

BLUE RIBBON COMMISSION ON AMERICA'S  
NUCLEAR FUTURE

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MEETING

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FRIDAY,  
JANUARY 7, 2011

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The Commission convened at 8:00  
a.m. in the Estes Ballroom of the Augusta  
Marriott Riverwalk, Two Tenth Street, Augusta,  
Georgia, Brent Scowcroft, Co-Chair, presiding.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

BRENT SCOWCROFT, Chair  
MARK AYERS  
VICKY BAILEY  
ALLISON MacFARLANE  
RICHARD MESERVE  
PER PETERSON

PHIL SHARP

ALSO PRESENT:

TIM FRAZIER, Designated Federal Official  
JAMES MILLER, Southern Nuclear Operating  
Company  
DEKE COPENHAVER, Mayor of Augusta,

Georgia

GEORGE DeLOACH, Mayor of Waynesboro,  
Georgia

LINDSEY GRAHAM, Senator representing the  
State of South Carolina

SHAWN MERRICK, Labor Relations Plant  
Site Coordinator

ELLEN WEAVER, on behalf of Senator Jim  
DeMint of South Carolina

TRICIA CHASTAIN, on behalf of Senators  
Johnny Isakson and Saxby Chambliss  
of Georgia

REAGAN WILLIAMS, on behalf of  
Representative Paul Broun of  
Georgia

LYNTHIA ROSS, on behalf of Congressman  
John Barrow of Georgia

TOM CLEMENTS, Friends of the Earth

DIANNE VALETIN, Georgia Women's Action  
for New Directions

MANUEL BETTENCOURT, Savannah River Site  
Citizens Advisory Board

CLINT WOLFE, Citizens for Nuclear  
Technology Awareness

CHARLES UTLEY, Blue Ridge Environmental  
Defense League

KAREN PATTERSON, Governor's Nuclear  
Advisory Council

BRENDOLYN JENKINS, SRS Superfund Job  
Training Initiative

RONNIE YOUNG, Aiken County Council  
Chairman

DAVID JAMESON, Community Reuse  
Organization

BRIAN TUCKER, CSRA Chambers of Commerce

DANNY BLACK, Economic Development

Organizations

SUSAN WINSOR, Aiken Technical College

PUBLIC COMMENTERS:

STEPHEN STEGALL

KEITH GRAHAM

CHARLES MUNNS

ERNEST CHAPUT

DONALD BRIDGES

JOHN DEMKO

KERRY RIDGEWAY

MEL BUCKNER

LOUIS ZELLER

AMANDA HILL ECKINSON

TOM HIMBER

MICHELLE WILSON

SUZANNE RHODES

SAMANTHA SIEGAL  
BILL LAWLESS  
TOM HALLMAN  
MALI LIGHTFOOT  
LEAH KARPEN  
LEW PATRIE  
ROBERT HOWARTH  
JAMES SHEELER  
LAURA SORENSON  
OLE SORENSON  
TERRENCE CLARK  
TOM COULSON  
ELLEN THOMAS  
RUSSELL D'ARENBOURG  
MEL JENKINS  
ANDY YASINSAC  
JOE ORTALDO  
CLARE HANRAHAN  
ROBERT GUILD  
LESLIE MINERD  
DEBBIE PARKER  
ELAINE COOPER  
NICOLAS HERNANDEZ  
JUDY TREICHEL  
ROSE HAYES  
DAVID PENIX  
BILL TINLEY  
  
MICHAEL COLATARCI  
LAM LE  
DENISE TRAINA  
ANDY CWALINA  
FRED CAVANAUGH  
GABRIEL FAIR  
HOLLY GARRETT

## T-A-B-L-E O-F C-O-N-T-E-N-T-S

Opening Comments. . . . .	.6
JAMES MILLER, Chairman, President, CEO of Southern Nuclear Operating Company. . . . .	10
MAYOR DEKE COPENHAVER, Mayor of Augusta, Georgia . . . . .	48
MAYOR GEORGE DeLOACH, Mayor of Waynesboro, Georgia . . . . .	51
SENATOR LINDSEY GRAHAM. . . . .	56
SHAWN MERRICK, Labor Relations Plant Site Coordinator . . . . .	77
SENATOR JIM DeMINT. . . . .	91
SENATOR JOHNNY ISAKSON and SENATOR SAXBY CHAMBLISS . . . . .	97
REPRESENTATIVE PAUL BROUN . . . . .	.101
REPRESENTATIVE JOHN BARROW. . . . .	.108
Panel One - Environmental Perspectives. . . . .	.110
Governor's Nuclear Advisory Council . . . . .	.188
Savannah River Site Superfund Job Training Initiative. . . . .	.206
Panel Two - Economic/Other Considerations . . . . .	.220
Public Comment Period . . . . .	.275
Adjournment . . . . .	.393

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3  
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P-R-O-C-E-E-D-I-N-G-S

8:01 a.m.

MR. FRAZIER: Okay. I have assembled the appropriate number of Commissioners so that we can get started. If you all will take your seats, please.

The chattering crowd, please, hello.

Thank you, sir.

My name is Tim Frazier. I'm the Designated Federal Officer for the Blue Ribbon Commission on America's Nuclear Future. I want to welcome you all to this meeting that we're having here in Augusta.

Just a brief comment. We had a great tour yesterday afternoon of the Savannah River Site. And our hat goes off and our thanks to those that helped arrange that and all the work that went into that. It was outstanding. A lot of information was gained.

General Scowcroft is quoted in the paper this morning as, it was an educational

1 afternoon, and it certainly was for all of us.

2 So we're going to hear from lots  
3 of different people this morning. We've got  
4 time reserved for public comments this  
5 afternoon.

6 And to keep us track, I'm going to  
7 sit down. General Scowcroft?

8 CHAIR SCOWCROFT: Thank you, Tim.

9 Good morning, and thank you all  
10 for coming to this meeting of the Blue Ribbon  
11 Commission on America's Nuclear Future.

12 As Tim said, we had a great day  
13 yesterday and we're looking forward to your  
14 comments and being informed by them today.

15 The Commission was formed by the  
16 Secretary of Energy at the direction of the  
17 President. The purpose of the Commission is  
18 to conduct a comprehensive review of policies  
19 for managing the back end of the fuel cycle,  
20 nuclear fuel cycle, and recommend a new plan.  
21 And that's what we're working to do.

22 We would like to remind those with

1 us today we are not a siting commission. We  
2 should also point out that our Commission's  
3 charter does not include the details of the  
4 on-site cleanup activities at the Savannah  
5 River Site, although we certainly recognize  
6 the importance of this federal responsibility.

7 In keeping with the Commission  
8 charter, we decided to visit the Savannah  
9 River Site because we must hear from  
10 communities with a substantial in solving the  
11 waste problem as we conduct our work. We also  
12 know that touring the site would give us, and  
13 did give us, a valuable opportunity to see  
14 firsthand a variety of facilities involved in  
15 the treatment, packaging and storage of used  
16 fuel and high-level waste.

17 We will spend the first hour this  
18 morning hearing from three speakers who are  
19 involved in the ongoing operations and new  
20 construction at Vogtle Nuclear Power Plant in  
21 Waynesboro, Georgia.

22 We will then hear from government

1 officials, community organizations and others  
2 about their views on the matters before the  
3 Commission.

4 We recognize there are many other  
5 individuals and organizations in this region  
6 and across the country who care deeply about  
7 the issues before this Commission. We, of  
8 course, cannot hear from all of them during  
9 our visit, but we look forward to hearing from  
10 more people and groups going forward. And we  
11 encourage anyone with an interest in our work  
12 to submit written input to the Commission now,  
13 or at any point in the process. Your comments  
14 will be posted on the Commission website and  
15 will be made available to the full Commission.

16 We remind our invited speakers  
17 today that they should keep their formal  
18 presentations to their allotted time. The  
19 remaining time will be used for questions and  
20 discussions with the Commission.

21 We appreciate the time and effort  
22 the speakers have put into their presentations



1 and we look forward to hearing what they have  
2 to say.

3 We are webcasting this meeting, as  
4 we have done for all of our meetings. We want  
5 people who are not able to get to our meeting  
6 locations to be able to follow our  
7 proceedings. The video and transcript from  
8 this and all Commission meetings will be  
9 posted on the Commission website.

10 At the end of today's session, we  
11 will hear from any member of the audience who  
12 wishes to speak. We have allowed for an  
13 extended public comment period at the end of  
14 the meeting in light of the large number of  
15 people who have commented at our prior  
16 meetings.

17 A sign-up sheet for the public  
18 comment period is now available, and will be  
19 available until 1:00. The amount of time  
20 which we can allot to each speaker will  
21 depend, of course, on the number of people who  
22 wish to speak.

1                   With that, I will open the floor  
2                   to the Commissioners for any statement or  
3                   comment they wish to make before we hear from  
4                   our first speaker. Are there any such  
5                   comments?

6                   If not, we will turn to our first  
7                   speaker, who is Deke Copenhaver, Mayor of  
8                   Augusta, Georgia.

9                   (Off-mic comment.)

10                  CHAIR SCOWCROFT: Well, in view of  
11                  that, let's turn next to the Chairman,  
12                  President and CEO of the Southern Nuclear  
13                  Operating Company, Mr. James Miller.

14                  Mr. Miller, the floor is yours.  
15                  We appreciate your being with us.

16                  MR. MILLER: Thank you, Mr.  
17                  Chairman. I greatly appreciate the  
18                  opportunity to speak to the Commission today.

19                  My name is Jim Miller, James H.  
20                  Miller, President and CEO of Southern Nuclear  
21                  Operating Company. I've attached a brief  
22                  r, sum, so we don't have to go through that as

1 an exhibit to my testimony, and also the next  
2 exhibit gives a more full description of my  
3 company, but I'll do so briefly for you so  
4 you'll have a good jumping off point.

5 Southern Nuclear is the licensed  
6 operator of six commercial power reactors. We  
7 operate the Vogtle Nuclear Power Plant, which  
8 is loosely 30 miles south of where you are  
9 right now, a two-unit Westinghouse PWR.

10 We have the Hatch Nuclear Power  
11 Plant near Baxley, Georgia. It is a two-unit  
12 GE Boiling Water Reactor.

13 And over near Dothan, Alabama we  
14 have the Joseph M. Farley plant, which is a  
15 two-unit Westinghouse PWR.

16 They comprise about 6,000  
17 megawatts and right at 17 percent of the total  
18 annual generation of the Southern Company,  
19 which is a holding company of Georgia Power,  
20 Alabama Power, Mississippi Power and Gulf  
21 Power.

22 And on behalf of the Southern

1 Company, Georgia Power, allow me to welcome  
2 you to Georgia and to Augusta and express our  
3 appreciation to you for the important work  
4 that you do.

5 It's fitting that this Commission  
6 meet this morning in Augusta. This area, in  
7 a very real way, is the center of gravity for  
8 the nuclear revival in the United States. In  
9 addition to the important work at Savannah  
10 River, Southern Nuclear is an applicant for a  
11 combined construction and operation license  
12 for what we call Vogtle 3 and 4. I'll call  
13 that a COL. And we currently are in  
14 construction.

15 Southern Nuclear is the first  
16 holder of a limited work authorization granted  
17 from the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, when  
18 an Early Site Permit was approved. These new  
19 units at Plant Vogtle represent the  
20 culmination of two decades of effort by the  
21 industry and Government to improve the  
22 operating records of the existing nuclear

1 plants, as well as the technical, regulatory  
2 and economic model for new nuclear power  
3 plants.

4 If the United States is going to  
5 lead the world in the peaceful use of nuclear  
6 power, as I believe we should, the  
7 recommendations this Commission makes will be  
8 crucial to us achieving that goal. Such a  
9 mission deserves our collective best efforts.

10 Let me make a historical  
11 observation. The fundamental underpinning of  
12 electric power production is the efficient use  
13 of the basic steam and water cycle. Hydro  
14 power, gas peaking units, certain renewal fuel  
15 such as wind and solar are very important fuel  
16 choices for America, but the bulk of our  
17 electricity currently comes from steam  
18 turbines and their associated generators.

19 Over the last two centuries we  
20 have learned that the lowest-cost steam is  
21 produced by a fuel source that has the most  
22 concentrated form of thermal energy. Think of

1 the progression of concentrated energy as you  
2 move from wood, to coal, natural gas and oil.  
3 More efficient, reliable and low cost  
4 electricity production was realized by  
5 managing efficiently these ever more  
6 concentrated forms of energy. And I've put a  
7 couple of exhibits in my testimony that  
8 illustrate the thermal capacity of the various  
9 fuel choices I've just described.

10 And uranium possesses far more  
11 concentrated thermal energy than any of the  
12 fuel sources I just named. Peaceful use of  
13 the nuclear technology for baseload generation  
14 is a natural progression for an industrial  
15 society such as ours. If the 20th century was  
16 the century of oil, then at least for electric  
17 power generation and baseload generation, the  
18 21st century has the potential to be the  
19 century of the atom.

20 We owe it to our fellow Americans  
21 to get it right, and getting it right requires  
22 a first step, and at Southern Nuclear we have

1 taken one. We are constructing the first  
2 nuclear power plant in this country in over 30  
3 years.

4 Let me give you a status report.  
5 We began working in earnest on this project in  
6 2005. First with our co-owners and then with  
7 the many disciplines necessary to evaluate the  
8 various fuel choices for low-cost service to  
9 our customers. We spent the better part of  
10 two years in analysis through many scenarios  
11 and many variables, nuclear constantly emerged  
12 as a viable option and a clear leader for  
13 baseload generation.

14 The Georgia Public Service  
15 Commission held a competitive bidding process;  
16 Vogtle 3 and 4 were selected. And in 2008,  
17 pursuant to their rules and regulations, the  
18 project was certified them as in the best  
19 interest of the customers of Georgia Power  
20 Company.

21 Since then many events have  
22 occurred. The receipt of an Early Site

1 Permit, an application for a COL, numerous  
2 interactions with the NRC on both technical  
3 and licensing issues. More recently, just  
4 last month, December 13th, the NRC Advisory  
5 Committee on Reactor Safeguards said the  
6 Westinghouse AP1000 Design Certification  
7 Amendment met all NRC requirements.

8 On December 17th, ACRS  
9 Subcommittee completed its review of our COL  
10 for Vogtle 3 and 4 and full Committee  
11 consideration is set for just next week,  
12 January 13th. Approval there will open the  
13 way for the issuance of the Vogtle COL later  
14 this year. But by the time the COL is issued  
15 significant work has been accomplished  
16 already:

17 Subsurface foundation work for the  
18 nuclear island has been going on for over 18  
19 months;

20 Backfill work on Units 3 and 4 is  
21 underway;

22 We'll construct a crane foundation



1 for what will then be the largest crane in the  
2 world;

3 A mechanically stabilized earth  
4 retaining wall;

5 The construction of ancillary  
6 structures such as a module assembly building.  
7 I was there yesterday, it's fully enclosed,  
8 and;

9 The fabrication of modules and  
10 nuclear island components are well underway.

11 I have brought with me a DVD  
12 giving the latest of where we are at Vogtle 3  
13 and 4. We'll leave a number of copies with  
14 the secretary, as well as some literature for  
15 you to use that. And if you wish, you may go  
16 on our website, [www.southernco.com](http://www.southernco.com), and follow  
17 the links to the nuclear company.

18 I mention these things to  
19 emphasize to you that Vogtle 3 and 4 is not  
20 theoretical or hypothetical project. It is  
21 very real, and a major economic engine for  
22 this area. To illustrate the accuracy of what

1 I just told you, right across the hall on this  
2 floor is a meeting of the Vogtle Project Team.  
3 They are working out, the Shaw Westinghouse  
4 Consortium is working out the additional  
5 schedule requirements necessary to bring this  
6 project in on time and on budget.

7 We expect to deliver electricity  
8 from Unit 3 to the Georgia Power and the co-  
9 owner customers in 2016 and from Unit 4 in  
10 2017. Economic impact; 1500 workers are  
11 employed at the construction site today, and  
12 we will increase that to 3500 workers at its  
13 peak. Thereafter, it requires about 800  
14 workers to operate the plant successfully on  
15 a going-forward basis. The significance of  
16 all of this, they illustrate the achievements  
17 that are possible when industry and government  
18 work together within a framework of a coherent  
19 public policy.

20 The creation and implementation by  
21 the NRC of a new reactor licensing process,  
22 the enactment of incentives for construction

1 of new plants, and the Energy Policy Act of  
2 2005, cooperative efforts of DOE in the  
3 industry under Nuclear Power 2010, creation of  
4 a stable regulatory environment for  
5 construction of new plants by the state of  
6 Georgia have all combined to make it possible  
7 for us to go forward and construct Vogtle 3  
8 and 4.

9 Well, what is the lesson learned  
10 there? The same sort of coherent policy and  
11 cooperation between government and industry is  
12 necessary to involve to resolve the issues  
13 associated with the management and disposal of  
14 spent nuclear fuel. Such a policy was created  
15 by the Nuclear Waste Policy Act of 1982, but  
16 unfortunately that policy has not been  
17 implemented successfully. The failure to  
18 implement that policy has been, in my  
19 judgment, for political and not technical  
20 reasons. It is my sincere belief that if the  
21 policy had been guided by science and not  
22 politics, we would be well on our way to

1 developing a geological repository at Yucca  
2 Mountain.

3 The customers who are served by  
4 the Southern Company's fleet of nuclear assets  
5 have paid well in excess of \$1 billion in fees  
6 to the federal government since the Nuclear  
7 Waste Policy Act was signed into law, and have  
8 seen very little by way of a return on their  
9 investment. What we see mostly is  
10 increasingly creative defenses to legal breach  
11 of contract claims and increasing denial to a  
12 continuing record of adverse legal decisions.

13 While there is no doubt that spent  
14 nuclear fuel can be stored safely at the  
15 nation's nuclear power plants -- the NRC just  
16 issued its Waste Confidence vote just a few  
17 months ago -- these facilities were not ever  
18 intended to be the permanent repository of  
19 spent nuclear fuel.

20 Having visited Yucca Mountain,  
21 having listened to the engineers debate the  
22 alternatives, I remain convinced that the

1 geological repository is the best technical  
2 solution. I'm also convinced that Yucca  
3 Mountain is the best site in this country for  
4 such a repository. Accordingly, I believe the  
5 Commission would do the country a great  
6 service by recommending that the licensing and  
7 development of Yucca Mountain be continued,  
8 but in any event -- in any event, that the  
9 technical knowledge developed about it, long-  
10 term storage and disposal of spent nuclear  
11 fuel, be preserved.

12 Now this is not to say that the  
13 Nuclear Waste Policy Act could not be  
14 improved. Subjecting the funding for the  
15 repository to the appropriations process has  
16 overly politicized the licensing and  
17 construction of the project, made it difficult  
18 for those charged with developing the project  
19 and, in turn, the commercial power plants who  
20 depend on the project to plan efficiently.

21 The diversion of the fees in the  
22 years when receipts exceed appropriations

1       threatened the viability of the program. We  
2       need a coherent nuclear waste program with  
3       safeguards that include that the fees are  
4       available for expenditure for the program.

5                 In conjunction with reformation of  
6       the funding process, it's time to re-evaluate  
7       the entity responsible for implementation of  
8       the nuclear waste policy. Unfortunately, the  
9       recent events to withdraw the application  
10       demonstrate that DOE will forever be subject  
11       to changes in executive and congressional  
12       attitudes concerning the necessity of  
13       compliance with the Act. For that reason the  
14       Commission should consider and support  
15       legislation currently pending in Congress that  
16       will transfer this responsibility for the  
17       repository to a public corporation, but doing  
18       that without depoliticizing the funding  
19       process, it just simply shifts the  
20       responsibility around.

