoned
14 and balanced approach to complex problems. You
15 simply can't have anything as complex as GNEP
16 without the community involvement and understanding
17 that this region brings. It's a patient public.

18 Thirty years seems like a long time on the
19 human scale, but in the big scheme of things, we're
20 just getting going into the 22nd century and this
21 power will be very important. As an example of that
22 community support I bring a letter from New Mexico
23 State Senator Carroll Leavell, who apologizes he
24 couldn't be here personally today due to the
25 pressing legislative activity in Santa Fe.

1 Let me quote from his letter. "Eddy and
2 Lea counties have a strong record for supporting
3 nuclear facilities. This past year Carlsbad and
4 Eddy county in testimony have strongly supported the
5 remote-handled WIPP permit. WIPP has proven itself
6 to be a safe facility and has enjoyed the strong
7 support of the community.

8 "The support of GNEP by this community
9 would not come without Eddy and Lea Energy
10 Alliance's confidence in the safety assured by the
11 industry, NRC, and the Department of Energy. The
12 proposal of the Eddy-Lea Energy Alliance builds on
13 that history." Thank you very much.

14 MR. BROWN: Thank you. Don George.

15 MR. GEORGE: I want to make this as brief
16 as possible. My name is Don George. I'm a vice
17 president of the Department of Development, but I
18 come here as a citizen of Carlsbad. Not a native.
19 Only been here since '87. So one of these decades
20 I'll earn my wings and not be seen as a tourist.
21 But I want to reiterate the community support that
22 you're seeing here. As a safe operation, it starts
23 not only from a mentality but at an individual
24 level, and the safe operations of GNEP is evident
25 here in what you see here as support.

1 I want to go back to your slides a little
2 bit and reiterate what others have said. The mayor
3 talked about it a little bit. The Hobbs statement.
4 I think you are missing, if you're just focusing on
5 Hobbs, half the equation, and in nuclear energy you
6 don't want to be running around with half the
7 information. So this is a great, great partnership,
8 and it should be seen as that and used as that. And
9 you have great support here, I support that and want
10 to thank you for it. Thanks.

11 MR. BROWN: Okay. Thank you. Farok
12 Sharif. You'll speak as an individual now. All
13 right. And Lisa Watson will follow. Welcome back.

14 MR. SHARIF: Thank you for the opportunity
15 to voice my support. I'm here as a private citizen
16 as one who has spent most of my career in the
17 nuclear management -- nuclear waste management
18 industry.

19 I believe it has come time for the nuclear
20 power renaissance in this country. That includes
21 recycling of the nuclear spent fuel. I'll hand this
22 thing off to you, so I'll just make this short. I
23 strongly urge you to consider the Eddy-Lea Energy
24 Alliance site for GNEP nuclear fuel recycling and
25 the advanced reactor facilities. This greenfield

1 site is located in a low population area with good
2 transportation access and infrastructure and known
3 seismic stability.

4 The area's greatest resource, however, is
5 people. Eddy and Lea counties offer some of the
6 nation's best scientific and engineering talent as
7 well as aggressive economic development programs to
8 assist small businesses in working with the federal
9 government. The alliance has also assembled an
10 extraordinarily competent team of professionals to
11 undertake this complex effort. I have full
12 confidence in these communities and the elected
13 leaders will give DOE the support it needs to make
14 GNEP an international success. I urge you to give
15 them the opportunity to have the location here.

16 MR. BROWN: Terrific. Thank you. And
17 Lisa Watson, and Monsour Akbarzadeh will follow.

18 MS. WATSON: I'm Lisa Watson, and I'm here
19 today to express my support for this project. Aside
20 from the very personal reasons of, you know, wanting
21 to keep your kids in the area and more importantly
22 your grandkids, I think that this location would be
23 an excellent location.

24 When WIPP started here many years ago,
25 they had to start from ground zero. They had to

1 educate the community, they had to bring in the best
2 safety engineers, mechanical engineers, nuclear
3 engineers. And we've done that, and now we have a
4 very talented group of people that would be able to
5 support this project. And I think that it is very
6 important to note that in a state as diverse as
7 New Mexico, that the one thing -- especially in
8 southeastern New Mexico that we can do is come
9 together as a community and support a project like
10 this. And we, for the most part, all do support it,
11 and I think it's a great place to be. I don't think
12 you'll find any other community that you have
13 selected that will support the project en masse like
14 we have.

