

My name is Morgan Davis and I am a chemical engineer employed at Exelon's Braidwood Nuclear Generation Station. Today as I address you, I represent many different stakeholders that are impacted by your recommendations on transportation and interim storage of used fuel. I represent a taxpayer, a voter, and a citizen from the surrounding community of the plant, and most importantly, I represent the 6,000 young nuclear professionals across North America, also known as North American – Young Generation in Nuclear.

You've asked, "Is interim storage the right near term solution for the United States and can used fuel be transported safely and securely?" Per the young generation of nuclear workers, the answer is "yes".

Currently, the country's 104 commercial reactors produce about 2000 metric tons of used fuel annually and it is safely and securely stored at the plant sites, in the used fuel pool or dry containers. The utilities and vendors have extensive experience and success with handling used fuel and securing these facilities. This proves that we have a track record and expertise with managing used fuel right here in the United States. It is also important to note that during the past 50 years, more than 3000 shipments of used fuel have been completed safely in the United States, covering 1.7 million highway, rail, and barge miles. Outside of the United States there have been tens of thousands of safe shipment of used nuclear fuel.

I also have seen and touched one of the dry containers that the used fuel is stored in at one of the nearby nuclear sites; I know how secure they are. It is also important to note, that I did not receive any radiation exposure from my close interaction with the stored used fuel.

Considering all of these facts, proven science, and my own personal experience, the safe and secure interim storage and transportation of used fuel is feasible in the United States. North American – Young Generation Nuclear recommends that the Commission consider interim storage facilities and that the responsibility for used fuel management be transferred to an independent entity with a management and financial structure capable of withstanding political change so it does not impede the growth of nuclear power and the sustainability of energy in the United States. These two items, along with a sound policy to help make it a reality, will be the lifeblood of nuclear technology in the United States going forward. Interim storage and transportation of used fuel will also create needed jobs in rural communities as well as keeping stable and secure jobs in communities like mine. Along with jobs, also comes tax revenue for the participating communities to strengthen schools and infrastructure in those areas. There are communities ready for these opportunities and are ready and willing to be partner in the successes of nuclear technology.

Last but not least, per the Nuclear Waste Policy Act, the Federal Government has an obligation to each taxpayer and electric utility customer that they will manage the used fuel. Still, the promise of managing used fuel remains unfilled. As a radiological worker, and a citizen living in a community surrounding a nuclear power plant, I would like to give my neighbors a better answer than "the utility manages the used fuel safely and securely on-site in dry containers". While this used fuel story is muted at times due to the great safety, performance, and economical benefits of the plant, the lack of having a plan for the used fuel challenges creditability for the future of nuclear technology.

The young generation of nuclear professionals is looking to this Commission to help the nuclear industry bridge the story of nuclear with a plan to manage used fuel and give the community confidence with moving forward with nuclear technology. We know the Blue Ribbon Commission will be successful in the development of forward looking recommendations for the management of used nuclear fuel in the United States.

Thank you for your time and this opportunity to speak with you today. The young nuclear professionals across North America look forward to helping make your recommendations a reality.