21                 Finally, we should consider long-  
22       term, centralized storage at Yucca Mountain or

1 another site. Licensing Yucca Mountain for  
2 long-term storage of 100 years allows  
3 scientists to study the reaction of spent  
4 nuclear fuel and high-level radioactive waste  
5 to placement in the repository and allow  
6 advancements in spent fuel recycling,  
7 shielding, storage, and disposal technologies  
8 to be implemented before the first casks are  
9 made inaccessible.

10 The Commission should also  
11 consider a recommendation to reform the  
12 repository licensing process. Repository  
13 closure would then be subject to a license to  
14 close the facility only after a suitable  
15 period of study of the stored material and new  
16 technologies, which may reduce the volume.

17 At a minimum, as I've said  
18 previously, the Commission should recommend  
19 that the technical knowledge and experience  
20 gained at Yucca Mountain be preserved and the  
21 site maintained as an option in the event  
22 circumstances create the opportunity to finish

1 the work that has been ongoing at that site.

2 I appreciate the opportunity to  
3 share these thoughts with the Commission. I  
4 look forward to reading your report and  
5 appreciate your leadership in our great  
6 industry. It depends, our industry depends on  
7 the adoption and implementation of a sound  
8 nuclear waste policy in the long term. And  
9 I've got confidence in the members of this  
10 Commission to give the Administration the  
11 guidance it needs.

12 I'll be happy to answer any  
13 questions you may have.

14 CHAIR SCOWCROFT: Thank you very  
15 much, Chairman Miller, for a very thoughtful  
16 presentation.

17 Are there any questions from the  
18 Commission?

19 MEMBER AYERS: Yes. Thank you,  
20 General.

21 I just want to say for the record  
22 how grateful the industry is that Southern



1 Company was the first to step up to  
2 reinvigorate the nuclear renaissance. And in  
3 our dealings with the Southern Company and  
4 your contractors, we couldn't have picked a  
5 better partner to start the first new unit in  
6 this country in 30 years. And there's no doubt  
7 it will be a successful model. Thank you.

8 MR. MILLER: Commissioner, thank  
9 you for those kind words. The Southern  
10 Company prides itself in being a leader in our  
11 industry. And I was intimately involved in  
12 this. I was asked early on by the Chairman of  
13 Southern Company to study whether we should  
14 get back into the nuclear business. And like  
15 you, I am thrilled that we're back in there.  
16 I'm thrilled that we are the leader. And I  
17 can tell you very confidently we will build  
18 these reactors on schedule and on time.

19 We have a mutual agreement with a  
20 Chinese utility. I've been to Sanmen and seen  
21 the AP1000, a couple of years ahead us in  
22 construction. We can build this reactor, and

1 we will build this reactor on time and on  
2 budget.

3 But I think you for your  
4 confidence.

5 CHAIR SCOWCROFT: Okay. Vicky?

6 MEMBER BAILEY: Yes. Thank you,  
7 Jim.

8 Just a few clarifying questions,  
9 and for the ability to get it on the record,  
10 what are the number of nuclear plants in your  
11 fleet now?

12 MR. MILLER: We have six reactors  
13 at three plant sites.

14 Vogtle has, what we call Vogtle 1  
15 and 2. They're, for the record, two four-loop  
16 Westinghouse PWRs, approximately 1200  
17 megawatts each.

18 Farley near Dothan, Alabama are  
19 three-loop Westinghouse PWRs, approximately  
20 900 megawatts.

21 And the Hatch plant, two units  
22 also, near Baxley, Georgia are Boiling Water

1 Reactors, GE Boiling Water Reactors of  
2 approximately 900 megawatts each.

3 MEMBER BAILEY: So this is an  
4 expansion at Vogtle?

5 MR. MILLER: This is an expansion.  
6 Georgia is growing. The baseload requirements  
7 of Georgia are growing. And when we planned  
8 this, our forecast told us that Georgia Power  
9 and its co-owners would need this baseload  
10 generation beginning in 2016, and those  
11 forecasts remain true today.

12 MEMBER BAILEY: Yes. How did you  
13 decide on your type of design, what design you  
14 were going to use?

15 MR. MILLER: Excellent question.  
16 I led that effort, Commissioner.  
17 And what we called ourselves, we said we would  
18 be dispassionate megawatt buyers. And so we  
19 had a technical team headed by then our  
20 Southern Nuclear Vice President of Technical  
21 Services, and we did not rule in or out any  
22 particular technology. But as he did his

1 work, and it took more than a year to do that.  
2 We circled and circled and came back to the  
3 AP1000.

4 I have to tell one of the strong  
5 influencing factors was what I mentioned to  
6 Commissioner Ayers, that others had this  
7 technology under construction. We could go  
8 see our plant two years now.

9 MEMBER BAILEY: Yes.

10 MR. MILLER: And that's how we  
11 decided on it. It had all of the other  
12 technical items: heat rate, generation,  
13 efficiencies, ability to train operators to  
14 operate it were all very influential factors.

15 MEMBER BAILEY: Any relationship  
16 to the type of waste that would be generated,  
17 any issues, any other issues that went into  
18 consideration on your selection of the design?

19 MR. MILLER: Well, all the reactor  
20 engineers, of course, had a say in it. But  
21 every commercial power plant operates in a way  
22 to make spent nuclear fuel. The efficiency

1 really would be less spent nuclear fuel  
2 because this plant is more efficient than the  
3 first generation of plants. So in that respect  
4 the answer would be yes.

5 MEMBER BAILEY: Okay. Your  
6 current storage arrangements? What do you on  
7 site now?

8 MR. MILLER: At two of our more  
9 earlier constructed plants -- Hatch is an  
10 example, it uses on-site dry cask storage. At  
11 Farley -- Hatch was the first unit that went  
12 commercial in '75.

13 MEMBER BAILEY: Yes.

14 MR. MILLER: And the Farley first  
15 unit went commercial in '77. And it also uses  
16 on-site dry cask storage.

17 Vogtle, being a little bit later  
18 generation, has not started construction of  
19 its on-site storage facility, but we have  
20 begun the process within the NRC to get one  
21 licensed.

22 MEMBER BAILEY: And are these

1 located in residential areas? What type of  
2 communities are these located in? Tell me --

3 MR. MILLER: They're located on  
4 the plant site, inside the security boundary  
5 on --

6 MEMBER BAILEY: No, I know that.  
7 But the plant themselves?

8 MR. MILLER: Oh, I'm sorry.

9 MEMBER BAILEY: Yes. I wouldn't  
10 expect those dry casks to be out in the  
11 neighborhoods.

12 MR. MILLER: Yes. No, I'm sorry.

13 Well, the Mayor of Waynesboro is  
14 here. And Waynesboro is a beautiful  
15 residential area. But Plant Vogtle is not  
16 exactly in those boundaries. Plant Vogtle is  
17 north of it, and it is in, I think a fair  
18 description would be an isolated area.

19 Plant Hatch is about 10 or 12  
20 miles south of Vidalia and not quite that many  
21 miles from Baxley, Georgia, right on the  
22 Altamaha River. And it doesn't have many

1 things around it.

2 Plant Farley is in a more isolated  
3 area on the Chattahoochee River near Columbia,  
4 Alabama.

5 But there are not many residential  
6 communities near any of these plants.

7 MEMBER BAILEY: Okay. Do they  
8 have pretty large perimeters, security  
9 perimeters?

10 MR. MILLER: There are.

11 Interestingly enough, the one at Plant Farley  
12 is currently being expanded. It had the  
13 smallest protected area of virtually any  
14 commercial plant, and we made a decision a  
15 number of years ago to expand it. It takes a  
16 while to design all the things. But, yes.  
17 Yes. And they are extremely well secured.

18 MEMBER BAILEY: And you are taking  
19 a leadership position, but tell me a little  
20 bit about public involvement. What kind of  
21 reaction, what was the breadth of reaction to  
22 your decision?

1                   MR. MILLER: Outstanding. Plant  
2 Vogtle, I'll use that as an example because  
3 that's where we decided to put the next two  
4 units, is very lucky to have the strong  
5 support of both Richmond County and Burke  
6 County. It's actually in Burke County.

7                   And when you do the surveys, as a  
8 number of independent groups have done, the  
9 closer you get to that plant, the more  
10 enthusiastic they are about another nuclear  
11 power plant. They're very bright people. They  
12 care an awful lot about, very deeply about  
13 their community and they see those 800 jobs,  
14 they see those tax revenues, they see the  
15 impact of 3500 construction workers over a  
16 period of four years and they liked that. It's  
17 good for them, it's good for their families,  
18 it's good for their community.

19                   We have had -- I have had a  
20 delegation from Plant Hatch come to me and  
21 say, how can we build Hatch 3 and 4. Well, it  
22 depends on the load. You can't build one



1 unless you have a customer to take the output  
2 of the units. But the advantage of a nuclear  
3 power plant is if you have a site, we need  
4 water and transmission, once you have that you  
5 can have a capable site.

6 And if Georgia keeps going,  
7 there'll be more built in Georgia or  
8 throughout the Southeast.

9 MEMBER BAILEY: You said you did a  
10 survey. Was this a survey that you put  
11 together or was this was an organized? How  
12 did you --

13 MR. MILLER: Yes. The one I recall  
14 the most vividly is the one done by NEI, and  
15 it was done by Bisconti Research. If you  
16 would like, I'll be happy to locate that and  
17 submit it for the record.

18 MEMBER BAILEY: Okay. Yes. Thank  
19 you very much.

20 MR. MILLER: Be happy to,  
21 Commissioner.

22 MEMBER BAILEY: All right. Thank

1       you.

2                       MR. MILLER:  I'm over 60.  I don't  
3       have to remember that, but I've got a guy  
4       right there that's going to remember that I  
5       do.

6                       MEMBER MESERVE:  Mr. Miller, thank  
7       you very much for your comments.

8                       One of the assertions that's been  
9       made to us in several of our meetings is that  
10      the failure to have a repository serves as a  
11      significant barrier to new construction.  
12      That's obviously something that you've been  
13      able to overcome here with regard to Vogtle 3  
14      and 4.  I'd like to see if you could comment  
15      on how you did that and how significant the  
16      barrier is or whether the situation or  
17      circumstances in Georgia from your view are  
18      different from other parts of the country on  
19      this issue.

20                      MR. MILLER:  Excellent point.  I've  
21      heard that before.  I don't agree with the  
22      characterization of significance.  It's a

1 management issue, just like any other. Let me  
2 give you some facts.

3 In November of 2008 we signed a  
4 contract with the Department of Energy  
5 pursuant to the Nuclear Waste Policy Act for  
6 them to off-load the spent nuclear fuel  
7 created by Vogtle 3 and 4. And that contract  
8 is in place. But if you think about how  
9 nuclear plants store spent nuclear fuel,  
10 here's the math.

11 Three and 4 will have an on-site  
12 wet storage in their spent nuclear fuel pool  
13 for approximately 20 years. So take 2016 and  
14 add 20 years to it, that's the first time when  
15 some has to come out. Well, we're confident  
16 in the next 20 years, this country will come  
17 to the correct decision that storage of spent  
18 nuclear fuel, transporting it to someplace  
19 like Yucca Mountain is an engineering, science  
20 and technical issue and not a political issue,  
21 and we will solve that.

22 We had to acknowledge the issue,

1 but it was not a significant hindrance. It  
2 was just a management issue. In the same way  
3 hypothetically is how you get your steam  
4 generators shipped from Korea to Augusta,  
5 Georgia, Waynesboro, Georgia; it's just  
6 another issue.

7 MEMBER MESERVE: One of the other  
8 issues we've heard discussion about is the  
9 significance of loan guarantees for new  
10 construction. I know you benefitted from loan  
11 guarantees and you also, unlike, have the  
12 benefit of a regulatory system where you  
13 recovery your costs. Could you say something  
14 about the importance of loan guarantees for  
15 new construction?

16 MR. MILLER: We think loan  
17 guarantees are an important signal from the  
18 U.S. government about the significance of  
19 nuclear energy on a going-forward basis.

20 We were lucky, and are lucky at  
21 Southern. We've got great customers and we've  
22 got a strong enough balance sheet where we

1       could do this project, and did commit to the  
2       project, without loan guarantees.

3               There are others who, for one  
4       reason or another, their situation is  
5       different or they may be not in a regulatory  
6       environment the way we are and are in a more  
7       competitive environment, where loan guarantees  
8       play a very important part in reducing the  
9       risk to their investors so the investors will  
10      commit to do that.

11              In any event, we think they play a  
12      very important part in energizing our nuclear  
13      power plant engines so we can go forward and  
14      produce for other areas the benefits that  
15      Vogtle 3 and 4 will produce for the State of  
16      Georgia and the customers of Georgia Power  
17      Company and its co-owners.

18              MEMBER MESERVE:   Good.   Thank you.

19              CHAIR SCOWCROFT:   Per?

20              MEMBER PETERSON:   I have a  
21      question that relates to what may be the  
22      future expansion in nuclear generation

1 capacity. Of course, Vogtle will be the first  
2 new plant built in the United States. And the  
3 potential for expansion has implications for  
4 the issue of how we manage spent fuel.

5 I'd be curious if you could  
6 comment a little bit more on what has changed  
7 that gives you the capability to have  
8 confidence in predicting schedule and budget  
9 for building new plants that would be  
10 different from the previous experience where  
11 perhaps those things didn't play out as well  
12 as they might have in the United States?

13 MR. MILLER: Yes. The ideal  
14 opportunity to comment on the benefits that  
15 happen when public and private, when  
16 government and industry work together.

17 Number one, change; we have  
18 reformed the licensing process. Again, using  
19 Vogtle as an example, it got a license to  
20 construct, went through a long and sometime  
21 difficult period constructing the plant and  
22 then had to go back to the Nuclear Regulatory

1 Commission to get a license to operate; a two-  
2 step process.

3 In the Energy Policy Act of 1992  
4 that got reformed and allowed the Nuclear  
5 Regulatory Commission to issue what they would  
6 call their Part 52 regulations. And you get  
7 one COL, combined construction and operating  
8 license. It has associated with it  
9 inspections, test analysis and acceptance  
10 criteria. If you meet those, you may go  
11 commercial and your plant moves on. So that's  
12 a significant part.

13 The second significant thing:  
14 standardized design. Each of our prior  
15 plants, there was some overlap, but in many  
16 respects they were their own stand-alone  
17 design. Didn't get the benefits of common  
18 operator training, the benefits of common  
19 parts, worldwide vendors. That was just not  
20 as fully refined as it is now.

21 You've heard me talk about China.  
22 China currently has four AP1000s, that's our

1 design underway. I've been there. I've seen  
2 what our plant will look like two years from  
3 now.

4 So a common design, certified by  
5 the Nuclear Regulatory Commission. In our  
6 case, it just happened, our COL and the AP1000  
7 design that major steps were taken just last  
8 week. Tells the investor in a utility, if you  
9 build that design on that site, you can go  
10 commercial if you follow the construction  
11 ITAAC that I mentioned to you earlier. And  
12 those are huge. Those are huge, huge events.

13 You know, coherent regulation  
14 being guided by science instead of politics  
15 all comes into play. But if I had to put my  
16 finger on the top two, it's those two. But  
17 never forget we build them for the customers.  
18 So the third leg of the stool is you have to  
19 be in an area where your load is increasing or  
20 you're going to use that nuclear power plant  
21 to replace a plant that's maybe aging and is  
22 going to be retired.



1 CHAIR SCOWCROFT: Phil?

2 MEMBER SHARP: Thank you very much  
3 for your testimony, Mr. Miller.

4 I wanted to ask, yesterday when we  
5 visited the MOX facility that's under  
6 construction here, one of the issues that was  
7 raised with us was the managerial challenge of  
8 being able to teach vendors and workforces to  
9 the standards of safety that are required by  
10 the NRC in construction. And I wonder if you  
11 can speak to that challenge and how you're  
12 meeting it, since we've had very little  
13 construction -- well, no plant construction in  
14 this country for 30 years?

15 MR. MILLER: That's right. I'll  
16 briefly touch on the operating side because I  
17 know you're interested. In the operating  
18 side, of course, we have a safety culture, the  
19 Institute of Nuclear Power Operations, about  
20 which you've read, associated with the oil  
21 spill: very disciplined, very rigorous. We  
22 routinely do culture audits and evaluations to

1 talk to our operators. And you know, it's  
2 safety first, safety second, safety third;  
3 that's how we live our lives.

4 Well, you got to take that culture  
5 that we have embedded on the operating side  
6 and shift it over to the construction side.  
7 And that is a work in progress. Many of the  
8 very, very fine construction workers that we  
9 have are excellent at what they do, but  
10 they've never built a nuclear power plant  
11 before. And we are working very hard with  
12 them, Commissioner Ayers knows this. We  
13 worked with his team very hard to get them  
14 into the nuclear mindset of close enough is  
15 not good enough. Not only do we have to be  
16 precise about what we do, but we have to be  
17 precise about the paperwork. Because we need  
18 to be able to go back at any point in the  
19 future and say, I know exactly who put in that  
20 weld. I know whether they were right handed  
21 or left handed. I know the date and the time  
22 that they did it and what they used. And that

1 is an ongoing exercise, but it is panning out  
2 and bearing fruit right now. They're more  
3 than willing to learn and be successful and  
4 commit to a standard of excellence. But  
5 nobody's challenged them in that way before  
6 because only nuclear has that very, very  
7 rigorous discipline. And they're learning and  
8 coming along, and I predict they will be very  
9 successful in that.

10 MEMBER SHARP: Secondly I wanted  
11 to ask you, you spoke to obviously the  
12 ultimate need that all of us recognize for a  
13 disposal site, the ultimate geologic disposal  
14 site. But one of the recommendations before us  
15 and under consideration is that we should also  
16 have one or more interim storage, long-term  
17 centralized storage sites where dry casks  
18 could be taken, especially from the  
19 decommissioned power plant sites, and moved  
20 there. And I just wondered if you have any  
21 insight into the importance of that or the  
22 relative of which things are more important?

1                   MR. MILLER: Yes. Well, there's  
2 no reason you have to choose an either/or.  
3 You can avoid the tyranny of the or and go  
4 with the power of the and, and you can have  
5 both of them.

6                   We support interim storage. At  
7 some point this country will reprocess, the  
8 same way France and England and Japan do.  
9 It's not currently the most economic way to  
10 approach spent nuclear fuel. But when it does  
11 becomes economic, when it does become public  
12 policy to close that fuel cycle, we need to be  
13 able to go get these spent nuclear fuel  
14 bundles, harvest the remaining thermal energy  
15 in them and make more nuclear fuel and put it  
16 back in our reactors to make electricity.

17                   MEMBER AYERS: Mr. Miller,  
18 something I was going to ask you, if  
19 reprocessing -- not if, we all know that it's  
20 not economically feasible at the current time,  
21 but it is in other countries. What's the  
22 difference?

1 MR. MILLER: I think there seems  
2 to be two differences, and I'll use Japan as  
3 an example.

4 They have very little indigenous  
5 fossil fuels, not much hydro power, access to  
6 limited amounts of natural gas. As a  
7 policymaker they're going to consider  
8 economics, of course, but they're going to  
9 say, I also need to ensure that I'll always  
10 have access to the fuel necessary to power my  
11 reactors. France is the same way.