15 MR. BROWN: Thank you. And our next
16 speaker will be Gene Harbaugh.

17 MR. AKBARZADEH: This is funny. My name
18 is Monsour Akbarzadeh. I am a radiochemist at WIPP
19 site; however, I am here as a private citizen. I
20 have lived in Carlsbad for the past ten years, and I
21 support the GNEP project because of the fact that we
22 need a solution to the existing problem that we are
23 facing globally. With the industry that we are in,
24 the nuclear industry has prevented 2.4 billion
25 metric tons of CO2 in the air that otherwise could

1 be worldwide distributed and we have -- we are
2 facing, you know, problems, otherwise even more
3 problems. In addition to that, for the area, I
4 should say that I believe it's the safest place to
5 have it because of the history that we have
6 established here with WIPP project. In addition to
7 that, the support of the citizens is tremendous
8 locally, and I've been involved in it -- fortunate
9 enough to be part of the history. We received the
10 first shipment in 1999 and then recently in 2007
11 with the remote handling.

12 So I do believe in having this project
13 here. I've been involved in the monitoring aspects
14 of the environmental and the workers, and we have
15 one of the best programs in the nation available,
16 and I know that we can do a very, very good job on
17 that. Thank you.

18 MR. BROWN: Thank you. Gene Harbaugh.
19 Phil Gregory will be next.

20 MR. HARBAUGH: This will be new material.
21 I believe this is flawed on three premises.
22 Economically this is a bad idea. Despite the claim
23 that this will create jobs and boost the local
24 economy, a larger picture is that this industry
25 threatens the economy. Locally it will repress and

1 depress our retirement sector.

2 The nuclear industry as a whole would
3 vanish without heavily subsidized federal support.
4 It drains research from clean and safe sources of
5 energy such as solar, thermal, and wind power. It
6 benefits an elite segment of the population and does
7 little to benefit middle and low income persons.
8 Los Alamos County is Exhibit A. The richest county
9 in America where 20 percent of household have a net
10 worth of over a million dollars not counting their
11 homes, and yet in adjoining Rio Arriba County
12 23 percent of the children live in poverty. With
13 nuclear economics, New Mexico ranks as the hungriest
14 state in the nation with the richest county in the
15 nation.

16 Secondly, ecologically, nuclear
17 development is a bad idea. It requires mining and
18 enrichment of uranium. Carbon dioxide gas is
19 released at every stage of the nuclear fuel cycle,
20 and if global electric production were converted to
21 nuclear power, there would be only a very limited
22 supply of accessible uranium for fuel reactors.

23 The development of a fuel reprocessing
24 factory will use huge amounts of water in an
25 environment where water is scarce. It will result

1 in toxic waste, which is the Achilles heel of this
2 industry. We currently have 60,000 tons of nuclear
3 waste awaiting disposal, and no adequate facility
4 exists. And if one thinks about the health effects,
5 it is untenable to advocate for -- or justify
6 development of our area into a nuclear corridor.
7 England and France have curtailed their experiments
8 in this type of development because of so many leaks
9 and huge stockpiles of spent rods. Selective
10 information gathering about the advantages of this
11 proposed technology will result in the same kind of
12 mistakes that it has generated in the foreign policy
13 area.

14 Escalation and proliferation of nuclear
15 weapons is a serious security concern and the third
16 reason that this is a bad idea. Our conflict with
17 Iran today stems from their aspiration for a
18 facility just like the one being proposed, and
19 ironically our government provided Iran with highly
20 enriched uranium so they could have just this
21 capacity. The Global Nuclear Energy Partnership is
22 now an attempt to monopolize the production of fuel
23 rods in the same way the US has sought to monopolize
24 nuclear weapons. Reprocessing of fuel rods is the
25 tip of the iceberg and the advent of the complex

1 2030 planned by our government to manufacture more
2 weapons of mass destruction in clear violation of
3 the 1970 nonproliferation treaty. The presence of
4 this facility creates another target of terrorists
5 in a remote area without adequate infrastructure
6 security.