12 It's been a while since I've  
13 examined this, so you got to trust my memory.  
14 But I believe back in the '70s during the Arab  
15 oil embargo, they made a public policy  
16 decision we're going to close the fuel cycle,  
17 we're going to control our destiny.

18 Canada is very close by, which has  
19 a fair amount of uranium, and so the United  
20 States is not quite at that point. We will be  
21 at that point sometime in the future. I can't  
22 tell you exactly when.

1                   So, for Japan, France, et cetera,  
2                   it's a combination of economics, but it's also  
3                   a combination of control your destiny in  
4                   public policy.

5                   MEMBER AYERS: And just one other  
6                   comment, and it is a comment, not a question.  
7                   As Congressman Sharp indicated, yesterday, we  
8                   had heard that some concern that there weren't  
9                   qualified contractors, subcontractors, maybe  
10                  even craftspeople. And you know this, we  
11                  can't overlook the fact that we have thousands  
12                  of very highly skilled qualified workers that  
13                  are refueling nuclear plants, they're working  
14                  the shutdowns, they're doing the maintenance  
15                  and repair and renovations. So there's still  
16                  a pretty sizable workforce that's plugged into  
17                  the industry. And I think you would agree  
18                  with that.

19                  MR. MILLER: Commissioner, they're  
20                  going to think you and I worked this up in  
21                  advance. You're absolutely right.

22                  You stand in awe at the skill set

1 of some of these young men and women coming  
2 into our workforce. They have great  
3 technological ability. They're driven to do  
4 an outstanding job. All of their lives  
5 they've talked about how we have to be  
6 competitive to be successful. And they're  
7 very highly motivated.

8 We produced a training for them,  
9 and we will -- not just we as in Southern  
10 Company, but we as the United States of  
11 America, they will respond. They will respond.

12 Great societies build things and  
13 we have plenty of people capable -- willing,  
14 capable, ready and able to build things for  
15 this country.

16 We didn't work that out in  
17 advance.

18 CHAIR SCOWCROFT: Any other  
19 comment?

20 Mr. Miller, I want to thank you  
21 for a very constructive dialogue. We  
22 appreciate your participation very much.

1 MR. MILLER: Thank you very much,  
2 Mr. Chairman.

3 CHAIR SCOWCROFT: We will next  
4 hear from Deke Copenhaver, the Mayor of  
5 Augusta.

6 Mr. Copenhaver?

7 MAYOR COPENHAVER: Good morning.

8 First off, I'd like to apologize  
9 for my tardiness. Obviously, we have a little  
10 parking issue out there. But that's okay,  
11 because it goes along with progress.

12 First off, I'd like to take this  
13 opportunity to welcome the Blue Ribbon  
14 Commission to Augusta and to our community as  
15 a whole.

16 But fortunately, let me say this,  
17 my tardiness allowed me to listen to Mr.  
18 Miller's presentation and so I can comment on  
19 a few things with regards to that.

20 I think what you will find in  
21 Augusta and throughout our community is really  
22 a community that embraces the nuclear



1 industry. I think there are a lot of reasons  
2 for that.

3 I grew up here. It's been here  
4 and been a partner for our community literally  
5 for decades. So I think Augusta and the  
6 surrounding area is maybe a little bit unusual  
7 throughout the country, in a community that  
8 actually embraces the nuclear industry.

9 But I also, one of the things that  
10 he commented on as well, I've been Mayor for  
11 five years now. And one of my goals has been  
12 to recruit and retain the best and brightest  
13 in our community as I think that that leads to  
14 a sustainable future for any community. The  
15 nuclear industry is allowing us to do that.

16 We have young people graduating  
17 from Georgia Tech that are from here that are  
18 coming back to our community. So the nuclear  
19 industry plays a vital role in the  
20 sustainability of our community.

21 I'd also like to make another  
22 comment that I have no political affiliation.

1 And I'm glad to say that, but I have long been  
2 an advocate of making decisions not on  
3 politics, but on the best information  
4 available, the science. And I think that that  
5 speaks, and you will also hear throughout your  
6 visit here to Augusta and the area, that we  
7 speak with a unified voice in saying that we  
8 believe that Yucca Mountain is now and will  
9 remain the best repository for highly  
10 radioactive waste. And that's based on, once  
11 again, the science and the best information  
12 available as opposed to the politics. So we  
13 are extremely excited to have you in town.

14 I know that you're going to find  
15 us a community that really, you can take and  
16 speak about another community, so I'm excited  
17 about that. But please enjoy your visit. Thank  
18 you for being here.

19 And if there's anything we can  
20 from my office to make your stay more  
21 enjoyable, please do not hesitate to call me.

22 Thank you so much.

1 CHAIR SCOWCROFT: Thank you very  
2 much, Mr. Mayor. We appreciate it very much.

3 Next we will hear from Mr. George  
4 DeLoach, the Mayor of Waynesboro.

5 You my proceed.

6 MAYOR DeLOACH: Good morning.

7 I bring you greetings and welcome  
8 from Waynesboro and Burke County, Georgia.

9 I am a native and life-long  
10 resident of Burke County. And I know my  
11 people. And as Mr. Miller just stated, we've  
12 had several meetings with the NRC here in our  
13 community in Waynesboro. And the majority of  
14 the local people there are fully behind Plant  
15 Vogtle and its expansion.

16 I've prepared a few remarks to  
17 explain what the impact Plant Vogtle has been  
18 on Waynesboro and Burke County.

19 I would like to tell you how the  
20 construction of Plant Vogtle in Burke County  
21 has affected and changed our local community.

22 Fifty years ago after I graduated

1 from Waynesboro High School, there were only  
2 a few students who finished their college  
3 education and returned home to Waynesboro to  
4 make their livelihood and start a family.  
5 Usually the only ones who returned were those  
6 that had a family business to operate and care  
7 for.

8 In the 1960s, Waynesboro and Burke  
9 County's economy was basically 80 percent  
10 agribusiness. New technology in agriculture  
11 had replaced and displaced the farm-related  
12 worker and unemployment was at a record high  
13 for our area of the state.

14 Trying to help the unemployment  
15 problem and recruit new industry, I remember  
16 our local Chamber of Commerce erected a  
17 billboard on the edge of town that stated in  
18 large letters: Burke County, an Environment  
19 for Growth.

20 In 1969, Georgia Power Company  
21 announced that Southern Company would build  
22 and operate a nuclear power electric

1 generating plant with Unit 1 and 2 located on  
2 3500 acres of land on the southwest side of  
3 the Savannah River in eastern Burke County,  
4 approximately 18 miles from the city of  
5 Waynesboro.

6 At the completion of construction  
7 of Unit 2 in 1989, there were over 14,000  
8 construction workers employed at Plant Vogtle.  
9 However, the number of employees needed to  
10 operate the facility was around 900. Can you  
11 imagine what great benefits a small rural  
12 community like Waynesboro and Burke County  
13 received from such sudden growth?

14 For each new construction,  
15 manufacturing or operations job created in  
16 nuclear power plants, four new jobs are  
17 created to provide goods and services to that  
18 plant and surrounding communities.

19 Utility and property taxes paid by  
20 Plant Vogtle amount to about \$24 million per  
21 year to our county. Our local School Board  
22 and Burke County Commissioners have spent the

1 tax money wisely. We have built five new  
2 schools, a new hospital and a state of the art  
3 Emergency Management Facility with 13  
4 substations throughout our county. And I am  
5 proud to say it is the best rural EMA facility  
6 and system in the State of Georgia.

7 The City of Waynesboro has been  
8 able to improve and extend its infrastructure  
9 for present and future growth with planning  
10 and help from the state and federal  
11 Government. We now have a four-lane  
12 superhighway linking Waynesboro with metro  
13 Augusta and the deepwater port in Savannah,  
14 Georgia.

15 Our local upgrades and  
16 improvements in our infrastructure have  
17 brought us great success and economic  
18 development in recruiting new industry. I can  
19 name probably eight new plants that we have  
20 located in our city and county in the last 15  
21 years.

22 The city of Augusta has provided

1 the leadership in urban growth, and Waynesboro  
2 and Burke County take pride in being a part of  
3 America's nuclear renaissance with the  
4 completion of Units 3 and 4 at Plant Vogtle in  
5 2017. After 2017 Plant Vogtle will be the  
6 only nuclear power plant in the United States  
7 with four working reactors producing  
8 electricity for our state and nation.

9 I thank Georgia Power and Southern  
10 Company for their investment in our community.  
11 And I thank the United States Nuclear  
12 Regulatory Commission for keeping our local  
13 environment safe and secure.

14 And if you have any questions, I'd  
15 be happy to answer any questions that you have  
16 at this time.

17 CHAIR SCOWCROFT: I thank you very  
18 much, Mayor DeLoach.

19 Are there questions for the Mayor?

20 Thank you very much, sir.

21 MAYOR DeLOACH: Thank you.

22 CHAIR SCOWCROFT: We appreciate

1 your participation.

2 Next we're privileged to have  
3 Senator Lindsey Graham.

4 Senator Graham, the floor is  
5 yours. Welcome.

6 SENATOR GRAHAM: Good morning.

7 I hope you've enjoyed your visit.

8 CHAIR SCOWCROFT: Very much so.

9 SENATOR GRAHAM: Spend money on  
10 both sides of the river.

11 I just want to thank the members  
12 of the Commission providing a service to the  
13 country. You're about to tackle a major  
14 problem for America. And since I'm the only  
15 one here, I'll take a little more than five  
16 minutes, if that's okay. And I'd like to have  
17 a little interaction, ask any question you  
18 like and I'll try to answer it the best I can.

19 I want to welcome the people from  
20 Penn State. There's some athletic thing here.  
21 You're very loud, but you're all welcome. It  
22 was in the hotel last night having a good



1 time. So, if I'm a little slow this morning,  
2 that's why.

3 My basic premise to the Commission  
4 is that nuclear energy and nuclear power, if  
5 you're serious about improving our carbon  
6 footprint, to those of you in the  
7 environmental community that believe that  
8 carbon pollution is a problem that needs to be  
9 dealt with, and I don't think you have to look  
10 at it from the polar bear's point of view, but  
11 I do believe that carbon pollution is  
12 something we should be trying to deal with in  
13 a responsible, business-friendly manner. And  
14 if you're going to replace coal-fired plants,  
15 I think you need an all-of-the-above approach.  
16 And when you look a wind and solar, it's part  
17 of the puzzle but it's a very small piece,  
18 quite frankly.

19 If you took all the wind and solar  
20 technology and deployed it, maybe 15 to 20  
21 percent of the grid.

22 There has to be a place for clean

1 coal because we have 250 years of it.

2 And I'm trying to work with my  
3 Democratic and Republican colleagues to march  
4 this country toward energy independence as  
5 much as that is possible.

6 General, you know we live in a  
7 very dangerous world. The fact that we have  
8 more dependency on Mideast oil today than we  
9 did in the '70s is a national disgrace.

10 The fact that we're sending about  
11 \$400 billion a year overseas to buy oil from  
12 people who don't like us very much, is a  
13 national security problem. So what does that  
14 have to do with nuclear power?

15 On the transportation side, we  
16 need to find ways to transport Americans and  
17 our economy with less dependence on foreign  
18 oil. We need to find more here, but  
19 eventually use less. So I'm a big believer in  
20 hybrid technology and developing better fuel  
21 standards so that we can be less dependent on  
22 foreign oil.

1           But on the power production side,  
2           for America to grow and prosper, we need  
3           affordable power. And the one thing that  
4           South Carolina and Georgia has going for both  
5           states, is this is a good place to do business  
6           and you have access to affordable power. And  
7           when it comes to nuclear power, South Carolina  
8           has more nuclear power per capita than, I  
9           believe, in any state in the nation. We still  
10          have coal-fired plants, but we're very  
11          friendly to the nuclear industry. Same in  
12          Georgia.

13           The French, our good friends and  
14          allies, 82 percent of the power produced in  
15          France comes from the nuclear industry. Surely  
16          we can be as bold as the French. We have  
17          about 20 percent. And if you believe there's  
18          a place in America for nuclear power, as I do,  
19          we need to grow that number. And that means  
20          we need to build more plants. And one of the  
21          biggest impediments to building more plants  
22          is, what do you do with the waste. That's on

1 the commercial spent fuel side.

2 Now, this Commission was formed  
3 because of a decision made by the Obama  
4 Administration to take Yucca Mountain off the  
5 table in terms of a repository for defense  
6 waste and commercial spent fuel. I know it's  
7 not your charter to change that decision, but  
8 it is my obligation whenever I can and where  
9 I can to voice my objection. I think it was  
10 a very shortsighted decision that could have  
11 devastating consequences. And to the  
12 Governor-elect of South Carolina, keep  
13 fighting, Nikki Haley, this decision.

14 To our friends in Georgia, keep  
15 fighting because this is not the right  
16 decision for America. This was a very  
17 politically driven decision and if nothing  
18 else, the Commission ought to address this  
19 problem. You've taken \$1.3 billion in Waste  
20 Fund fees from utilities and customers of  
21 utilities in South Carolina to build a hole  
22 that we're not going to use. We want our

1 money back or use the hole.

2 Now please look long and hard at  
3 that. Because once you take Yucca Mountain  
4 off the table, it has a series of cascading  
5 consequences.

6 You went to the site yesterday?  
7 Let me tell you a little bit about the site  
8 from my point of view. I think it's a  
9 national treasure. And the people of South  
10 Carolina and Georgia have done things that  
11 other communities would be reluctant to do  
12 because we have understood nuclear materials.  
13 We were on the front lines of winning the Cold  
14 War producing the tritium that created a  
15 nuclear deterrent force that I think was very  
16 beneficial to our national security for about  
17 six decades here. And we've accumulated a lot  
18 of defense waste, not commercial spent fuel.

19 And I, along with other members of  
20 the South Carolina and Georgia delegation,  
21 welcome the MOX plant to the Savannah River  
22 Site.

1                   And I don't mean to pick on you,  
2                   General. I just know you the best, and I  
3                   admire you.

4                   The idea that 36 metric tons of  
5                   weapons-grade plutonium will be converted from  
6                   nuclear bomb material to commercial spent fuel  
7                   here and Russia is a very good idea. It makes  
8                   us all safer. Taking a sword and turning it  
9                   into a plowshare.

10                  So the Site has been taking  
11                  weapons grade plutonium from throughout the  
12                  weapons complexes, and all the complexes with  
13                  the understanding that we would convert it  
14                  through the MOX system into commercial grade  
15                  fuel, and there would be pathway for it.

16                  We're good at some things, but  
17                  we're not designed and never have been  
18                  designed to be a repository. There are 51  
19                  tanks at the Site that have 1 billion gallons  
20                  of waste that helped -- that was created from  
21                  winning the Cold War.

22                  We had one heck of a debate four

1 or five years ago in the Congress. The Bush  
2 administration came to me with a proposal that  
3 we could clean the tanks up, but in the heel  
4 of the tank of you left some residue that  
5 could be treated safely and concrete poured  
6 into the tank as a final storage plan, the  
7 State of South Carolina would be involved in  
8 approving that plan, that we would save \$16  
9 billion.

10 Now that's the State of South  
11 Carolina working with the federal government  
12 to say that we're going to be rational about  
13 waste. You could scrape these tanks for 100  
14 years and fill up a place like Yucca Mountain  
15 with material that really doesn't need to go  
16 there.

17 So, we've done our part. We've  
18 been very rational. And I pushed that  
19 legislation with the understanding that we  
20 would close these tanks, keep some waste in  
21 the bottom of the tank safely to save money  
22 for the federal government. I accepted, along

1 with other members of the delegation, the  
2 plutonium from other sites understanding we  
3 would do a good service for America by  
4 converting it to spent fuel. It could never  
5 be used for bombs. I wasn't really worried  
6 about our material falling into the wrong  
7 hands, but I sure am worried about what's  
8 going on in Russia. So if they can take some  
9 of their weapons-grade plutonium off the  
10 table, we have to do the same; that's a good  
11 deal.

12 What is a bad deal is to take the  
13 pathway forward off the table. Because now no  
14 one knows what we're going to do. That's why  
15 you have been created.

16 This country has watched the world  
17 advance on the nuclear front while we've  
18 stayed stagnant until recently.

19 And I will say something good  
20 about the Obama Administration now. Secretary  
21 Chu has been one of the best Secretaries of  
22 Energy I've ever dealt with. The



1 Administration, generally speaking, has had a  
2 good vision for the development of commercial  
3 nuclear power. They have put on the table  
4 loan guarantees more robust than the Bush  
5 administration. And Secretary Chu has  
6 convinced me that another form of  
7 reprocessing, better than what the French and  
8 the British and the Japanese do, may be at  
9 hand in the next decade.

10 I'm willing to entertain that  
11 idea, and I'm very willing for the Savannah  
12 River Site to be the research and development  
13 facility for the nation to make that idea a  
14 reality. Because Secretary Chu believes  
15 there's a better way to do this than what the  
16 French are currently engaged in, and I've been  
17 there.

18 So, let me associate myself with  
19 the idea that there may be something on the  
20 horizon in the next decade that can allow  
21 America to do something better than the world  
22 is currently doing. And the goal of

1 reprocessing and recycling is to reduce your  
2 storage footprint, right? The proliferation  
3 concerns from reprocessing, I think quite  
4 frankly, are overstated. What the French do is  
5 not the problem with the world's  
6 proliferation. The problem with the world's  
7 proliferation is Iran and people like Iran and  
8 North Korea wanting nuclear weapons. And no  
9 matter what we do at Savannah River Site,  
10 they're not going to stop those plans unless  
11 somebody makes it unacceptable for them to go  
12 forward.

13                   So, what I would ask the  
14 Commission to do is look long and hard about  
15 the consequences of closing Yucca Mountain.  
16 These tanks that we're cleaning up as I speak,  
17 if H-Canyon is not available to the Site,  
18 you're going to extend the cleanup far beyond  
19 what we envisioned when I did the deal with  
20 the federal government to lead the heel  
21 footprint in place. If you don't allow H-  
22 Canyon to be fully utilized, you're going to

1 deny this site the ability to deal with the  
2 waste material that we have accumulated in  
3 winning the Cold War. And you will undercut  
4 in my view, the gains we have achieved by the  
5 agreement with the federal government to close  
6 the tanks with some residual material in the  
7 heel of the tank.

8 I know the Administration has  
9 concerns about H-Canyon being used in a  
10 reprocessing fashion. I've come out on a  
11 different place there. I really want you, if  
12 you would, and I know you will, to look at the  
13 consequences to this facility if the tanks  
14 cannot be cleaned up on time and on schedule,  
15 and all of the waste we've accumulated is  
16 either going to be vitrified or MOXed. That  
17 was the deal, that you send us plutonium, over  
18 time we will turn it into something that's  
19 safe and productive, but there would be  
20 pathway out.

21 And I was in Congress when we did  
22 this deal, and Senator Thurmond was in the

1 Senate. And that covers a long period of  
2 time. And there are fines in a statute that  
3 we created if the federal government does not  
4 honor its commitment. I want the Commission to  
5 look at that statute, I will send it to you.

6 And this is very important: If  
7 communities like Savannah River Site, Augusta  
8 and Aiken and CSRA area believe that you can't  
9 do business in good faith with the federal  
10 government, you're going to send the wrong  
11 signal at the wrong time. And I am very  
12 bipartisan about this. We had a knock-down,  
13 drag-out with the Bush administration. The  
14 statute was done when the Bush administration  
15 was in office. I love President Bush, but I  
16 don't trust anybody to look after South  
17 Carolina and Georgia other than the people who  
18 are elected from South Carolina and Georgia.  
19 That's why we have that statute.

20 And I put my reputation on the  
21 line saying that this is a deal that makes  
22 sense for America, and I expect the federal

1 government to honor that agreement.

2 So this Commission when you look  
3 at what you're going to recommend, you have to  
4 understand that some of the deals that have  
5 been made that were made in good faith are now  
6 in jeopardy because of the closing of Yucca  
7 Mountain. I'm a very reasonable, patient man  
8 to a point. I'm not going to let my state or  
9 my sister state be left holding the bag  
10 without one hell of a fight.

11 We need not have this fight. This  
12 can be a win-win for America, South Carolina  
13 and Georgia. But the reason I came here today  
14 is this is so important to South Carolina and  
15 Georgia and to our country. To those of you  
16 who wish to have a nuclear renaissance, we  
17 will not be able to get there until we'll deal  
18 with permitting reform, but until we come up  
19 with a waste disposal plan. And the biggest  
20 impediment to nuclear power production over  
21 time is on-site storage.

22 So, I hope that this Commission

1 will recommend a pathway forward when it comes  
2 to waste disposal that will allow a nuclear  
3 renaissance to occur at a time when America  
4 needs it the most. We have 9.7 percent  
5 unemployment. If you wanted to create new  
6 jobs in America that pay very well, then build  
7 nuclear power plants.

8 To the Obama administration, I  
9 appreciate the fact that you are accepting of  
10 the idea of a nuclear renaissance. I am  
11 disappointed in your decision to take Yucca  
12 Mountain off the table. I will work with you  
13 to come up with a waste disposal plan that is  
14 third-generation. I will be patient. But it  
15 has to be something that makes sense and that  
16 can be achieved in a reasonable period of  
17 time, not some fanciful idea that will never  
18 jump off the paper.

19 If I could repeat what Senator  
20 Thurmond has done, I would have 45 more years  
21 in this job. I don't think that's going to  
22 happen because I'm, if nothing else,

1 genetically term-limited. So, while I may be  
2 patient -- I apologize.

3 Anything over ten or 15 years in  
4 terms of coming up with an alternative to  
5 Yucca Mountain will destroy, in my view, the  
6 ability to jump start a nuclear renaissance.  
7 And if we don't watch it, ladies and  
8 gentlemen, we're going to be buying everything  
9 nuclear from China. There is a race going on  
10 in this world in the energy arena. The  
11 technology for nuclear, solar, wind,  
12 alternative technology is being developed in  
13 China as I speak. And I think President Obama  
14 understands that. So I would like to find a  
15 rational way forward on all fronts, not just  
16 nuclear power.

17 So, I appreciate you very much  
18 coming to view the site. And please, and I'll  
19 send you some material, understand our unique  
20 needs here. And please understand what we have  
21 done before you were empaneled to make the  
22 waste problem more efficient and more logical.

1 We took risks that I thought were reasonable  
2 with the understanding that we had a reliable  
3 partner. And I hope the purpose of this  
4 Commission will be fully realized, and that  
5 can only happen in my view, if you reward  
6 reliable partners. What you do and what our  
7 federal government does in the area of dealing  
8 with the post-Yucca Mountain waste problem  
9 will determine whether or not states like  
10 South Carolina and Georgia are going to be  
11 partners with the federal government.

12 We're either going to go forward  
13 or we're going to go backward. And it is my  
14 hope that we go forward. That the waste here  
15 at Savannah River Site will be well treated,  
16 but there is a pathway forward as promised.  
17 And H-Canyon to me is not a reprocessing  
18 technology that is going to lead to  
19 proliferation. It is a reprocessing  
20 technology that will allow the States of South  
21 Carolina and Georgia to get the full benefit  
22 of the bargain we made with the federal



1 government that will save the taxpayer a lot  
2 of money.

3 So, with that I do appreciate the  
4 fact of your willingness to serve. And I  
5 can't think of a more important topic facing  
6 America, other than our national debt and Iran  
7 getting a nuclear weapon, than what you will  
8 decide for the future of American nuclear  
9 power and the way we dispose of the legacy of  
10 the Cold War.

11 Thank you very much. And if you  
12 have any questions, I'll take them.

13 Thank you.

14 CHAIR SCOWCROFT: Thank you very  
15 much, Senator.

16 SENATOR GRAHAM: Thank you.

17 CHAIR SCOWCROFT: We very much  
18 appreciate your frankness and we're fully  
19 aware of the farsighted approach that you and  
20 many of the citizens of this region have taken  
21 on this important issue.

22 As you know, we are not a siting

1 commission.

2 SENATOR GRAHAM: I understand.

3 CHAIR SCOWCROFT: But Yucca raises  
4 a very interesting point. I don't want to  
5 speak for all the Commissioners, but my sense  
6 as we have gone into our investigations is  
7 that there is a feeling in the country that  
8 the government, and I won't narrow it down  
9 below that, keeps changing the rules of which  
10 Yucca Mountain is only the last one.

11 SENATOR GRAHAM: I share that  
12 view.

13 CHAIR SCOWCROFT: And so one of  
14 the problems we face is how do we set a  
15 system--

16 SENATOR GRAHAM: Right.

17 CHAIR SCOWCROFT: -- in which  
18 people can have confidence won't be changed  
19 with the next election cycle or something  
20 else. And we would appreciate your help as we  
21 undertake --

22 SENATOR GRAHAM: Well, General,

1       you've nailed it right there. Because when we  
2       did the agreement about tank cleanup, agreeing  
3       to keep some material here rather than sending  
4       it to Yucca Mountain through vitrification, it  
5       saved a lot of money, \$16 billion. And that  
6       depended on H-Canyon and vitrification  
7       working.

8                If we don't honor these agreements  
9       and give people certainty, we're going to fall  
10      apart completely at a time we need to advance.

11               Again, back to the Obama  
12      administration's desire to do something  
13      different than what the French and the  
14      Japanese and the British are doing. I am very  
15      willing to accept Secretary Chu's proposal  
16      that we look, that we don't build a \$2 or \$3  
17      billion recycling facility that may be  
18      outdated before it starts. But for me to be  
19      able to sell this community on the research  
20      and development, and the country as a whole,  
21      we're going to have to honor these  
22      commitments. Because there is an exciting

1 future ahead for America in the nuclear power  
2 industry. And I think there's a way to make  
3 the world safer.

4 The START treaty, I wished it  
5 could have been better, but the idea of taking  
6 nuclear weapons off the table and turning the  
7 plutonium pit into commercial grade spent fuel  
8 is a godsend. Because there's so much of this  
9 stuff floating around. And we're willing to  
10 do all this, but we just as you say, have to  
11 have the confidence.

12 And the reason we passed the  
13 statute during the Bush administration is  
14 because they were about to pull the plug on  
15 the MOX facility.

16 We had a conversation with  
17 Secretary Bodman that you would have to bleep  
18 like crazy because they were about to change  
19 the rules then. And it was only because of  
20 some stern talk that the MOX program survived  
21 the Bush Administration. To the Obama  
22 administration's credit, the facility is going

1 up ahead of schedule and under budget. I just  
2 want to use it.

3 So, thank you very much for  
4 coming.

5 CHAIR SCOWCROFT: Thank you very  
6 much, Senator. We really appreciate you  
7 taking the time to be with us. Thank you.

8 We will now turn to Mr. Shawn  
9 Merrick, Labor Relations Plant Site  
10 Coordinator.

11 You may proceed, sir.

12 MR. MERRICK: Chairman Hamilton,  
13 Chairman Scowcroft, and esteemed members of  
14 the Committee, it is an honor and a pleasure  
15 to address you and provide you with my  
16 assessment of the nuclear industry's  
17 workforce, employment opportunities, and  
18 challenges.

19 The importance of the nuclear  
20 power renaissance to our nation's security,  
21 energy needs and economy cannot be overstated,  
22 and the enthusiastic availability of the

1 world's safest, most highly trained an  
2 productive skilled craft workforce is a vital  
3 component of the resurgence and expansion of  
4 the nuclear power industry.

5 Plant Vogtle's Units 3 and 4 in  
6 Waynesboro, Georgia are the first nuclear  
7 power plants to be built in the United States  
8 in 30 years. This means there are very few  
9 construction workers, engineers, or management  
10 personnel with any firsthand experience in  
11 building nuclear facilities as most have  
12 either retired or moved on to other  
13 professions. This reality, combined with the  
14 fact that qualified boilermakers, millwrights,  
15 pipefitters, electricians, and ironworkers are  
16 expected to be in short supply in some local  
17 markets sheds some light on the scope of the  
18 challenges of building a building plant in  
19 2011.

20 According to a 2009 analysis on  
21 design and construction conducted by Bechtel  
22 Power Corporation for a bipartisan commission

1 lead by former US Senator Domenici,  
2 approximately 4,000 skilled craft  
3 professionals will be required at peak  
4 construction for a new nuclear power plant  
5 generating 1600 megawatts of electricity.

6 The Department of Energy has  
7 reported that there are 17 Combined Operating  
8 License Applications covering the construction  
9 of 26 new reactor facilities that have been  
10 docketed with the Nuclear Regulatory  
11 Commission. Accordingly, over a 100,000  
12 skilled craft workers who are trained and  
13 certified for nuclear construction work will  
14 be required for the manpower needs of those  
15 projects currently on the NRC docket.

16 In addition to the need for a  
17 workforce to construct new nuclear power  
18 plants, there is a critical need looming for  
19 plant operations and maintenance. There are  
20 104 existing nuclear units operating now  
21 employing approximately 700 employee each,  
22 totaling 72,800 employees. These figures do

1 not include ancillary or support jobs.  
2 Thirty-five percent, a figure of 25,480  
3 employees of the 72,800, are or will be  
4 eligible for retirement by 2012. A loss by  
5 non-retirement attrition is not included in  
6 these figures.

7           These and other factors beg the  
8 question as to whether or not the building  
9 trade unions have the capacity to meet this  
10 demand. The answer to that question is yes,  
11 the building trade unions do have the capacity  
12 to meet this demand. They are exploring and  
13 implementing new ways to supplement the  
14 current and future capacity in order to  
15 address various isolated issues associated  
16 with demographics and geography.

17           For example, they are thinking and  
18 acting proactively about the necessary steps  
19 needed to ensure the development of a safe,  
20 productive and qualified workforce in areas  
21 that are remote and thinly populated.  
22 Currently, one of the biggest problems that



1 they face is on the demand side. The current  
2 depression, and I use the term depression not  
3 recession because, when you have 20 percent  
4 unemployment in the construction industry like  
5 we do today, this is a depression. And it is  
6 putting us in danger of losing many of our  
7 best and most skilled workers to other careers  
8 and industries.

9           Recognizing the immense challenges  
10 of the industry and accumulating a pool of  
11 highly skilled and highly trained and  
12 qualified construction workers needed to build  
13 nuclear facilities, the owner of Plant Vogtle,  
14 Southern Company, Georgia Power, the builder  
15 Shaw Nuclear Power Group, the Building and  
16 Construction Trades Department, AFL-CIO, the  
17 North American Contractors Association and the  
18 Nuclear Energy Institute all work together and  
19 are committed to meet the challenges of a  
20 nuclear power renaissance. They agree that  
21 these challenges could not be met with  
22 conventional concepts and policies, so they

1       forged ahead thinking innovatively and  
2       strategically.

3               As a result of this commitment,  
4       the Nuclear Power Construction Labor Agreement  
5       was developed. Innovative and substantially  
6       different from other labor agreements, this  
7       labor agreement is designed to meet regional  
8       and project-specific needs as well as the  
9       needs that are national scope.

10              Some of the significant changes  
11       and innovations in the way a project is  
12       performed are;

13              This group of nuclear industry  
14       stakeholders has taken a bold step in creating  
15       a new and innovative labor-relations model,  
16       the Labor-Relations Site Coordinator, who  
17       reports to a committee comprised of the  
18       stakeholders. This will help ensure that each  
19       project is completed on time and on budget.  
20       This will help ensure that each local  
21       community and their economy will benefit from  
22       the projects. This position will also help

1 ensure that local minorities: women, the  
2 disadvantaged, the unemployed and the  
3 underemployed have opportunities.

4 This position will also coordinate  
5 the use of the Building and Construction  
6 Trades Department's Helmets to Hardhats  
7 program ensuring our military transitioning to  
8 civilian life are provided with opportunities  
9 to benefit from the project.

10 The Nuclear Power Construction  
11 Labor Agreement has a training framework that  
12 is built on the apprenticeship system. The  
13 agreement adds important enhancements to the  
14 existing apprenticeship system necessary to  
15 achieve the level of specialized training  
16 required in the exacting nuclear construction  
17 industry. The agreement includes  
18 unprecedented language that would allow labor  
19 shortages in one craft to be filled with  
20 workers from other crafts or from any other  
21 credible source.

22 The agreement contains language

1 allowing 100 percent portability for outages -  
2 - for outage work for the same owner in order  
3 to meet the short term demands of such  
4 outages.

5 The agreement provides for the use  
6 of apprentices and other sub-journeyman  
7 classifications in order to contain unit costs  
8 and encourage efficient crew composition.

9 The agreement establishes an  
10 extraordinary commitment to the development of  
11 on-site or near-site multi-craft training  
12 facilities to ensure a steady supply of  
13 skilled workers to provide specialized  
14 training for journeymen and/or apprentices, or  
15 to be used by vendors to train and certify  
16 workers on the installation of specialized  
17 equipment.

18 The skillcraft training system  
19 that the unions operate in the United States  
20 is apprenticeship-based and is maintained by  
21 labor management contributions. Over \$750  
22 million is spend each year by this system in

1 direct training expenses. When the wages to  
2 the apprentices for on-the-job training are  
3 included, that total expenditure each year is  
4 approximately \$15 billion.

5 Today, the trade union training  
6 capacity is significantly underutilized. That  
7 is mostly caused by the current economic  
8 depression in the construction industry. But  
9 even in tight labor markets their training  
10 capacity has been underutilized. These  
11 facilities can also be used to provide career  
12 development to workers recruited from the  
13 communities by the owner for operations and  
14 maintenance decisions necessary to operate and  
15 maintain the facility upon completion.

16 The partnerships, commitments,  
17 innovative concepts all are convertible and  
18 adaptable and can be applied to the back end  
19 of the nuclear industry to substantially  
20 reduce costs, provide a safe, productive, and  
21 professional nuclear waste containment and  
22 recycle workforce.

1           I have provided you with a copy of  
2           the preamble for the Nuclear Power  
3           Construction Labor Agreement. In this  
4           document, you can clearly see the  
5           stakeholders' intentions and commitment to  
6           cooperate and deliver a successful project.

7           I have also provided you with a  
8           copy of the Executive Summary of the Nuclear  
9           Power Construction Labor Agreement. In this  
10          document you can see the detailed and in-depth  
11          thought and study that the Building and  
12          Construction Trades Department has given to  
13          the nuclear power renaissance in a modern  
14          innovative labor agreement. You can also see  
15          a more complete set of industry benefits and  
16          changes to the labor agreement.

17          And finally, I would like to thank  
18          the Committee for this opportunity to address  
19          you. I hope you find this information useful  
20          in your endeavor to develop a new plan. If I  
21          can be of any further assistance to the  
22          Committee, please feel free to call upon me.

1 If you have any questions, I'd be glad to --

2 CHAIR SCOWCROFT: Thank you, Mr.  
3 Merrick. We very much appreciate your  
4 statement.

5 Are there any questions from the  
6 Commission? Yes, Mark?

7 MEMBER AYERS: Yes. Mr. Merrick,  
8 how many people are employed on the project  
9 now, and are they local people?

10 MR. MERRICK: At the moment, there  
11 is approximately 800 people employed, and a  
12 majority of those people, I believe, are local  
13 people.

14 MEMBER AYERS: Thank you.

15 MR. MERRICK: And when I say  
16 local, I'm talking about a large area, not  
17 necessarily the Waynesboro community itself.  
18 But some South Carolina, Augusta, down in  
19 Savannah, I'm considering that local.

20 MEMBER AYERS: I'm assuming that  
21 this project is really a blessing in disguise  
22 for the those that really saw not too many

1 other opportunities in this current, as you  
2 state it, depression.

3 MR. MERRICK: It is, and at the  
4 peak of construction, we're expecting  
5 somewhere between 4,000 and 5,000 people will  
6 be employed. And as we move toward that,  
7 there'll be some opportunities there for some  
8 people that are usually considered fringe  
9 people, underemployed people that maybe have  
10 some skill levels but don't quite have the  
11 skill level that they need to take advantage  
12 of an opportunity like this.

13 CHAIR SCOWCROFT: Dick?

14 MEMBER MESERVE: I'd like to thank  
15 you for your comment. This really is quite a  
16 remarkable achievement that you've discussed  
17 with us.

18 My question is a rather simple  
19 one: if I'm a operator and I want to build a  
20 plant, does this agreement cover all the  
21 workers that I need to be able to proceed?

22 MR. MERRICK: Yes, it does. Yes,



1 it does.

2 MEMBER MESERVE: Thank you.

3 MEMBER AYERS: Dick, I'm not sure  
4 that Shawn understood the question you were  
5 asking him, but it doesn't include the  
6 operations people.

7 MR. MERRICK: Oh, well that's  
8 true.

9 MEMBER AYERS: But we offered to  
10 train them.

11 MR. MERRICK: And it doesn't  
12 include management or some particular vendors  
13 who have a specialty system that takes  
14 specialized training beyond what the normal  
15 training is; it doesn't include those people.  
16 There's some traditional positions; guard,  
17 secretaries, those kind of positions it does  
18 not cover, but the hands on skilled craft  
19 builders, it covers all of them.

20 CHAIR SCOWCROFT: Other comments

21 MEMBER PETERSON: I'd like to ask  
22 a question that relates to the different

1        technology that's being used in AP1000 for  
2        construction.  Maybe many people are not  
3        aware, but the construction methods are very  
4        different from what's been used previously to  
5        build nuclear plants or the experience, for  
6        example, of the MOX plant, particularly around  
7        modularization and factory prefabrication,  
8        site assembly.  Because these methods are  
9        different, how does one tackle the problem of  
10       the training needed to do this first-of-a-kind  
11       type of construction that hasn't been done  
12       previously in the U.S.?

13                    MR. MERRICK:  Well, when you take  
14       the part of your question of modular  
15       construction, that's new to the nuclear  
16       industry but not to other industries, such as  
17       the oil industry, several other industries.  
18       And the building trades unions has for years  
19       back to the mid-'70s when they started using  
20       modular construction in the oil fields in  
21       Alaska, is very familiar with that.

22                    These particular modulars are new

1 to everyone because of the new technology and  
2 working with the owner -- well, all the  
3 stakeholders will be developing and are  
4 developing training that is particular to this  
5 new technology.

6 Does that answer your question?

7 MEMBER PETERSON: Yes, indeed, it  
8 does. Thanks.

9 CHAIR SCOWCROFT: Any other  
10 questions?

11 Thank you very much, Mr. Merrick.  
12 We appreciate your participation.

13 MR. MERRICK: Thank you, sir.

14 CHAIR SCOWCROFT: Next we will  
15 have a statement from Senator Jim DeMint to be  
16 delivered by Ellen Weaver. Thank you for  
17 being with us.

18 MS. WEAVER: Good morning.

19 It's an honor to be here with you  
20 all today. And it's an honor to follow my  
21 senior senator in extending a warm South  
22 Carolina welcome to you all, even though we're

1 on the Georgia side of the border.