7 MR. BROWN: You're just about at the
8 three-minute mark.

9 MR. HARBAUGH: The experts, of course,
10 will tell us that there is nothing to fear, that
11 this is hysteria. They will select scientific and
12 strategical information that fits their purposes.
13 But the experts in this debate are not scientists or
14 politicians or statisticians but ordinary people
15 with families who want to live whole and healthy
16 lives. Development plans that leave them out of the
17 equation will not meet this community's needs. So
18 the three Es of economics, environment, and
19 escalation involved with this proposal make drilling
20 gas wells in the city limits look like a real
21 winner. Thank you.

22 MR. BROWN: Thanks. Phil Gregory, and
23 Wren Stroud will follow.

24 MR. GREGORY: Thank you. My name is Phil
25 Gregory. I am here to speak in support of the

1 Global Nuclear Energy Partnership, GNEP, in general
2 and specifically in support of the proposed Eddy-Lea
3 County Alliance site. I'm fourth generation
4 resident of Carlsbad by choice. I'm employed by
5 Washington TRU Solutions at the Waste Isolation
6 Pilot Plant, but my testimony today is my own and
7 not a part of my job.

8 I'd like to make two points. I sincerely
9 believe that we need GNEP and that the best location
10 is the site proposed by the Eddy-Lea County
11 Alliance. This site will provide protection for
12 human health and the environment. Our land has been
13 blessed with an abundance of natural resources,
14 including coal, oil, and natural gas. These fossil
15 fuels are in large part responsible for the abundant
16 lifestyle and unprecedented well-being that we enjoy
17 as a nation.

18 It is my opinion that we should develop a
19 national energy policy that includes not just words
20 but actions and encourage a variety of energy
21 resources. The Department of Energy has talked the
22 talk since I was a student in college. People have
23 talked about an energy policy that includes nuclear.
24 It's now time to walk the walk. There are those who
25 speak of renewable energy without giving much

1 thought to the reality of the problems. There
2 aren't any more rivers to dam up and there are only
3 so many locations that are suitable for wind or
4 thermal power. And solar panels are not cost
5 effective and, furthermore, they don't work very
6 well on a cloudy day.

7 After much research, I believe that
8 nuclear energy is the best hope for the United
9 States and, for that matter, the world to become
10 less dependent on fossil fuels. I also believe that
11 GNEP is the best hope for mankind to avoid a nuclear
12 disaster. We have the knowledge and the technology
13 as proven in Europe. All we need is the will, the
14 political fortitude, and a suitable site.

15 That brings me to my second point. Midway
16 between Carlsbad and Hobbs is the best location for
17 GNEP. I challenge anyone to find a better location
18 for the following reasons. Community support,
19 experienced local leadership, state leadership, and
20 federal leadership. The proximity to WIPP brings an
21 unprecedented safety record, a culture of nuclear
22 conduct of operations and quality assurance, a
23 world-class transportation system that could easily
24 share lessons learned, and experience dealing with a
25 maze of regulations that GNEP will be subject to in

1 order to protect the public and the environment.

2 In conclusion, we have the need, we have
3 the desire, we have the technology, we have the
4 land, and we have the people. All we need is your
5 recommendation, and we will do the job. Thank you.

6 MR. BROWN: Wren Stroud. Greg Brown will
7 be next.

8 MS. STROUD: Thank you for this
9 opportunity to speak. We've heard from a lot of our
10 technical experts in the area and they've mentioned
11 that Carlsbad has a large number of informed
12 citizens that support WIPP and would support the
13 GNEP project, and I'm here to speak as one of those
14 citizens.

15 I am an informed citizen. I sat down and
16 read the entire 150-page proposal for GNEP so that I
17 could form my own opinion of the project. It's
18 impressive, it's comprehensive, and after having
19 read it, I have to say that I support this project
20 and I would support locating it near Carlsbad.

21 I am a native of Carlsbad. I've lived
22 here most of my life. My children have gone away to
23 college and they have moved back here and they live
24 here and, I hate to admit this, but my grandchildren
25 live here. And I feel comfortable in saying that I

1 would support having this project here with my
2 entire family living here.

3 Carlsbad has welcomed WIPP and the people
4 of the area understand and accept nuclear projects.
5 Carlsbad is already safely serving as the nation's
6 sole repository for transuranic waste. We are ready
7 to serve as the global solution to power generation
8 and, once again, I would just like to offer my
9 opinion as a private citizen that I support locating
10 the GNEP project between Hobbs and Carlsbad.

11 MR. BROWN: Thank you. Greg Brown. Kathy
12 Forni will be next.

13 MR. GREG BROWN: I can't think of a funner
14 way to spend a half a day of vacation and nothing
15 more important.

16 My name is Greg Brown. I'm just here as a
17 citizen that's been here for over 30 years. One
18 thing I'd like to say, this community is one of the
19 smartest communities I've seen. And you might find
20 some as smart but you ain't going to find a
21 community more tenacious than this. Thirty years
22 this community's been standing by DOE's side. When
23 this went out, I thought, is there actually another
24 choice other than this community? I guess there is,
25 but I think we're going to show that we are the

1 choice.

2 And as a citizen, the thing I'd like to
3 challenge DOE to is when you go back there's going
4 to be a lot of communities that make promises to
5 you. We've been here 30 years. We've come through
6 on every promise that we make. And as a taxpaying
7 citizen, I'd just like to say we've backed up
8 everything we've ever said. Other communities
9 haven't, and I'd just like to see us nationally
10 avoid another black eye that's potentially brewing
11 with Yucca Flats. Come here because give us an
12 idea, and we will get it done.

13 MR. BROWN: Thank you. Kathy Forni, and
14 Jim Luginbyhl.

15 MS. FORNI: Hello. My name is Kathy
16 Forni, and I have lived here all my life. And I am
17 here just to reiterate all of the other speakers
18 that have said that there is citizenship that --
19 that the citizens here are supportive of this
20 project. I feel that this project will be good for
21 this community and I feel that this location is good
22 for our country and that's all I have to say. Thank
23 you.

24 MR. BROWN: Okay. Jim. Dana Dewey will
25 follow Jim.

1 MR. LUGINBYHL: I'm Jim Luginbyhl. I work
2 for Los Alamos National Laboratories, the Carlsbad
3 office, but I'm here as a private citizen today. I
4 have a Ph.D. in environmental engineering, and as an
5 environmentalist, I am a very big supporter of
6 nuclear power and of this project.

7 Our country needs electricity to run the
8 economy, and the exotic ways of generating such as
9 wind power, electricity -- or solar cells, some of
10 these others, they couldn't possibly generate enough
11 electricity to run our economy. So we're left with
12 either burning fossil fuels or nuclear power. The
13 two different methods generate about the same amount
14 of pollution. The only difference is with nuclear
15 power it's so concentrated we can manage it or we
16 can have a minimal impact to our environment. With
17 burning fossil fuels it's spewed out in the
18 atmosphere or it goes all through the environment
19 and causes damages there. So nuclear power is
20 really the most environmentally friendly method of
21 generating the power that we need to run our
22 economy.

23 And our nuclear industry here in the
24 United States has been stagnant over the last three
25 decades. This project, I think, is the best way to

1 revamp our nuclear industry, and it is something
2 that our country needs. That's why the do-nothing
3 option in our Environmental Impact Statement needs
4 not even to be considered. We need this project.
5 And to locate this project -- everybody has done a
6 lot better job explaining why it should be here than
7 I could, but I just wanted to stand up and say I am
8 in support of the GNEP process and I'm also in
9 support of locating it here in Carlsbad. Thank you.

10 MR. BROWN: Dana Dewey is on her way to
11 the podium. You don't need to hurry. The clock
12 doesn't start till you -- but that was appreciated.
13 And Meg Milligan will follow Dana.

14 MS. DEWEY: My name is a Dana Dewey. I am
15 an environmental scientist but am here on my own
16 accord. I'm also a mother of a two-year-old, and I
17 fully support the GNEP program. If I didn't feel it
18 was safe, I wouldn't support it because I'm very
19 overprotective -- you can ask anyone.