2 You know, I'd like to say on  
3 behalf of Senator DeMint that he regrets that  
4 he wasn't able to be here in person today.  
5 But I appreciate the opportunity to deliver  
6 these prepared remarks on his behalf.

7 For the past six decades South  
8 Carolina has played a vital role in ensuring  
9 a strong, national nuclear posture through the  
10 invaluable work of countless individuals at  
11 the Savannah River Site. Our state has also  
12 been at the forefront of the commercial  
13 nuclear industry.

14 The first reactor came on-line  
15 almost 40 years ago in Hartsville, and today  
16 over half of the electricity generated in our  
17 state come from these seven nuclear reactors  
18 operating in South Carolina. I can say  
19 confidently that you will find few states in  
20 the nation with more community support for  
21 nuclear, or that will be more effected by the  
22 policies that this Blue Ribbon Commission

1 recommends.

2 I believe that America's nuclear  
3 future stands at a crossroads today. Our  
4 country faces many issues regarding our  
5 nation's energy security, our environment and  
6 the demands on our society. At times,  
7 balancing these issues can be precarious at  
8 best. However, it is not impossible and, done  
9 properly, it will provide a better quality of  
10 life, increased energy security and strengthen  
11 competitiveness in the global marketplace.

12 The Savannah River Site is a  
13 testimony to our ability to confront and  
14 balance these challenges successfully, and we  
15 as a local community, a state, and a nation  
16 are stronger and more secure because of the  
17 work that is done here.

18 One of the best opportunities that  
19 we have to increase our energy security is  
20 through new domestic nuclear power. But one  
21 crucial issue must be addressed: nuclear  
22 waste, which is of course why this

1 distinguished Commission is here today.

2           For the record, I strongly believe  
3 that our nation needs a permanent repository  
4 for spent fuel, and I believe that that  
5 permanent repository should be at Yucca  
6 Mountain. Yucca Mountain is a vital component  
7 of America's energy security and the refusal  
8 of a few has halted decades of progress and  
9 billions in funding for what has been  
10 determined by endless studies and scientific  
11 research to be an environmentally safe and  
12 secure facility. Without a final destination  
13 for our nation's nuclear waste, I fear that  
14 our nuclear industry will never reach its full  
15 potential, costing Americans well paying  
16 permanent jobs and a secure energy future.

17           Opening a nuclear waste repository  
18 is also essential to ensuring that the 51  
19 million gallons of defense waste currently  
20 housed at the Savannah River Site will be  
21 removed and permanently stored in a safe and  
22 secure location. SRS was never meant to be a

1 permanent or de facto home to our nation's  
2 defense waste. And I will continue to work  
3 with my Georgia and my South Carolina  
4 colleagues to ensure that this does not become  
5 the case.

6           Additionally, I think it is  
7 important to remember that when South Carolina  
8 agreed to take in special nuclear materials  
9 from sites around the country at SRS as part  
10 of cleanup efforts, we received a guarantee  
11 that these materials would be processed  
12 through MOX and H-Canyon, ensuring a  
13 disposition path out of our state.

14 Maintaining the operability of H-Canyon is key  
15 to this plan, and I hope the Commission will  
16 keep this important fact in mind as they  
17 develop their final recommendations.

18           While I believe first and foremost  
19 that the Yucca Mountain repository should  
20 open, I am also confident that South Carolina  
21 and the Savannah River Site can play an active  
22 and important role in managing the back end of

1 the nuclear fuel cycle through recycling.  
2 Because of SRS' long history with the nuclear  
3 arsenal, the cleanup mission that is ongoing  
4 there, and the operation of H-Canyon, the site  
5 has an unparalleled level of knowledge and  
6 expertise that should be tapped to develop  
7 solutions for America's nuclear waste.

8 I would urge the Commission to  
9 fully explore the possibilities available in  
10 dealing with this waste, including nuclear  
11 recycling and to look at SRS and the Savannah  
12 River National Lab at the Site to help lead  
13 the way in this important work.

14 Again, I appreciate you being here  
15 today, and I hope your visit to the CSRA is a  
16 productive one. I look forward to working  
17 alongside you and my colleagues in Congress to  
18 develop reasonable, long-term answers to  
19 America's nuclear future.

20 Thank you again for your time and  
21 your careful consideration of these critical  
22 issues.



1 Thank you.

2 CHAIR SCOWCROFT: Thank you very  
3 much, Ms. Weaver. We appreciate it.

4 Next we will have a joint  
5 statement by Senators Isakson and Chambliss of  
6 Georgia to be delivered by Tricia Chastain.

7 MS. CHASTAIN: Good morning.

8 CHAIR SCOWCROFT: Welcome.

9 MS. CHASTAIN: Thank you.

10 Again, my name is Tricia Chastain.  
11 I work for Senator Isakson, but I'll be  
12 presenting a letter on behalf of both of  
13 Georgia's U.S. Senators, Johnny Isakson and  
14 Saxby Chambliss.

15 First, General Scowcroft, members  
16 of the Commission, welcome again to the  
17 Central Savannah River Area and to Augusta,  
18 Georgia. We truly appreciate the time you  
19 spent yesterday at the Savannah River Site and  
20 the time you're spending with us today to hear  
21 this community's views.

22 I'm going to spare you and not

1 read the entire statement. I'll hit the  
2 highlights, and then I'll give copies for the  
3 Commission members, and of course an official  
4 copy for the record.

5 First, in regards to Yucca  
6 Mountain. We have long advocated that the  
7 Department of Energy immediately halt all  
8 actions to dismantle operations at Yucca  
9 Mountain. Congressional intent is clear and  
10 the Congress has voted several times to retain  
11 Yucca Mountain as the national repository. We  
12 believe that DOE must recognize the letter and  
13 spirit of the law and halt all efforts to  
14 reprogram funds or terminate contracts related  
15 to Yucca Mountain.

16 In regard to the Savannah River  
17 Site. The needs for disposal of defense high  
18 level radioactive waste are significantly  
19 different but equally as important as the  
20 needs of commercial used fuel. As you know,  
21 defense waste does not currently have  
22 treatment options which minimize materials

1 requiring disposal in a geologic repository.  
2 This could change with a national investment  
3 in reprocessing.

4 Our constituents at the Central  
5 Savannah River Area have always been  
6 supportive of the mission at Savannah River  
7 site. We believe it is imperative that this  
8 Commission address a timely pathway for  
9 disposal of SRS defense high-level waste.

10 Technology currently exists to  
11 recycle used commercial nuclear reactor fuels.  
12 Our allies across the globe are doing this.  
13 Developing effort have identified several  
14 alternate used fuel recycling processes which  
15 reduce the amount and toxicity of waste  
16 requiring disposal in a geologic repository,  
17 and address nuclear nonproliferation concerns.  
18 We believe that the Commission's report must  
19 include a recommendation for a technology- and  
20 engineering-development program to develop and  
21 deploy the next-generation fuel-cycle program.  
22 Such a program would minimize the need for a

1 geologic disposal of waste products, SRS is  
2 a leader in this area and currently recycles  
3 some materials from research reactors.

4           And finally, on this region, the  
5 Central Savannah River Area. Any  
6 recommendation by the Commission on policies  
7 for managing the back end of the nuclear fuel  
8 cycle must include the many parameters which  
9 will enable success in this endeavor. SRS and  
10 the CSRA demonstrate a number of these  
11 elements of success. We reside in a region  
12 where energy demand is growing faster than any  
13 other parts of the country. We are a hub of  
14 transportation. Our government leaders on the  
15 federal, state and local level speak as one  
16 voice when advocating for increased missions  
17 at SRS and recognize the need to preserve our  
18 national security, improve our energy  
19 security, and continue our environmental  
20 stewardship.

21           Thank you again for allowing me to  
22 share the views of both Senator Isakson and

1 Senator Chambliss. They both recognize the  
2 difficult task you have been handed and stand  
3 ready to assist in any way.

4 CHAIR SCOWCROFT: Thank you very  
5 much, Ms. Chastain. We appreciate it.

6 Next we will have a statement from  
7 Congressman John Barrow of Georgia. The  
8 statement will be read by Cynthia Ross.

9 Is Ms. Ross in the audience? If  
10 not, our next statement is from Congressman  
11 Paul Broun, and the statement is to be read by  
12 Reagan Williams.

13 Mr. Williams, you have the podium.

14 MR. WILLIAMS: Well, good morning.

15 I'd like to join in with my  
16 colleagues as representatives from our  
17 congressional delegation from Georgia and  
18 South Carolina in welcoming you here today to  
19 Augusta, Georgia.

20 I have a statement that I'd like  
21 to read from U.S. Representative Paul Broun of  
22 Georgia's 10th Congressional District.

1                   I would like to take this  
2                   opportunity to express my sincere gratitude to  
3                   the Commission and its staff for taking the  
4                   time to come to Georgia and South Carolina and  
5                   tour the Department of Energy's Savannah River  
6                   Site yesterday, and for holding a public  
7                   meeting here today. I welcome the  
8                   Commissioners and staff and hope you'll find  
9                   these meetings and briefings informative and  
10                  useful as you assess and make recommendations  
11                  to the future of spent nuclear fuel disposal.

12                  Today you will hear from many  
13                  experts on this issue, but I would like to add  
14                  my voice to those who will share with you the  
15                  necessity of building Yucca Mountain, or some  
16                  final repository for used fuel and high-level  
17                  radioactive waste. Having a permanent storage  
18                  solution is vital to this region and the  
19                  nation as a whole. I would like to share four  
20                  key factors that demonstrate the need for a  
21                  permanent storage solution.

22                  First, and in Georgia alone,

1 almost a quarter of its electricity generation  
2 comes from nuclear energy. Two power  
3 stations, Hatch and Vogtle, have the capacity  
4 to generate over 4,000 megawatts of emission-  
5 free energy. Despite the recent downturn in  
6 the economy, over the long run Georgia's  
7 economy is expected to grow, as will the  
8 demand for energy.

9 Second, there's already a  
10 significant amount, more than 2400 metric tons  
11 of commercial used nuclear fuel currently  
12 stored in Georgia awaiting disposition.  
13 Georgia ranks ninth in the nation in this  
14 category, while the neighboring states of  
15 Alabama, Florida, South Carolina and North  
16 Carolina are also among the top ten.

17 Third, the Department of Energy's  
18 Savannah River Site is very important to the  
19 region economically and environmentally.  
20 Significant amounts of DOE high-level  
21 radioactive waste and used fuel, most of it  
22 produced in support of America's nuclear

1 weapons programs, will remain stored at that  
2 site until a repository is available. It is  
3 estimated that the amount of high-level  
4 radioactive waste at the Savannah River Site  
5 is the radioactive equivalent of approximately  
6 another 3,000 metric tons of used nuclear  
7 fuel.

8 Finally, electricity consumers in  
9 Georgia have contributed a significant amount  
10 of money to the Nuclear Waste Fund since the  
11 1983, \$716 million to date. Nationally,  
12 Georgia places tenth in this category. These  
13 funds have contributed towards the nearly \$10  
14 billion that DOE has already spent on Yucca  
15 Mountain, and the additional \$20 billion  
16 unspent balance in the Nuclear Waste Fund. In  
17 1998 DOE began to default on its contracts to  
18 begin removing used fuel from reactor sites.  
19 As a result, nuclear plant operators were  
20 forced to purchase and load dry cask storage  
21 systems on their sites as space inside the  
22 reactor's used fuel pools began to fill up.



1 Some have estimated that Georgia consumers  
2 have also spent well over \$50 million in  
3 additional dry storage costs because of this  
4 default, and these costs continue to mount.

5 I appreciate the complexity of  
6 this issue and difficult job ahead for the  
7 Commission. I would like to reiterate just how  
8 vital and necessary it is to have a permanent  
9 resolution of the spent nuclear fuel disposal  
10 issue.

11 As a member of the House Committee  
12 of Science and Technology, I know great  
13 advances are being made each day on  
14 technological advancements in recycling and  
15 storage. However, this does not negate the  
16 need for Yucca Mountain, which is still the  
17 best option. No scientific rationale has been  
18 provided to justify the closure of Yucca  
19 Mountain, despite over 25 years of scientific  
20 study and review. This is contrary to the  
21 President's promise that science will inform  
22 policy.

1                   Closure of Yucca Mountain will  
2           delay the safe disposition of spent fuel for  
3           decades, leave the federal government open to  
4           billions of dollars liability, and wasted  
5           billions more in sunk costs.

6                   At the President has stated in  
7           2009, science and the scientific process must  
8           inform and guide any decision of my  
9           administration on a wide range of issues.  
10          Unfortunately in the case of Yucca Mountain,  
11          it appears at least initially that this  
12          principle was ignored in order to appease a  
13          political constituency.

14                   Not only should DOE do what is  
15          necessary to preserve the progress made there  
16          by maintaining the resources and knowledge-  
17          base, but I urge the Commission to keep Yucca  
18          Mountain on the table. Regardless of  
19          elections and different priorities for  
20          different administrations, a stable long-term  
21          spent nuclear fuel policy must be achieved.  
22          And the funds that have already been collected

1 and continue to be collected should be made  
2 available for their intended purpose.

3 I will do my part in Congress, and  
4 hope this Commission and the current and  
5 future administrations do the same.

6 Thank you again for giving me an  
7 opportunity to share my views and for taking  
8 the time to come to Georgia and South  
9 Carolina.

10 CHAIR SCOWCROFT: Thank you very  
11 much, Mr. Williams. And please thank the  
12 Congressman for us.

13 We will now recess until 10:15,  
14 when we will return for a panel discussion on  
15 environmental perspectives. And we will move  
16 the rest of the agenda ahead one-half hour.

17 We're now recessed.

18 (Whereupon, the above-entitled  
19 matter went off the record at 9:46 a.m. and  
20 resumed at 10:16 a.m.)

21 MR. FRAZIER: Okay, I see the last  
22 few Commissioners coming up to the table.

1                   General, I will turn it over to  
2                   you.

3                   CHAIR SCOWCROFT: All right. If  
4                   we could please get started?

5                   We now have the representative of  
6                   Congressman John Barrow with us, so we will  
7                   begin prior to our panel discussion with a  
8                   statement by Lynthia Ross.

9                   Ms. Ross?

10                  MS. ROSS: Good morning. The  
11                  statement from Congressman Barrow is very  
12                  brief and I'll read it. It reads as follows.

13                  To the Blue Ribbon Commission,  
14                  meeting participants, and attendees, the  
15                  importance of the civilian and defense nuclear  
16                  industries in this area cannot be understated.  
17                  Thousands of families rely on these facilities  
18                  for good jobs. Millions more rely on these  
19                  facilities for energy and security purposes.

20                  The best way to ensure the  
21                  continued vitality of these local and national  
22                  interests is to ensure that we have an

1 effective plan for the storage and disposal of  
2 used nuclear fuel and nuclear waste.

3 I commend you for your good  
4 efforts to that end. The Commission is wise  
5 to take advantage of the abundance of  
6 experience, knowledge, resources, and  
7 infrastructure available in the central  
8 Savannah River area.

9 Thank you again for your interest  
10 in this area and I wish you a very productive  
11 meeting.

12 Thank you.

13 CHAIR SCOWCROFT: Thank you very  
14 much, Lynthia. We appreciate your comment.

15 Now we have, as I said before, the  
16 panel on environmental perspectives.

17 The panelists are: for Friends of  
18 the Earth, Tom Clements; Georgia Women's  
19 Action for New Directions, Dianne Valentin;  
20 Savannah River Site Citizens Advisory Board,  
21 Manuel Bettencourt; Citizens for Nuclear  
22 Technology Awareness, Clint Wolfe; and Blue

1 Ridge Environmental Defense League, Charles  
2 Utley.

3 We'll begin in that order.

4 Mr. Clements, you may begin.

5 MR. FRAZIER: I might just add,  
6 each of you will get 10 minutes. We're using  
7 a lighting system. The light will be green.  
8 It will start blinking when you have two  
9 minutes left. It will go yellow when you have  
10 one minute left. And you'll know when your  
11 time is up.

12 MR. CLEMENTS: Thank you.

13 Good morning to everyone and to  
14 the Blue Ribbon Commission. Thank you very  
15 much for having me here.

16 My name is Tom Clements and I'm  
17 the Southeastern Nuclear Campaign Coordinator  
18 for Friends of the Earth, which is an  
19 organization based in Washington but I live in  
20 Columbia, South Carolina.

21 I would like to add that I used to  
22 live in Waynesboro, Georgia. My father was

1 the principal of the segregated high schools,  
2 the black high school and the white high  
3 school. But when Brown v. Board of Education  
4 came down in 1954 and he wanted to integrate,  
5 my father was harassed out of the county.

6 So I was not there to watch the  
7 Vogel plants being constructed. But I did  
8 watch them from other points in Georgia when  
9 I saw the price tag went from \$900 million to  
10 \$9 billion. I was born in Savannah, so I am  
11 from this region.

12 I'm going to run through a bunch  
13 of slides. And bear with me, I'm going to  
14 have to go pretty fast. But I'm going to add  
15 a dose of reality, I think, to some of the  
16 discussion here.

17 My main point is there's really no  
18 rush concerning high-level waste. The path  
19 forward is medium, and the medium term is  
20 secure on-site storage. It's not recycling or  
21 reprocessing.

22 As we've already heard, the NRC's

1 Waste Confidence decision, very recently the  
2 NRC instructed the staff to now look at  
3 storage for 120 years or more, on-site dry  
4 cask storage. There's some controversy about  
5 that but this is what's happening.

6 Also, according to the DOE, and  
7 you saw the storage buildings yesterday,  
8 they're looking at an estimated useful life of  
9 100 years.

10 So there's time to make the right  
11 decisions now. I don't want you to feel  
12 rushed as you go forward.

13 Unfortunately, there's been some  
14 misinformation about the vitrified high-level  
15 waste at Savannah River Site. It's been  
16 presented that all of it was going to be taken  
17 to Yucca Mountain.

18 But in fact, according to the  
19 environmental impact statement from Yucca  
20 Mountain, only 8,315 canisters -- there was  
21 only room for that amount in the Yucca  
22 Mountain repository. About 20,000 canisters



1 are going to be produced, primarily at  
2 Savannah River Site and Hanford.

3 So it appears to me that some of  
4 the waste was actually going to be orphaned,  
5 given the Yucca Mountain process that was  
6 before us.

7 The environmental community has  
8 known not only about the risks of military  
9 reprocessing but also about commercial  
10 reprocessing.

11 We're very familiar with the  
12 Barnwell plant. I'm sorry you didn't get to  
13 visit it, but it's right on the other side of  
14 the Savannah River Site. That's a picture I  
15 took recently. The Barnwell reprocessing  
16 plant, Allied General Nuclear Services, still  
17 sits as a monument to the failed attempt to  
18 reprocess in the United States.

19 In sum, we don't want to end up  
20 like West Valley. Thank goodness Barnwell did  
21 not operate or we would have a massive amount  
22 of high-level waste on our hands here in South

1 Carolina. That plant is still being cleaned  
2 up 40 years after it stopped operation and  
3 it's cost billions of dollars.

4 After the termination of the  
5 Barnwell project there was still a desire in  
6 this area to proceed to reprocessing.

7 This is a cover page of a report  
8 by Westinghouse which looked at the F- and H-  
9 Canyons for reprocessing and on-site storage  
10 for spent nuclear fuel. Luckily this didn't  
11 go anywhere.

12 But, now, as you're hearing, the  
13 H-Canyon is being presented as a R&D facility  
14 for reprocessing. But the H-Canyon is in  
15 trouble for budgetary reasons. I won't go  
16 into details. You can ask me about that.