20 From the environmental point, I was lucky
21 enough to work out at WIPP and help there with some
22 wildlife studies. I am meticulous. I love
23 regulatory compliance, and if it ain't in the book,
24 we shouldn't be doing it. And they are -- they
25 literally -- there are regulations on how you're

1 supposed to hold an animal a certain way, and they
2 would follow the procedures down to the period at
3 the end of the sentence. So WIPP is extremely safe.
4 The personnel we have here are going to follow
5 whatever regulatory commissions you guys decide is
6 relevant.

7 I also was raised around a nuclear power
8 plant before moving to Carlsbad. Being raised
9 around WIPP and I think one reason the community
10 supports it, and we have an informed community, is
11 we inform our kids. They're around it all the time.
12 If they have got a question, there are experts right
13 there. They don't have to call DC and say, Could
14 you guys stop for five seconds? I have a question.
15 We have it here. We are educating our children.

16 I'm in full support of GNEP and I think we
17 have all the experts here and I think we should also
18 try to look at expanding WIPP as much as possible
19 and making it part of the GNEP project as well.

20 MR. BROWN: Thank you. Meg Milligan.
21 Kerry Watson will be next.

22 MS. MILLIGAN: Good afternoon, and thank
23 you very much for holding this hearing and taking
24 time out of your day to listen to us. I have a
25 letter here to Secretary Bodman from Congressman

1 Steve Pearce.

2 "Dear Secretary Bodman: In support of the
3 Energy Department's Global Nuclear Energy
4 Partnership, GNEP, several counties and communities
5 in my districts in southwestern New Mexico have
6 formed the Eddy-Lea County -- or Eddy-Lea Energy
7 Alliance to pursue an evaluation of a potential site
8 in Lea County for the development and operation of
9 GNEP facilities. I support the Eddy-Lea Energy
10 Alliance's proposal and encourage you to consider
11 the site.

12 "The members of the alliance, Lea and Eddy
13 counties and the cities of Hobbs and Carlsbad, have
14 demonstrated the experience and expertise needed to
15 successfully work with the Department of Energy in
16 its program to site, construct, and operate GNEP in
17 facilities. As you know, the Energy Department's
18 Waste Isolation Pilot Plant has operated as the
19 world's only transuranic waste repository since 1999
20 in Eddy County. A new uranium enrichment plant
21 has -- will be operated in Lea County by Louisiana
22 Energy Services. LES was recently licensed by the
23 Nuclear Regulatory Commission, and local community
24 support for both of these projects, including the
25 leadership of the individual members of the

1 alliance, has been critical to their success. The
2 alliance's proposal to evaluate a site in Lea County
3 for GNEP facilities reflects this experience.

4 "I encourage the Energy Department to
5 support the alliance's full evaluation of all
6 aspects of the proposed site in Lea County,
7 including the ability to provide for a qualified
8 workforce, the ready availability of utilities and
9 community experience with all safety and security
10 aspects of complex nuclear projects.

11 "Thank you in advance for your
12 consideration. Sincerely, Steve Pearce, member of
13 Congress."

14 And now Meg Milligan's speaking as a
15 private citizen and not as a representative of the
16 department, although I do work for them. Carlsbad
17 and Hobbs have gotten their nuclear groove on.
18 Nowhere has more qualified, knowledgeable, and
19 enthusiastic nuclear supporters come to be
20 concentrated in such a quantity. We are ooger
21 environmentalists, and we don't waste time on
22 protests and posters. We fix problems. We fix them
23 right, we fix them safely, and we fix them
24 economically every single time. And we can do this
25 and we can do it the best of everybody. Thank you

1 very much.

2 MR. BROWN: Kerry Watson, and Bill Rook
3 will follow Kerry.

4 MR. WATSON: I'm kind of stopped up,
5 congested, so I'm not going to talk long. My name's
6 Kerry Watson. I'm employed by the Department of
7 Energy, but I'm here today speaking as a citizen of
8 Carlsbad.

9 I'm in favor of the GNEP program and the
10 site selected by the Eddy County -- Eddy and Lea
11 Energy Alliance. I support the nuclear fuel
12 recycling and the nuclear reactor site.

13 Also, one of the things that I haven't
14 heard many people speak about was the site
15 revolution of GNEP. There is a site in the Texas
16 panhandle not five hours way from here that has
17 substantial amounts of physical materials that would
18 be perfect to process through one of the nonselected
19 physical material reactors available for use at a
20 site like GNEP. So I'm just expressing my position
21 in favor of GNEP and the site here. Thank you.

22 MR. BROWN: Bill Rook, and Lili King will
23 be next.

24 MR. ROOK: Good afternoon. My name is
25 Bill Rook and I'm the fire marshal for the City of

1 Carlsbad for seven years, and I've put down strong
2 roots in this community. WIPP has demonstrated our
3 community's commitment to and ability to follow
4 through and get the job done. The WIPP facility is
5 operational and successful unlike Yucca Mountain and
6 other facilities mired in red tape, legal actions,
7 and protests. We have successfully negotiated a
8 partnership with DOE that has worked very well and
9 has benefitted everyone involved. Southeastern
10 New Mexico is a proven location for this industry
11 with dedicated support from the community, local
12 businesses, and local leaders. We are now an
13 established nuclear corridor with an excellent track
14 record.

15 As a first responder and a haz mat
16 specialist, my team and I have received some of the
17 finest training available in the country. Frequent
18 exercises with operations such as the 64 Civil
19 Support Team of our National Guard keep us sharp and
20 ready should problems occur. I have seen firsthand
21 the safeguards and practices in place to ensure the
22 safety of the not only the local citizens but the
23 environment as well.

24 Southeastern New Mexico is a remote and
25 ideal location for GNEP. Environment issues are

1 nonexistent, and effective monitoring is already in
2 place. It is my opinion that Southeastern
3 New Mexico and the Carlsbad area is the ideal
4 location for the GNEP project and you should feel
5 confident in placing us at the top of your selection
6 list. Thank you.

7 MR. BROWN: Lili King, and Rita Nelson
8 will follow Lili.

9 MS. KING: Thank you. I'm Lili King.
10 I've been in Carlsbad for 30 years. Prior to my
11 retirement five years ago, I was with the Department
12 of Energy for 17 years. I feel like through that 17
13 years that I have firsthand knowledge of the
14 expertise that's in this community with the labs
15 that's here, Los Alamos Labs, Sandia Labs. I don't
16 think you'll find any better or more in any town
17 this size anywhere.

18 I support GNEP. I support it in the
19 location that it's here -- that's going to be here
20 between Hobbs and Carlsbad. I lived in Hobbs for 20
21 years before I came here, so I'm familiar with the
22 area as much as anybody I know. I support it. I
23 have family that live -- works at WIPP. I feel like
24 it's safe and I feel like GNEP will be the same. I
25 support it. Thank you.

1 MR. BROWN: Thank you. Rita Nelson.

2 Welcome. Andy Anderson will follow Rita.

3 MS. NELSON: My name is Rita Nelson, and I
4 have been a resident of Carlsbad for more than ten
5 years. Thank you for making it possible for me to
6 comment on DOE's Global Nuclear Energy Project and
7 the candidate site close to the GNEP facilities by
8 the Eddy and Lea Energy Alliance.

9 There are many here at this meeting and --
10 for GNEP and the LES site because of the jobs it
11 will bring. They want GNEP to lead to economic
12 growth for the region and augment the recent strong
13 growth of the nuclear industry this sleepy corner of
14 New Mexico. Others might be here who would rail
15 against anything dealing with nuclear power based on
16 their principles.

17 I am a mother and grandmother. The most
18 important thing in my life is to ensure that my and
19 every other mother's children have the opportunity
20 to lead a safe and happy life free of fear and full
21 of community. Those who want GNEP to develop the
22 ELEA site for the economic develop it might bring
23 put near-term gain above long-term benefit. Those
24 who reject nuclear energy on principle are zealots
25 who believe that they can scare uninformed citizens

1 into equating nuclear energy production with burned
2 babies and Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

3 GNEP is the first proposal I can remember
4 since I was a schoolgirl that could actually benefit
5 both America and the developing countries around the
6 world. After a summer of \$3 gas, everyone should
7 understand that supply and demand of fossil fuels
8 will always force the price of gas up. Fossil fuels
9 come from reservoirs made before the dinosaurs, and
10 the last time I looked with my third grade reading
11 class, the dinosaurs were gone. Even a child can
12 understand that oil, gas, and coal will eventually
13 run out. My friends in the oil industry in
14 southeast New Mexico tell me that it will happen
15 sooner rather than later.