17 Reprocessing may be on the way  
18 out. Alternatives for storage of the research  
19 reactor fuel are being discussed.

20 This is a paper from November  
21 which looks at continued wet storage and dry  
22 storage, and dry cask of the research reactor

1 fuel.

2 I ask you, are people looking to  
3 you, the Commission, to basically rescue the  
4 H-Canyon?

5 That's what it's sounding like to  
6 me. I don't think that's part of your  
7 mission.

8 In 2006 we were faced with a  
9 Global Nuclear Energy Partnership here in  
10 South Carolina and two proposals came forward  
11 for reprocessing.

12 One, to use the old AGNS or  
13 Barnwell site which I just showed you, and  
14 another for reprocessing on the Savannah River  
15 Site itself. But as you know, the GNEP  
16 process was canceled in June 2009 by the Obama  
17 Administration.

18 In that same year the South  
19 Carolina legislature spoke about what they  
20 think about reprocessing when the  
21 environmental community and public interest  
22 groups defeated legislation which would have

1 defined nuclear fuel reprocessing as a  
2 renewable energy resource. That was stripped  
3 out of the bill.

4 So the legislature here is not  
5 necessarily going to be supportive of any move  
6 towards reprocessing in South Carolina.

7 South Carolina is tired of being  
8 dumped on. As you know, the low-level  
9 facility which is right on the other side of  
10 the Savannah River Site was the nation's low-  
11 level waste dump until June 2008. It was  
12 closed in 2007.

13 We have a long experience of  
14 people bringing nuclear waste here and we  
15 don't want it to happen again with  
16 reprocessing.

17 But what's happening now, the  
18 Department of Energy has proposed a so-called  
19 energy park. In April 2009 they actually  
20 started an environmental assessment to look at  
21 leasing land at Savannah River Site for an  
22 energy park.

1           This environmental assessment was  
2 canceled under pressure, but part of what they  
3 were looking at was reprocessing at the site  
4 already, without public input and discussion.

5           I point this out because -- this  
6 is a slide from an Environmental Management  
7 presentation where EM itself presented spent  
8 nuclear fuel storage for Savannah River Site  
9 with no discussion from the public.

10           So it's Environmental Management  
11 which has been driving some of the  
12 reprocessing and spent fuel storage. They  
13 backed away from it some but there needs to be  
14 more public participation in that process.

15           In my opinion, the Office of  
16 Environmental Management is being distracted  
17 by a look at reprocessing and spent fuel  
18 storage at the site. Their mission is cleanup  
19 and they have been terribly distracted by  
20 trying to find a way forward towards an energy  
21 park at the site.

22           They need to get back to their

1 mission dealing with the cleanup of all the  
2 high-level waste you've heard about. It needs  
3 to be containerized and gotten out of the  
4 tanks.

5 This is the budget for  
6 Environmental Management, about \$1.4 or \$1.5  
7 billion dollars. It's about 75 percent of the  
8 budget of the site and it's the king of  
9 funding.

10 The energy park idea has been  
11 taken up by the main site contractor, Savannah  
12 River Nuclear Solutions. This is a  
13 presentation to the Savannah River Site  
14 Citizens Advisory Board in September.

15 And, in that, they presented Small  
16 Modular Reactors as part of a potential  
17 alternative to Yucca Mountain and also said  
18 that the idea of reprocessing fuel could be  
19 the disposition path for used nuclear fuel in  
20 South Carolina.

21 The environmental groups have not  
22 been involved in this discussion

1       unfortunately. They presented this perhaps  
2       with discussion of some of the contractors but  
3       not the environmental community.

4               Your charter, and I think part of  
5       the appeal here today by many people, is to  
6       watch out for jobs and future missions at the  
7       site. That's not your role. Although we're  
8       all concerned about future use of the site and  
9       jobs, I advise you to stay away from this  
10      whole issue of energy parks and what's going  
11      to happen in the future at the site.

12              This is a little bit of an aside  
13      but in parallel. This is from a FOIA document  
14      where there is already discussion about the  
15      need to make fast reactor fuel for the first  
16      core of what they call advanced recycle  
17      reactor at the MOX plant.

18              That's not the mission of the MOX  
19      plant. The people are already thinking ahead  
20      where they're going to have fast reactors  
21      here, breeder reactors, small reactors with  
22      reprocessing.

1                   The pledge for the MOX plant was  
2 never to use it for other purposes. I feel  
3 they violated that.

4                   What is the motivation for pushing  
5 for reprocessing when we've seen it proved  
6 wrong here in South Carolina time after time  
7 and in the country?

8                   I think it's more about money to  
9 special interests than anything else. And to  
10 keep future missions financed at the site. I  
11 think you should consider that in your  
12 deliberations.

13                   Reprocessing has failed in other  
14 countries. The Rokkasho Plant in Japan has  
15 not been able to start up after two years.  
16 None of the plutonium from the British  
17 reprocessing plant is being used. None of the  
18 plutonium from the Russian plant is being  
19 used. It's only the French program that's  
20 still going forward. All the European  
21 countries have pulled out of reprocessing in  
22 France.



1                   But here, geology may be what  
2 decides what's going to happen at Savannah  
3 River Site. We're about here. This is the  
4 coastal plain, the fall line of South  
5 Carolina.

6                   The Savannah River Site is in  
7 sandy soils that have a high water table.  
8 It's not a place to store radioactive waste,  
9 spent fuel, or conduct reprocessing. That's  
10 why the waste needs to be gotten out of the  
11 tank.

12                   So this may actually dictate what  
13 happens here and not politics; geology.

14                   I'm almost finished here.

15                   The environmental community has  
16 already come out against reprocessing at the  
17 site. There is going to be a grand battle if  
18 there is an effort to push forward with  
19 reprocessing.

20                   Here's just an example of some of  
21 the advertising that we've done for the  
22 community. Actually this is an ad in the

1 Metro Spirit, the weekly paper here in  
2 Augusta, this week. This was a forum with  
3 Frank Von Hippel and others a couple of years  
4 ago in Columbia with sponsorship by a number  
5 of groups.

6           You've heard this quote before.  
7 Dick Riley, the former Governor of South  
8 Carolina, said, "There is a basic law of  
9 political physics often overlooked, that waste  
10 tends to stay where it is first put."

11           We're worried that the waste would  
12 come here for temporary interim storage and  
13 stay here, and it would be a wedge into  
14 reprocessing. We don't want that to happen.  
15 We don't want South Carolina to become the new  
16 Yucca Mountain and we're going to fight it.

17           I've got a bunch of  
18 recommendations here. I've written a longer  
19 paper that I'm submitting and a fact sheet  
20 about the risks of reprocessing. You have my  
21 overhead presentation.

22           I appreciate your attention and

1 time. I'd be glad to answer any questions  
2 later.

3 If anybody wants a copy of the  
4 paper on the use of F- and H-Canyons that was  
5 produced in 1995, I'd be glad to get you a  
6 copy later.

7 Thank you so much.

8 CHAIR SCOWCROFT: Thank you very  
9 much, Mr. Clements.

10 Ms. Valentin?

11 MS. VALENTIN: Thank you. I  
12 appreciate the opportunity to be here to speak  
13 before you. Georgia WAND welcomes the  
14 opportunity to speak on behalf of our  
15 membership and our constituency throughout  
16 Georgia and the Southeast. Thank you.

17 A question: who carries the  
18 cumulative health and environmental burden of  
19 nuclear waste?

20 Answer: the American people living  
21 near nuclear waste producers.

22 Though we work with and know a

1 number of people who simply want to know --  
2 who simply want someone to answer the  
3 question, "Am I dying because of radioactive  
4 contamination of my ground, water, and land?  
5 Is my family dying around me because we live  
6 near nuclear waste contamination?" -- I have  
7 been personally touched by two families, one  
8 in South Carolina.

9 One South Carolina family directly  
10 and traceably impacted by radioactive  
11 contamination at Savannah River Site, and a  
12 Georgia family in limbo questioning the deaths  
13 of family member after family member from  
14 horrible cancers.

15 My words and my thoughts are to  
16 honor them, the Lindsey family and the Howard  
17 family, the concerns of those of them who  
18 live, and the memory of those who have passed  
19 on to the next life.

20 My words and my thoughts honor all  
21 who suffer living in the wake of those  
22 radioactive and toxic nuclear waste polluters.

1                   Those who breathe the air, drink  
2                   the water, harvest the leafy greens, and fish  
3                   the waterways as acts of generational familial  
4                   survival, not having known, or understood in  
5                   some cases, that they were condemning  
6                   themselves and their families that they had  
7                   fed and raised on the land and waterways for  
8                   years to the ravages of horrible and painful  
9                   cancers and other adverse health-related  
10                  issues.

11                  I honor them with my words today  
12                  in this place.

13                  Families in this community that  
14                  are not only dealing with the physical health  
15                  issues related to contamination, but the  
16                  emotional health and psychological health  
17                  issues that they face day in and day out.

18                  The stress of struggling  
19                  financially, only to find themselves further  
20                  burdened by the financial costs related to the  
21                  family members' medical bills and  
22                  hospitalization costs mounting.

1                   The psychological stress of  
2           knowing that if you spoke up or spoke out  
3           about your concerns related to nuclear waste  
4           contamination you may face reprisals, or  
5           someone in your family may feel backlash from  
6           those who think short-term construction jobs  
7           and an increased tax base are more valuable to  
8           the community at large than your family's  
9           health struggles.

10                   Because history, time, and  
11           personal experience has taught you that as a  
12           minority and/or poor person living in your  
13           community, you'd be better off being quiet.

14                   People living near toxic and  
15           radioactive nuclear waste deal with the  
16           adverse health and environmental impacts of  
17           that waste as a matter of course.

18                   Georgia WAND and its  
19           organizational partners work with and in  
20           communities as they identify what they  
21           themselves consider deficits in information  
22           surrounding their health and how their

1 environment is affected.

2 They seek data in order to make  
3 informed decisions surrounding the cumulative  
4 environmental burdens that they carry as a  
5 result of living near toxic radioactive  
6 nuclear waste producers and other large  
7 polluters.

8 We find it more than coincidental  
9 that as we saw the rise and talk of the so-  
10 called nuclear renaissance there was also a  
11 decline in, and in at least one case the  
12 elimination of, comprehensive monitoring of  
13 the environmental impact and effects of  
14 nuclear-related pollution and toxic  
15 contamination around nuclear facilities.

16 We have experienced that the SRS  
17 Environmental Management Team has chosen to  
18 place politics before human health concerns.

19 The budget for what had been a  
20 robust comprehensive monitoring program in  
21 Georgia around the Savannah River Site had  
22 been slashed over what could have been no more

1 than personalities or an inability to  
2 communicate effectively.

3 But that is not as egregious as  
4 SRS Environmental Management not fully  
5 restoring and adequately funding the robust,  
6 comprehensive, and now real-time environmental  
7 monitoring in Georgia, when that program is  
8 supported by the Washington Office of  
9 Department of Energy's Environmental  
10 Management Office and the Georgia  
11 Environmental Protection Division, which has  
12 submitted comprehensive plans to move forward.

13 My question is simply, which  
14 community and what stakeholders were SRS  
15 representatives and Southern Nuclear  
16 presenters referring to when they stated that  
17 they were concerned about meeting the needs  
18 and concerns of the community and their  
19 stakeholders?

20 Question: who suffers as a result  
21 of the indifference to human health and well-  
22 being shown by radioactive and toxic nuclear



1 waste producers, major polluters, and their  
2 enablers?

3 Answer: poor, minority, and  
4 disenfranchised American people.

5 Promoting self-determination and  
6 empowerment through information sharing and  
7 legislative action in affected low-income,  
8 marginalized, and disenfranchised communities  
9 situated near and around radioactive and toxic  
10 nuclear waste allows people who have felt at  
11 a loss to effect change in their lives and  
12 communities to begin to move in the direction  
13 of change.

14 Communications networks developed  
15 by grassroots activists who are affected in  
16 some way by having to deal with the cumulative  
17 health and environmental pollution burdens  
18 created by nuclear waste producers and other  
19 polluters work within their communities to  
20 further their goal of social change as it  
21 relates to the environmental injustice they  
22 face, the elimination of nuclear waste

1 proliferation, and monitoring the effects of  
2 these things on health and natural resources.

3 People who have been marginalized  
4 by society at large because they are poor and  
5 do not feel that they can make a difference in  
6 any process are beginning to come together by  
7 seeing that they have common concerns and  
8 their voices can be heard.

9 With the right tools, the  
10 community will be empowered to act in its own  
11 behalf.

12 We are convinced that by being  
13 provided with as much information as possible,  
14 communities that have been marginalized by  
15 racial, economic, cultural, and social  
16 barriers will be able to think critically  
17 about these high-cumulative environmental  
18 pollution burdens and issues that present  
19 themselves.

20 We are also convinced that if  
21 together we can inform an even wider circle of  
22 communities who are adversely affected and

1 impacted by these negative environmental and  
2 health issues, such as tritium in water, more  
3 people will be empowered to generate change in  
4 how these polluting entities see them, hear  
5 them, and respond to them.

6 Because some are small communities  
7 who are primarily poor, minority,  
8 marginalized, and disenfranchised, large  
9 polluters think that they do not matter.

10 We know that they do matter and  
11 that, armed with information and organization,  
12 they will be effective in their efforts.

13 We know that the communities that  
14 we have referenced are not receiving fair  
15 treatment relative to having to deal with  
16 these cumulative health and environmental  
17 pollution burdens.

18 We can make sure that there is  
19 access to available information that will  
20 allow them to speak on their own behalf or to  
21 have us available to do so at their request.

22 The communities that we serve

1 benefit by being informed and engaged. They  
2 are empowered to act in their own behalf when  
3 they see their environment and their health  
4 being adversely affected, as it is by the  
5 toxic and radioactive nuclear waste produced  
6 in this geographic area every day.

7 I thank you for your time and this  
8 opportunity to speak. I bid you peace and  
9 blessings.

10 CHAIR SCOWCROFT: Thank you very  
11 much, Ms. Valentin.

12 MS. VALENTIN: Thank you.

13 CHAIR SCOWCROFT: Mr. Bettencourt?

14 MR. BETTENCOURT: Thank you.

15 Well, let's go back. Thank you.

16 First, I want to agree with Tom  
17 that it's not EM's mission to create energy  
18 parks. There's limited federal legislation  
19 that allows communities to be involved in such  
20 things, but there needs to be additional  
21 legislation to allow for energy parks.

22 South Carolina has the regulatory

1 mechanisms to have the authority over the  
2 ultimate cleanup at Savannah River Site.  
3 High-level waste being at the site would  
4 affect the state's cleanup decisions.

5           Number two, Department of Energy  
6 has an affirmative obligation to South  
7 Carolina under Public Law 107-107 to plan,  
8 remove, and dispose of plutonium-laced high  
9 level waste. Plutonium has been added to  
10 high-level waste, it can't be segregated.

11           The plan must address the disposal  
12 of all high-level waste. DOE has failed to  
13 revise its disposition plan to reflect the  
14 termination of Yucca Mountain licensing  
15 proceedings.

16           The reprocessing of nuclear fuel  
17 is in the national interest, we believe. We  
18 believe it has been demonstrated. The  
19 enhancement of proven and pursuit of  
20 transitional technology in the fuel cycle  
21 should be a national goal.

22           The H-Canyon facility is the only

1 large operational reprocessing facility in the  
2 United States. The National Academy of  
3 Sciences has identified H-Canyon as a national  
4 resource.

5 We recommend the Blue Ribbon  
6 Commission identify H-Canyon as a significant  
7 resource for reprocessing research and  
8 development in the United States.

9 We are very concerned about the  
10 utility tax which has been paid by citizens  
11 and already spent to create an underground  
12 repository.

13 And that previous efforts at  
14 creating an underground repository could be  
15 used to accommodate defense waste segregated  
16 from commercial waste.

17 Specifically, we have 3,000  
18 canisters of defense waste, processing  
19 facility waste which are ready to go. We do  
20 not wish them to remain in South Carolina any  
21 more than they need to.

22 Finally, given the Blue Ribbon

1 Commission's mandate for open, transparent,  
2 and broad participation, the CAB is puzzled as  
3 to why the public has been asked to  
4 participate in this process without being  
5 privy to why the previous efforts to create an  
6 underground repository was not technically or  
7 politically feasible.

8 Thank you.

9 CHAIR SCOWCROFT: Thank you, Mr.  
10 Bettencourt. We appreciate your comments.

11 Mr. Wolfe?

12 MR. WOLFE: Good morning. My name  
13 is Clint Wolfe. I have been a resident of  
14 Aiken for 22 years. I'm the Executive  
15 Director of Citizens for Nuclear Technology  
16 Awareness and I'm the Chairperson of the  
17 Public Policy Task Force for the Carolinas'  
18 Nuclear Cluster.

19 I retired a few years ago from the  
20 Savannah River National Laboratory where I  
21 served as what is now called an associate  
22 director in charge of research and development

1 support for actinide chemistry, including  
2 plutonium and uranium fuel, and target  
3 recycling, tritium-related defense programs'  
4 missions, strategic materials, and the Global  
5 Threat Reduction Initiative.

6 In the late 1990s I served as the  
7 chairperson of the Technical Advisory Panel to  
8 the Department of Energy's plutonium focus  
9 area.

10 It was my privilege to address  
11 your subcommittee on Reactor and Fuel Cycle  
12 Technology in August in Washington. At that  
13 time I made a case for the utilization of the  
14 tremendous assets that exist not only in Aiken  
15 but in the central Savannah River area and in  
16 the three states of South Carolina, North  
17 Carolina, and Georgia.

18 I would like to incorporate those  
19 comments by reference in today's proceedings  
20 and also an opinion editorial that I wrote for  
21 the state newspaper a couple of months ago on  
22 the economics of reprocessing. I believe



1 those are both in the record now on your Web  
2 site.

3 With those remarks on the record,  
4 I'd like to expand today's remarks to what I  
5 believe must be the energy future of the  
6 nation.

7 What will be our energy policy?

8 If we had one, would it survive  
9 the next election cycle?

10 How will we provide energy to our  
11 nation in a way that provides a reliable,  
12 safe, and secure energy future?

13 The policy must encourage the  
14 production of safe, clean, affordable energy.  
15 The policy must be one that sets an example  
16 for the entire world.

17 This country justifiably puts  
18 great faith in the ability of free markets to  
19 implement policy, but they cannot be expected  
20 to define that policy.

21 Our energy policy must deal with  
22 how to effectively implement the choice or

1 choices that we ultimately make.

2 For many of us with technical  
3 backgrounds, that means we have to do our  
4 homework. Or in this case, research,  
5 development, and demonstration.

6 Technology maturity will vary with  
7 the options that we consider. And with it,  
8 the need for research, development, and  
9 demonstration if it is needed at all.

10 Currently the only mature energy  
11 sources that we could employ in a  
12 discretionary manner for powering the nation's  
13 grid are fossil fuels and nuclear energy.

14 Hydroelectric power is important.  
15 But it is where you find it, and we have found  
16 about all that we have.

17 Many would argue that we should  
18 use more wind and solar power. After all, it  
19 has been calculated that there is more energy  
20 in a Category 5 hurricane than in all of the  
21 thermonuclear weapons that have ever been  
22 detonated. And the enormous energy striking

1 the Earth's surface everyday from the sun is  
2 unquestioned.

3           These arguments do not take into  
4 account the thermodynamic difficulties of  
5 harvesting energy from such widely dispersed  
6 sources.