16 Green environmentalists claim that
17 renewable energy sources should be developed before
18 America resorts to nuclear power. Ask Jane Fonda or
19 Robert Redford if their ten-bedroom houses are
20 heated with solar power or if their private jets run
21 on ethanol. My husband is a scientist and has shown
22 me many times how renewable energy sources, which
23 are helpful, just cannot generate the substantial
24 and consistent safe power that the nuclear option
25 provides.

1 My children's children can only be safe if
2 the rest of the world is also a safe place.
3 One-third of the people on earth must use candles or
4 torches at night. Another third live in dismal
5 poverty with unsanitary conditions. Unless the
6 hungry populations of developing countries have the
7 same opportunities and energy options as my children
8 do, the stability of world civilization will
9 continue to teeter on the brink of collapse.

10 GNEP is a plan to provide nuclear power to
11 both America and the world while minimizing the
12 possibility of nuclear proliferation. I remember
13 that tiny possibility of proliferation was the red
14 herring that Jimmy Carter used 30 years ago to stop
15 nuclear power generation in its tracks. Since then
16 we've come a long way. We have armed a radical
17 Islamic region by depending on and buying their oil.
18 We have allowed zealots to convince an apathetic
19 America that radiation is somehow good for you in a
20 medical procedure but bad if it comes from nuclear
21 power production. We have lost a generation of
22 training young engineers in the nuclear professions.

23 MR. BROWN: You're at just about the
24 three-minute mark.

25 MS. NELSON: Thank you. We have

1 squandered more than half of America's indigenous
2 natural gas resources heating our homes and making
3 electricity. Think of the coal miners who have
4 died. There have been many more than have ever had
5 the potential to die in a nuclear plant. We have
6 come a long way since Jane Fonda convinced us all in
7 the China Syndrome movie that nuclear power was
8 really bad.

9 The proposed site is a good place. It is
10 in the middle of nowhere, just like the rest of us
11 in southeast New Mexico, but the industrial
12 infrastructure is good and the site is far from
13 anonymous populations, which makes it less of a risk
14 and risky.

15 The government must continue GNEP. Our
16 children and theirs must have the same safe
17 opportunities we were given. Nuclear power is the
18 right choice to make America energy independent. It
19 will also enhance safety and opportunity here and
20 around the world. We should all support GNEP and
21 the site proposed by ELEA. Thank you.

22 MR. BROWN: Thank you. Andy Anderson,
23 Jackie Hadzic will be after Andy.

24 MR. ANDERSON: An explanation why I showed
25 up late for the meeting, I was doing taxes over at

1 the senior center. I'm a volunteer. I'm a
2 long-time retiree. I retired back in '91. I spent
3 30 years in the nuclear field. Started off at
4 reactor program back in Venice, Pennsylvania. We
5 studied reactors for refueling equipment. I moved
6 out to Idaho with the I and the L. So again I went
7 to work for examination of radioactive components.
8 Worked there for a number of years and then I
9 switched over to work on radioactive waste, both
10 transuranic and low level. I worked there at the
11 site and then I moved down and worked on the WIPP
12 program for a while out of Albuquerque, went around
13 for certification of waste for shipment to WIPP.
14 Then went up to Hanford and did some work up there
15 on analyzing their waste, getting it ready for
16 shipment. Then I came back down here to work down
17 here for a little bit and then I decided that's
18 enough. I've got to retire. Go off and do
19 something different.

20 Part of the explanation, one of the worst
21 things that this country has ever done is they
22 stopped the breeder program back in 1970. If we
23 would not have done that, we wouldn't have these
24 problems that we have today with energy problems.
25 We had them in 1970. We started going off with

1 other waste programs. It is the only thing that
2 will produce energy on a large-scale basis. You can
3 have -- I've used sunlight energy or that for
4 heating or for -- it's good, but the only thing is
5 it's out in daytime. If you live up north, it
6 doesn't help you too much at night. You've got to
7 store it. You've got to have something there to
8 store it for you. So it needs a lot more help. I
9 don't mind -- should we pursue it? Yes, we should
10 pursue all the alternate energies, but nuclear is
11 the one thing -- is the only thing we can generate a
12 large amount.

13 Getting back to the facility down here at
14 this site, why not? I've worked at Hanford. You
15 look out on the terrain, it looks very similar.
16 It's not too much difference. It's no reason why it
17 should not be here. Like you say, you've got a
18 community that supports it, you've got people that
19 work here. In maintenance of that facility you're
20 bound to have some waste that will end up going to
21 WIPP because of the nucleates. That shortens it up.
22 You've got to ship it a lot further. So getting it
23 and reusing it and cutting down the amount of wastes
24 that going to go into a high-level waste repository,
25 let's use it. It's foolish to take and cut out and

1 bury stuff because it's in fuel rods. If you can
2 take and process it and use it and burn it and
3 generate electricity, hey, it just makes sense. The
4 economics of it. We've got to do it, we've got to
5 do it quick. We've got to get away from that
6 cutting out that breeder program. Thank you, folks.

7 MR. BROWN: Thank you. Jacky Hadzic, and
8 Sherry Reese is next.

9 MS. HADZIC: It's Hadzic.

10 MR. BROWN: Okay.

11 MS. HADZIC: Thank you.

12 MR. BROWN: Sure.

13 MS. HADZIC: I didn't think of speaking at
14 all today so it would be very short. I personally
15 support GNEP, you see, but I cannot help being
16 profoundly bothered by some of the conflicting
17 realities in our community. And Gene Harbaugh made
18 very strong and realistic points. I would like a
19 much closer approach between what he said and the
20 establishment. I would personally work on the
21 linkage of the two sides. Thank you.

22 MR. BROWN: Thank you. Sherry Reese.

23 MS. REESE: Good afternoon. I'm Sherry
24 Reese. I'm a veteran of about 13 years at the Waste
25 Isolation Pilot Plant. I am basically here in a

1 nontechnical capacity. I think you folks have all
2 covered the technical sides of it.

3 I worked in information at WIPP. I left
4 WIPP after 13 years. We'd gotten the place open,
5 and I wanted to go someplace else. Now I work in
6 marketing at Carlsbad Medical Center. We're really
7 going. You all know that health care understands
8 the nuclear industry. I could have gone anywhere
9 else. I was born in California. I lived about 12,
10 15 years in North Carolina. I just decided to stay
11 here.

12 I wanted to be one of the citizens to say
13 to you today about GNEP that this is a very unique
14 community. I thought I'd stay here a couple of
15 years, but now I've been here almost 20. I like the
16 small town. I like the fact that Carlsbad is open
17 to nuclear energy. I'm a huge supporter of nuclear
18 energy. I consider myself an environmentalist, as
19 do all the people who work at WIPP. And I think we
20 have to open our eyes to these kinds of solutions.
21 I can tell you that Mayor Forrest knows better than
22 anybody else here that Carlsbad has moved the
23 federal government. I guarantee you that they can
24 do it again.

25 And so my boss couldn't be here today.

1 She is involved with some things. Janet Carbary is
2 our chief of operations at Carlsbad Medical Center
3 for Pecos Valley Medical Group. We'd really like to
4 see Carlsbad support something that this community
5 seems to have a real affinity for, and that's safe
6 nuclear industry. So we just put a hatch mark there
7 in favor of GNEP as well. I have seen some really
8 fantastic progress in this community. We're rural,
9 we're isolated. WIPP's here for that reason. GNEP
10 could be here too. Thank you.

11 MR. BROWN: Well, that actually brings us
12 to the end of those who signed up to speak. And the
13 meeting was scheduled to end at 12:30. It is 12:32.
14 You are to be congratulated for your excellent sense
15 of timing. And, again, thank you all for attending.
16 Thanks for your comments. And we are adjourned.

17 (The proceedings concluded at 12:32 p.m.)

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