7           By analogy, consider the oceans of  
8 the world which contain more precious metals  
9 and more minerals than have ever been mined  
10 but do not represent a realistic source of  
11 these treasures because of the dilute nature  
12 of the resource.

13           So investments in wind, solar, and  
14 other alternative energies are appropriate for  
15 niche applications. But we should not be  
16 seduced by the wishful thinking that they  
17 represent a significant part of the answer to  
18 powering the grid of the future.

19           In order to have realistic energy  
20 sources, those sources must be concentrated.

21 You heard Mr. Miller refer to that earlier.

22           Fossil fuels met that test for

1 hundreds of years, and the energy of  
2 combustion from those fuels provided by the  
3 breaking and formation of chemical bonds  
4 powered the developing world.

5 But the indiscriminate dumping of  
6 the waste from this combustion into the  
7 biosphere has imperiled the planet, increased  
8 the acidity of the oceans, and led to  
9 premature death for millions of people. And  
10 the resources are finite.

11 If we now contrast that situation  
12 with nuclear energy, we find that nuclear  
13 energy meets the test of being concentrated as  
14 the fissioning of one uranium atom is millions  
15 of times more energetic than the combustion of  
16 the carbon atom.

17 It is truly ironic that one of the  
18 main concerns expressed by opponents of  
19 nuclear energy is that we don't know what to  
20 do with the waste. Remember this country  
21 knows where all of its nuclear waste is  
22 located. It is protected, it's monitored,

1       it's guarded, and it's never killed anybody.  
2       The characterization of nuclear waste being in  
3       a dump is incredibly inappropriate.

4                 Since our energy policy must  
5       address waste management issues, let's look at  
6       some nuclear waste.

7                 I'm holding in my hand a mock-up  
8       of a section of a nuclear fuel rod. I've  
9       removed a pellet that represents a mock-up of  
10      a nuclear fuel pellet.

11                I apologize to all those in the  
12      back who can't see that because it's really  
13      not a very good prop; it's very small. It's  
14      about the size of a pencil or eraser.

15                Four or five of these pellets  
16      provide all the electricity that a household  
17      needs for one year.

18                A successful recycling protocol  
19      would enable four or five of these pellets to  
20      provide all of the electricity for an  
21      individual's lifetime requirements. Surely  
22      our nation can deal with the issue of what to

1 do with those four pellets for a person at the  
2 end of that person's life.

3 After we've recycled all we can,  
4 our energy policy needs to provide for a  
5 repository for what is left.

6 Likewise, a repository will be  
7 needed for defense high-level waste. I  
8 understand that you visited that facility  
9 where it's stored yesterday. This repository  
10 may or may not be the same repository for each  
11 use. But we'll need it, so let's get on with  
12 it.

13 I emphasize a recycling protocol  
14 because it will be imperative that our energy  
15 policy as a matter of national security avoid  
16 tight supplies of uranium as many countries of  
17 the world turn to their only logical choice  
18 for electrical energy.

19 Hundreds of new nuclear plants are  
20 in the planning stage worldwide. A 1993  
21 treaty with Russia has provided high-enriched  
22 uranium from former Soviet weapons for blend-

1 down to make fuel that has produced 50 percent  
2 of our recently nuclear generated electricity.  
3 This treaty expires in 2013.

4 It is therefore a requirement for  
5 our national security that we become leaders  
6 in reactor technology and recycling  
7 technology.

8 We wouldn't buy 20 gallons of  
9 gasoline, put one gallon in the car, and pour  
10 the rest into the ground. But our current  
11 nuclear fuel policy is tantamount to doing the  
12 same thing.

13 So our energy policy must support  
14 extracting maximum energy from our nuclear  
15 fuel.

16 I'm not here to advocate for a  
17 particular recycling protocol. I am here to  
18 advocate for this country to urgently examine  
19 the potential options with a thorough research  
20 and development and demonstration program so  
21 that we understand what opportunities exist.  
22 Such a program will inform our future

1 decisions as we aggressively pursue the best  
2 current technology to begin replacement of  
3 fossil fuel.

4 This nation has a single facility  
5 capable of conducting such a program. That  
6 facility is H-Canyon and the associated assets  
7 existing at the Savannah River Site.

8 Small Modular Reactors, or SMRs,  
9 fast reactors, and new reactor technology will  
10 supplement the current worldwide fleet of  
11 nuclear power stations and those currently  
12 being constructed or proposed as the world  
13 comes to realize the necessity of producing  
14 electricity with nuclear power.

15 SMRs will provide the ability to  
16 right-size electricity production to meet the  
17 needs of developing nations, defense bases,  
18 and as replacements for hundreds of coal-fired  
19 generating stations of less than 300  
20 megawatts.

21 The latter application is  
22 particularly attractive as the SMR would



1 simply replace the current carbon-emitting  
2 generation technology easily connecting to the  
3 grid through established infrastructure. This  
4 application of SMRs should become a  
5 cornerstone of our energy policy.

6 We have previously spoken about  
7 the wisdom of establishing an energy park at  
8 the Savannah River Site to evaluate SMRs and  
9 recycling protocols.

10 Concerns over safeguarding  
11 fissionable materials to prevent them from  
12 falling into the wrong hands are important  
13 considerations. But one must ask, are we  
14 safer as a nation and a world if the US leads  
15 or follows in responsible nuclear materials  
16 management?

17 We cannot withdraw from  
18 technological leadership in nuclear energy and  
19 still expect to be defining the rules of the  
20 game with respect to nonproliferation. This  
21 question bears directly on our national  
22 security and the security of the world.

1                   We simply cannot afford to be less  
2                   than number one in nuclear technology. And  
3                   yet we are slipping further behind as we allow  
4                   our investment to wither and others  
5                   aggressively pursue a nuclear future.

6                   We now have two compelling facets  
7                   of national security which are both served by  
8                   leadership and the emerging nuclear technology  
9                   fields: a secure energy supply and an  
10                  effective nonproliferation protocol. Our  
11                  energy policy must address both of these  
12                  requirements.

13                  If you'll bear with me for 10 more  
14                  seconds.

15                  With nearly one-third of the  
16                  world's population without electricity, we can  
17                  expect a growing demand for services requiring  
18                  more and more energy.

19                  These people have the right to  
20                  expect their lot to improve, and we cannot  
21                  help them achieve that improved quality of  
22                  life without helping them get the only energy

1 that makes sense. We certainly don't want  
2 them to burn fossil fuels to get their energy.

3 Earlier I said I was not here to  
4 advocate for a particular recycling protocol.  
5 But I want to emphasize again that we must  
6 have a national policy of thoroughly  
7 understanding what all of the options are.

8 Much of the investment and such an  
9 approach is already in place at the Savannah  
10 River Site. Please use it.

11 Thank you for the opportunity to  
12 speak to you.

13 CHAIR SCOWCROFT: Thank you very  
14 much, Mr. Wolfe. We appreciate your comments.

15 Mr. Utley?

16 Yes. If you wish.

17 MR. UTLEY: Good morning to each  
18 of you. Thank you for this opportunity to  
19 share from what I consider is Ground Zero.  
20 I'm here to speak on behalf of those who live  
21 at Ground Zero.

22 One thing that I want to make real

1 clear to you this morning and to the Blue  
2 Ribbon Commission is that we feel that there  
3 is a need for a non-American nuclear-free  
4 future. It can be achieved.

5 When I look at your statement as  
6 what you were charged with and the things that  
7 you were given by President Obama, it talks  
8 about the importance of technological. Also  
9 that alternatives should be looked at and all  
10 the things that you are looking at now. I  
11 commend you for that.

12 But I say that there are better  
13 alternatives.

14 I know some of them have said that  
15 there is a lot that we'll not achieve by  
16 solar. But I say to you, solar is one that if  
17 we look at it in 2050 will take away the need  
18 or dependency on oil.

19 I say that because we find that  
20 they are carbon-free and they are nuclear-  
21 free, according to Arjun Makhijani, who is  
22 with the Institute for Energy and

1 Environmental Research, IEER.

2 I want to also say that there is a  
3 potential in wind. If we look at wind we  
4 realize that even at its 30 percent  
5 capabilities it will produce 750 kilowatts of  
6 electricity, producing some 2 billion.

7 I say that there is an  
8 opportunity. There is an opportunity for us  
9 to go forward and do some of the things that  
10 are needed.

11 But we must be good stewards also.  
12 We must realize that energy conservation is a  
13 need. We must realize that we need to change  
14 our patterns and look at energy and our land  
15 use, as well as our conservation of what we  
16 are doing even as we speak today. There is an  
17 opportunity to build green buildings and we  
18 must heed to that.

19 I say that to you because when we  
20 look at renewable energy and all that we can  
21 do, we must fit the puzzle together. We have  
22 a lot of great minds out there that can put

1 the puzzle together so that we'll be able to  
2 see what is needed to make our energy parks as  
3 we talk about efficient and effective.

4 I'll tell you, even David  
5 Flanagan, PhD who has learned nuclear energy  
6 has also made this same statement.

7 You say that nuclear power plants  
8 are safe. But I say to you, 27 of the 104  
9 leak some type of tritium and radioactive  
10 waste.

11 We realize that there are  
12 carcinogens all around us all the time. I  
13 know and I have attended many funerals of  
14 those who work at some of these so-called safe  
15 plants. They die, what we say is much too  
16 young.

17 I say that to you because Richard  
18 M. Moss, a professor of epidemiology at  
19 Harvard School of Public Health, reports that  
20 there is no safe threshold. There is no  
21 intention and there will never be where  
22 ionized radioactive energy will not affect a

1 person. There is no such threshold that will  
2 be safe.

3 I'm talking about those at Ground  
4 Zero who live in these communities, those that  
5 live at EJ communities who suffer from being  
6 in the proximity of such plants. These EJ  
7 communities are one and we look at all that  
8 they do.

9 When we just think about --  
10 there's a lot of talk about Yucca Mountain.  
11 We talk about it because we realize that 30  
12 percent of the uranium was mined and the  
13 polluted drinking waters it left behind. We  
14 talk about it because US EPA and the Navajo  
15 population have a case where there is still  
16 unsafe drinking water.

17 I'm saying that because around  
18 Savannah River Site and around Plant Vogtle is  
19 only a snapshot of what will happen to the  
20 communities like Shell Bluff and those that  
21 live in Barnwell and other areas, in the rural  
22 areas where they are still on well water.

1           The potential for catastrophic  
2 accidents and terrorism? Yes, it is alive.  
3 It is well whether we admit it or not.

4           We must realize that even as we  
5 sit here today we have the most sophisticated  
6 technology folks and they talk all over the  
7 world. It's here right in our midst.

8           We have SRS known more so as the  
9 bomb plant and it's right in our door. We  
10 have with us now with Plant Vogtle setting up  
11 two new reactors, two new reactors, giving  
12 four. I wonder all the population that will  
13 be impacted.

14           I say impacted because we say that  
15 we have this good technology. But yet when we  
16 realize the AP1000 is in its 18th revision, to  
17 me that's some bad science going on somewhere.  
18 If anything takes that long to develop, there  
19 must be something wrong with it.

20           I'm looking back because there is  
21 no change in climate change when we talk about  
22 what nuclear waste is going to do. It will



1 not change climate control. The climate will  
2 not be affected by it.

3 When we look at our health and we  
4 think about it, our health is being impacted.  
5 I say that because when we look at what is  
6 even in our day-to-day lives, how the impact  
7 has been on even Barnwell, even with Aiken, we  
8 find that there is an increase.

9 In 1997 they looked at the health  
10 effects. The majority of those, out of 1,000,  
11 10.1 in one area and 9.1 in another area.

12 I'm talking about it because where  
13 it's been found that there are nuclear plants.  
14 I'm looking at it because I understand there  
15 are some sad stories out there, young 13-year-  
16 olds who have been exposed and have brain  
17 cancer simply because of their locale and  
18 being around nuclear plants.

19 We say that because there is a  
20 difference that we must make.

21 I say that because we look at it  
22 and we say everything has an impact on our

1 economics. Yes, it does. It does have an  
2 impact on our economics. But whose economics?

3 When we look at it and we look at  
4 -- I want to bring it a little closer to you.  
5 Because when we think about it, when we go to  
6 buy a piece of land the banks will not give  
7 you money to buy land. They say that's a bad  
8 investment. But what they will do is give you  
9 money to buy a new automobile, something that  
10 will depreciate the moment you drive it off  
11 the lot.

12 I say that because when I look at  
13 nuclear power plants, nobody wants to invest  
14 their money in nuclear power plants because  
15 the default rate is so high. They want to  
16 take your dollars. They want to use other  
17 dollars to influence.

18 They are the best at using others.  
19 They get legislation to pass bills that will  
20 pay it. They get the PSC to give them  
21 increases.

22 And yet when they go into default,

1       which is approximately 50 percent, who picks  
2       up the bill?

3                   The taxpayers. And according to  
4       Ray Alexander, President of Taxpayers for  
5       Common Sense, who also makes that statement.

6                   I say unto you, it's just as bad a  
7       policy as those who practice giving money for  
8       buying a new car that's headed to the junk  
9       yard as giving to those who build power plants  
10      that are headed for default.

11                  I want to say this morning that we  
12      have an obligation. It would be none to me if  
13      I didn't say anything, but I must say it. I  
14      must say it because I am a steward of this  
15      land.

16                  I must say it because we all have  
17      been given an obligation that we must look  
18      back. And we can look forward to what it is  
19      that we can develop.

20                  I see my light is flashing so I  
21      need to put it in fast-forward.

22                  We need to realize that when we go

1 and -- what we need to do -- we need to look  
2 at the cookie cutter for trying to put  
3 everything into one cookie.

4 We don't need the NRC trying to  
5 run everything, realizing that 59 of its  
6 permits have been approved and another 37  
7 pending and they have yet to deny one. I say  
8 to you, we need somebody else looking over  
9 their shoulders.

10 I say to you, because it is an  
11 effective thing that we must care for our  
12 neighbor. We must care for all of those who  
13 are seeking justice and injustice is being  
14 done to them.

15 I know my time is out but I want  
16 you to realize you have an awesome  
17 responsibility, not only to this country but  
18 to our President. I realize that he has given  
19 you an awesome task.

20 But we stand ready to help you, to  
21 help make those right decisions. Because  
22 those right decisions will create jobs; they

1 will create a child who can grow and develop  
2 to its fullest potential, not having to worry  
3 about where he lives at.

4 And it will give us an opportunity  
5 that we can work together cohesively and solve  
6 America's energy problem.

7 I tell you, we can do it. We just  
8 have to take the time and do what's needed.

9 God bless you.

10 CHAIR SCOWCROFT: Thank you very  
11 much, Mr. Utley.

12 Are there questions from the  
13 Commissioners?

14 Allison?

15 MEMBER MacFARLANE: Thank you very  
16 much this morning, panelists.

17 I have two questions, mostly for  
18 Tom Clements. But I wonder if Clint wouldn't  
19 also chime in on the second question.

20 The first question is, Tom, what  
21 is your plan for dealing with the high-level  
22 waste that's removed from the tanks and put

1       into glass? Do we need a repository; where  
2       would that repository be?

3                   MR. CLEMENTS: I discuss this more  
4       in the paper that I will either email or hand  
5       to someone.

6                   I do think there may well need to  
7       be a new repository sited. I personally don't  
8       think that Yucca Mountain could have been  
9       licensed and it had problems.

10                   I agree that there should be some  
11       path off the site at some point in time but  
12       there's no rush to get those logs off the  
13       site, the 3,000 that have already been filled.

14                   The focus has to be on getting the  
15       waste out of the tanks now and getting it out  
16       of a liquid form. I think where it goes next  
17       is of lower priority.

18                   MEMBER MacFARLANE: Okay. The  
19       second question for you, and then if maybe  
20       wants to say something -- I realize you guys  
21       aren't officials of anything. Well, what you  
22       work for right now. But you're not officials

1 of the federal government.

2 Nonetheless, it occurs to me that  
3 there's a lot of discussion about H-Canyon.  
4 We weren't, or I personally wasn't aware of a  
5 lot of these issues until we got here  
6 yesterday. So it was very useful to go on the  
7 tour.

8 But I'm kind of struck because  
9 everybody seems to be looking for a new  
10 mission for H-Canyon, but there was one that  
11 seemed to be passed up. And that was with the  
12 MOX facility.

13 So you have this new MOX facility  
14 which requires a cleanup line for a lot of  
15 that plutonium. And that cleanup work it  
16 seems to me could have been easily done by H-  
17 Canyon if it's so flexible, as it was  
18 described to us yesterday.

19 So why wasn't it used? Why are  
20 they building an entirely separate new  
21 facility to clean up the plutonium?

22 MR. CLEMENTS: Yes. I don't think

1 I'm necessarily one to ask.

2 But there is a plan to build in  
3 the K reactor area a facility that would  
4 process plutonium, in addition to the pit  
5 disassembly building, that would -- I think  
6 it's called the plutonium -- I can't quite  
7 remember what it's called -- to go to the MOX  
8 plant.

9 So there is another facility  
10 there. I think it's to convert it to oxide  
11 that would feed the MOX plant.

12 But the role of the H-Canyon had  
13 been to -- and they've already processed --  
14 and somebody from Environmental Management  
15 should answer this and really not me. They've  
16 already processed some of the dirtier  
17 plutonium through the H-Canyon into the sludge  
18 preparation tank into DWPF for direct  
19 vitrification.

20 So they are looking at using the  
21 H-Canyon for vitrifying several tons of  
22 plutonium that wouldn't go to MOX. It's the



1 dirtier material.

2 The question would be, what  
3 happens if the H-Canyon's not there to vitrify  
4 that into high-level waste?

5 DOE has been looking at direct  
6 disposal in the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant.

7 But if H-Canyon's not there for  
8 that vitrification they still could make glass  
9 pucks, which they have looked at. Plutonium  
10 pucks, not the ceramic, which was the first  
11 choice years ago. Which they should have  
12 pursued and put those in the high-level waste  
13 canisters, and the H-Canyon wouldn't be  
14 necessary, in my opinion.

15 But let me add -- I'm sorry,  
16 Clint.

17 I touched on it. But I think the  
18 H-Canyon is in search of a mission. Really  
19 cutting to the chase -- I don't exactly know  
20 how much it brings in a year, \$250 million --  
21 I think in large part it's a monetary issue to  
22 keep work at the site.

1 I'm very sensitive about the jobs  
2 issue. But we shouldn't continue expensive  
3 programs if they're just looking for a  
4 mission.

5 The continuing resolution as I  
6 understand it is not going to allow the  
7 restart of the H-Canyon for reprocessing the  
8 highly enriched research reactor fuel because  
9 it's considered a new project under the  
10 continuing resolution.

11 The continuing resolution is now  
12 until March 18. We're not going to get a  
13 decision about that. And if it continues the  
14 rest of the year, a new project is not going  
15 to be allowed.

16 I think OMB is concerned about  
17 these annual costs for that facility. So  
18 there's a lot of complicated things going on,  
19 mostly related to the budget.

20 But if it's not there -- all of a  
21 sudden in the last several weeks we're hearing  
22 more about finding another mission for R&D for

1 commercial spent fuel.

2 I think the facility is looking  
3 for justification and I'm really uncomfortable  
4 with that. So tread carefully.

5 MR. WOLFE: First of all, I would  
6 not want to represent myself as understanding  
7 what DOE thinks is the basis for why they made  
8 various decisions.

9 MEMBER MacFARLANE: Yes. I just  
10 find your viewpoint helpful.

11 MR. WOLFE: But I can recall  
12 conversations that we had as participants and  
13 the thought processes that went on many years  
14 ago.

15 Certainly, using H-Canyon to  
16 prepare material for MOX is kind of like using  
17 a sledgehammer on a tack. Because the MOX  
18 facility just needed primarily a polishing  
19 kind of operation because they're starting  
20 with relatively pure plutonium.

21 H-Canyon is designed to separate  
22 uranium and plutonium from a more varied

1 matrix. It is the only such facility that we  
2 have that would be applicable to recycling  
3 fuel or reprocessing fuel.

4 In fact, the mission for that  
5 originally was to not only deal with the  
6 material that was made on-site, but to deal  
7 with the foreign research reactor fuel and  
8 domestic reactor fuel that was returned  
9 through treaty obligations.

10 Good thing we did, but we  
11 retrieved all that fuel from abroad and  
12 treated it in H-Canyon; a very crucial mission  
13 for H-Canyon.

14 I suppose Tom is correct to a  
15 certain extent that the parent missions for H-  
16 Canyon have -- in my view the urgency of those  
17 missions has diminished, at least politically.

18 So the question is, are we going  
19 to let the only facility that this country has  
20 to deal with materials of that nature simply  
21 close?

22 By the way, shutting down, it's --

1 many of you are familiar with once you shut  
2 something down it's very, very difficult to  
3 bring it back.

4 So the question is, is there a  
5 legitimate need that that facility can  
6 provide?

7 Many of us who are familiar with  
8 reprocessing nuclear fuel look at that and say  
9 it's obvious; we need to do that program in H-  
10 Canyon. We've got a facility for it.

11 If we don't do it and we decide  
12 later we're going to, it's going to cost this  
13 country several billion dollars to get back to  
14 the same capability that we currently have out  
15 there.

16 It's not make work. It is let's  
17 do something very important with a resource  
18 we've already invested in, that the taxpayer  
19 has already invested in. It represents a  
20 tremendous resource.

21 That's why we would propose that  
22 H-Canyon be considered for a research,

1 development, and demonstration program to  
2 compare various protocols of recycling.

3 CHAIR SCOWCROFT: Thank you very  
4 much.

5 Phil?

6 MEMBER SHARP: Yes. I wanted to  
7 turn to a set of issues that we've heard  
8 various places.

9 That is, what procedures might be  
10 put in place to help assure citizens in a  
11 local area can get information; how procedures  
12 can assure them to have some kind of input  
13 prior to decisions being made; and then  
14 finally, how citizens can have some  
15 participation in the environmental monitoring  
16 that goes on.

17 We're focused not on the power  
18 plants, but we're focused on any of the waste  
19 disposal options kind of thing.

20 I wondered if you could speak to  
21 that, Ms. Valentin?

22 You started out in yours

1       indicating that something has changed here,  
2       which I'm not familiar with on the  
3       environmental monitoring side. But this  
4       affects citizens of multiple points of view  
5       and there is obviously intense interest by  
6       people who live in these areas.

7                   MS. VALENTIN: Well, I would like  
8       to start off saying that when you are  
9       functioning in a community that -- if you  
10      would like to go back in history to what we  
11      knew as the Jim Crow era, where you have  
12      people in authority who are making decisions  
13      about the general community without every  
14      stakeholder's consideration, you might  
15      consider that this is a version of that.

16                   You have people making broad  
17      decisions about the vast community without  
18      getting input or giving consideration to every  
19      one of the stakeholders.

20                   I heard that one of the speakers  
21      said that every person was asked and every  
22      person was in favor of Vogel bringing on two

1 more reactors. That's not the case. And even  
2 in the best of circumstances, everybody  
3 wouldn't have been asked and everybody  
4 wouldn't have given a positive response.

5 But in a situation that we find  
6 ourselves in now, you have people who are  
7 simply not even considered. They're not  
8 asked. No one goes to their communities.

9 And when you find that we're at a  
10 public hearing or in a public meeting and  
11 representatives from our federal government  
12 say that, we've asked the stakeholders, and I  
13 say, what stakeholders did you ask?

14 They say, we asked the mayor, or,  
15 we asked the city council, or, we asked the  
16 Better Business Bureau. We asked, we asked,  
17 we asked.

18 But members of the community who  
19 are flushing their toilets, or when the bell  
20 rings at Vogel and there's a flushing going  
21 on, the water rises and lowers in their  
22 commodes then comes back up a different,



1 cloudy color.

2           You can't imagine people who you  
3 meet who are just robust and are interesting  
4 and have a lot of history in their community.  
5 And you meet them and in less than a year you  
6 visit them in the hospital with tubes and  
7 having had suffered considerably through  
8 health issues.

9           When you find that you have to sit  
10 and listen to people say that they have the  
11 community's interest at heart but they have  
12 not asked all of the constituencies that  
13 they're supposed to be representing, it's  
14 disheartening to find that we are still living  
15 in that situation in this day and time in  
16 certain communities.

17           But it is the reality that many  
18 people are living in in these communities  
19 around the sites. And it's not only happening  
20 here but it's happening in other communities  
21 across the country.

22           So it's really not something that

1 is new. But when you are a member of a  
2 community that has been marginalized and  
3 disenfranchised, you know that it's a  
4 continuum that has occurred.

5 MEMBER SHARP: Ms. Valentin,  
6 obviously you are a very effective  
7 spokesperson on behalf of the folks that  
8 you're describing here.

9 What I'm also looking for though,  
10 and want everybody else to think, is we have  
11 to or we should set up some kind of procedure,  
12 some kind of organizational technique that  
13 helps assure that -- in other words, it's --

14 MS. VALENTIN: If you are a member  
15 of a community that has very poor even cell  
16 reception, you have no internet connection,  
17 and you are not in a financial position to  
18 take the paper everyday, when a public service  
19 commission or a CAB or some other entity says  
20 they're having a public hearing, you may never  
21 know about it.

22 So you go through your life not

1 knowing that these conversations are going on.

2 And if no one has the  
3 consideration enough to seek you out and tell  
4 you, did you know that there was a hearing  
5 over in Augusta, or Aiken or up in Waynesboro,  
6 about these two new reactors that Vogel is  
7 planning, or, the releases of tritium from  
8 Savannah River Site, they say to you, what  
9 reactors? Or, what's tritium?

10 So it is a matter of a group of  
11 people, a significant group of people living  
12 in a situation that is pretty much a shadow  
13 situation.

14 We take a lot of things for  
15 granted. We think we take our methods of  
16 communication for granted. Everybody is not  
17 there.

18 There are people who are living in  
19 the wake of these things who do not even have  
20 decent cell reception. They are on dirt roads  
21 that are flooded in the rain and that school  
22 buses can't go down to pick up their children.

1                   This is supposedly in a community  
2                   that has been positively impacted by all of  
3                   these things coming into their communities.

4                   So when you have government  
5                   entities telling -- withholding tablets from  
6                   people because they're making that patriarchal  
7                   or master-servant decision that, we're not  
8                   going to offer you these things because we  
9                   don't want you to panic, because you just  
10                  can't possibly think through these things on  
11                  your own, what you would need.

12                  Or you have a government entity  
13                  that's telling you that, yes, we do have a  
14                  place for you to come in the case of  
15                  emergency. We've given you this radio and  
16                  we're going to announce it that you're  
17                  supposed to go to this safe place. And that  
18                  safe place is far enough away from you for you  
19                  to have been totally damaged by whatever this  
20                  catastrophic event is by the time you get from  
21                  where you live to that safe place.

22                  So there are issues of

1 communication between what could be considered  
2 those in authority and those who are affected  
3 by some of these things that we're dealing  
4 with.

5 MR. CLEMENTS: Let me just -- I  
6 know Manuel wants to say something. I'll give  
7 you an example of what Friends of the Earth  
8 and the South Carolina Chapter of the Sierra  
9 Club did besides running ads in the local  
10 papers, Columbia weekly papers, and Augusta.

11 We ran ads talking about the  
12 minority community about this meeting on the  
13 local gospel station. I know the Blue Ridge  
14 Environmental Defense League ran some ads. We  
15 also ran them on the rock and roll station.  
16 I got calls from people and I could hear the  
17 gospel station in the background.

18 So I'm going to put the question  
19 back to the Blue Ribbon Commission and DOE.  
20 Did you run ads to do outreach of any sort?

21 Because we took it on ourselves  
22 because we thought it was important enough to

1 do the very thing you're talking about, to  
2 reach out to people that might not necessarily  
3 get the word.

4 What you're seeing at the site and  
5 here is DOE has defined stakeholders in the  
6 large sense as contractors. You can see that.

7 Those of us who are not in the  
8 contractors circle or didn't work at the site  
9 are kind of mentally excluded by DOE. We have  
10 to think of ways to break through.

11 We did that in this case, the  
12 public interest groups who don't have a \$5  
13 million budget. So I would encourage you guys  
14 to think of ways to do this as well.

15 I think what Blue Ridge  
16 Environmental Defense League, Friends of the  
17 Earth, and Sierra Club did in this case is  
18 perhaps a good example to follow.

19 MR. UTLEY: I would like to also  
20 add to that that there are organizations  
21 within communities that are being left out.

22 There are ways that even through

1 churches and organizations that they can be a  
2 part of getting the news to the congregations  
3 or to those who are living in those  
4 neighborhoods. That is another way that we  
5 have used to get the word out.

6 I advise those that are holding  
7 meetings, there's nothing wrong with calling  
8 on those who are going to be influenced. They  
9 are going to somebody's church. And if we  
10 send a message to the missionaries of that  
11 area, your word would get out because they  
12 would make sure it gets out.

13 Those are the types of links that  
14 I think are missing from getting the  
15 information out that those in the grassroots  
16 area and those in the impacted areas are  
17 missing.

18 I want to ditto; there is no web  
19 site. There is no what we call email. Email  
20 is -- you use it day to day. But those in  
21 those rural areas, it's likely foreign to  
22 them. That's one of the keys that's missing.

1 MR. BETTENCOURT: Thank you.

2 Just one comment. I believe the  
3 issue is marginalized communities.

4 I believe that the Environmental  
5 Protection Agency and the Department of Energy  
6 through its environmental impact statement  
7 process has a very robust public publication  
8 process. The issue is the marginalized  
9 community being reached.

10 CHAIR SCOWCROFT: I would just  
11 like to add one thing. I think this is a  
12 serious problem. It is not a problem of  
13 nuclear waste. It's a problem of  
14 participatory democracy.

15 It's a real problem and it's one  
16 that we have to grapple with, but it is not  
17 our primary mission. Our primary mission is  
18 what to do about nuclear waste.

19 So all these well-meaning  
20 statements about we have to reach out to the  
21 community is not our mission. We're reaching  
22 out to the extent we can.



1                   But the problem fundamentally is a  
2                   problem of participatory democracy, in which  
3                   the United States is not as far along maybe as  
4                   it should be.

5                   MR. BETTENCOURT:   Yes, sir.

6                   There's a program called the Environmental  
7                   Justice Program, which if you're not aware of  
8                   it, you need to look into it.

9                   MS. VALENTIN:   Regarding that  
10                  issue of dealing with nuclear waste right now,  
11                  I think that from my perspective, until we  
12                  have a handle on what we're going to be doing  
13                  with the nuclear waste that we have, the  
14                  response and the answer to that, because of  
15                  the adverse effects that it has on the people  
16                  that we're referring to, should be that we  
17                  stop making it for the reasons that we've  
18                  given when we have such great alternatives.

19                  The gentleman talked about America  
20                  leading and following.   I am a political  
21                  scientist focusing on international affairs  
22                  and national defense, but I mostly introduced

1 myself as a peace and environmental activist.

2           When I think of all of the ways in  
3 our past that we have led, this is a wonderful  
4 opportunity for us through science and  
5 technology for us to move forward past this  
6 particular dinosaur that we keep throwing  
7 money after, and move us into a smart grid and  
8 a way of using energy resources that take us  
9 into a wonderful future.

10           I don't think when we have these  
11 discussions that it's fair to people who are  
12 adversely affected to not consider the whole  
13 nuclear waste stream.

14           We're here now talking about the  
15 back end and I appreciate that. But there  
16 were some speakers who presented, and they  
17 made comments that sounded very odd to be  
18 coming from technical people who are  
19 professionals when they totally dismissed our  
20 nuclear generation waste issues from cradle to  
21 grave. I just find that very disingenuous.

22           I think dealing with this waste

1 that we find ourselves here ending up with, we  
2 really need to be mature and futuristic and  
3 find ways to deal with it.

4 And in the meantime also develop  
5 our technologies and our sciences to move us  
6 into ways of finding energy production that  
7 does not leave this legacy of waste.

8 I think that our national security  
9 is impacted by our continuation of the  
10 development of nuclear power and this nuclear  
11 industry. Because we are not in as much  
12 control of it as we seem to want to lead  
13 people to believe.

14 The primary stakeholders -- some  
15 of the primary stakeholders in our own nuclear  
16 industry are the French government and  
17 Japanese business.

18 I can't imagine, being a political  
19 scientist, having foreign entities being in  
20 such control of such a sensitive area of our  
21 national security which is our nuclear  
22 industry. It amazes me that we've allowed

1 foreign entities in so deep to that particular  
2 industry.

3           Regarding comments made about  
4 helping poor people around the world find  
5 their energy source without using fossil fuel,  
6 it amazes me, and I've commented on it in  
7 other venues, that all of a sudden everybody  
8 is interested in how poor people get their  
9 energy when now that there is money flush in  
10 the nuclear industry when they weren't very  
11 interested in how poor people were securing  
12 their energy needs before.

13           I suggest that we use our  
14 scientific and engineering expertise to maybe  
15 teach those poor people around the world how  
16 to harness some of the solar capacities that  
17 they have.

18           We find a lot of those -- and I  
19 use terms that some of our presenters have  
20 used -- poor people tend to live in some of  
21 the places where solar energy would be  
22 wonderful.

1                   We really need to move forward and  
2                   stop continuously looking back on these old  
3                   things that have harmed us.

4                   MEMBER SHARP: Thank you, Mr.  
5                   Chairman.

6                   I appreciate the divergent views  
7                   on the panel about some of these issues.

8                   Not to further pursue it at this  
9                   moment, but something that I think we're going  
10                  to be pursuing on the Commission is figuring  
11                  out some of the procedures that ought to be  
12                  engaged in if we decide we need an interim  
13                  long-term storage facility.

14                  That means siting someplace.  
15                  We're not going to pick that place. But what  
16                  we may be recommending is how you go about  
17                  picking that.

18                  In that process what we would want  
19                  to be sure is there are some procedures in  
20                  place that help assure private citizens can  
21                  get access to information, have access to  
22                  specialized information -- which most of us as

1 private citizens, we don't engage in these  
2 nuclear issues on a day-to-day basis.

3 So who to believe is the problem.  
4 And you want to be able to get some expert  
5 opinion on it.

6 Various techniques after many  
7 local fights, court suits, and everything else  
8 have been developed at various sites around  
9 the country. I think it's useful for us to  
10 pull those examples together and talk to  
11 people like yourselves to see which ones are  
12 effective.

13 I'll just indicate one to you that  
14 was done in 1987. This is not sufficient to  
15 everything.

16 It was we established in Congress  
17 the Nuclear Waste Technical Review Board  
18 because claims had, I think legitimately, been  
19 made by many people that perhaps the science  
20 was being perverted in the decision-making  
21 process at the Department of Energy and  
22 elsewhere in the country. And that somebody

1       ought to have a more independent place to do  
2       it.

3                 So this was set up outside of the  
4       Department of Energy. It was set up where the  
5       National Academy of Sciences gave the  
6       President a preliminary list of people he  
7       could appoint -- he couldn't go beyond the  
8       list -- who were viewed as experts.

9                 Then citizens, internal people in  
10      the Department of Energy and others, could  
11      bring to their attention questions that they  
12      said need to be addressed.

13                I'm not claiming it's operated  
14      perfectly. I don't know; I haven't followed  
15      it closely. But it clearly was one of the  
16      kinds of techniques designed to try to get  
17      more independent voice and analysis in there.

18                Obviously we know in Nevada we  
19      have several different techniques we've used  
20      around Yucca Mountain for local citizen boards  
21      and things like that where they are assured  
22      some kind of access. Again, I'm not claiming

1       it's adequate.

2                   But it is those kinds of  
3 techniques that I think it's particularly  
4 important for us to at least get that  
5 inventory together for whomever will make  
6 these decisions to recognize, you start out  
7 with that stuff. You don't end up doing it  
8 after you've blown your credibility.

9                   CHAIR SCOWCROFT: Yes, please.

10                   MS. VALENTIN: Regarding that type  
11 of situation, if you had community involvement  
12 in the way that you refer to, based on  
13 technical and scientific advice from  
14 independent people, I think that we would not  
15 be 25 years in on trying to force Yucca  
16 Mountain to be exactly what we need it to be  
17 when in fact geologically it can't be.

18                   It is what it is. It's on a fault  
19 line. It leaks into the water table.

20                   So if what you are describing had  
21 taken place or was in place, we would have  
22 moved on from that maybe after two or three



1 years, maybe even five years, instead of 25  
2 years.

3 And we would have used that other  
4 20 years. We probably would have found  
5 someplace more appropriate by now.

6 So we tend to waste time and money  
7 looking back on things that don't work and  
8 trying to force them to be what we need them  
9 to be. We really need to stop doing that.

10 MR. UTLEY: I would like to also  
11 say that we have a lot of engineers. We have  
12 a lot of people who can help make those  
13 decisions and create those lists when we look  
14 at all of those that are at the school of  
15 Harvard and people like Makihijani who can  
16 give us those sciences that we need to make  
17 such a decision.

18 I agree with Dianne that we need  
19 to stop spinning our wheels and go forward  
20 with the technology and things that are  
21 pertinent to today's society as well as  
22 today's learning ability for those who are

1 working in the industry.

2 So I would say that to our  
3 President and to this Board, let us use those  
4 types of energies. Those experts are out  
5 there. Just corral them together and see if  
6 we can come up with a solution.

7 We cannot keep making something  
8 that we can't get rid of. We need to come up  
9 with something that's going to deplete and  
10 stop America in its tracks.

11 I commend you for your efforts.

12 MR. BETTENCOURT: Just a final  
13 reminder. This is a national problem. This  
14 is not a local community problem.

15 CHAIR SCOWCROFT: Are there other  
16 comments, questions?

17 I'd like to thank the panel for  
18 their participation. We appreciate your  
19 views. It has been very valuable to us to  
20 have them presented to us. Thank you very  
21 much.

22 We will now have a recess for

1 lunch and resume at 12:30.

2 The meeting is adjourned.

3 (Whereupon, the above-entitled  
4 matter went off the record at 11:35 a.m. and  
5 resumed at 12:32 p.m.)

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A-F-T-E-R-N-O-O-N S-E-S-S-I-O-N

12:32 p.m.

1 MR. FRAZIER: We're going to go  
2 ahead and get started. And in the interest of  
3 time, we have a lot of people who have signed  
4 up to make comments and we're going to try to  
5 maximize the amount of time. We're going to  
6 go ahead and get started.

7 General?

8 CHAIR SCOWCROFT: Thank you, Tim.  
9 Our afternoon resumes with a statement by  
10 Governor's Nuclear Advisory Council, Karen  
11 Patterson.

12 The floor is yours.

13 MS. PATTERSON: Thank you, General  
14 Scowcroft.

15 General Scowcroft and members of  
16 the Commission, the South Carolina Governor's  
17 Nuclear Advisory Council appreciates the  
18 opportunity to speak to you regarding nuclear  
19 waste. Mr. Ben Rusche, who is Chairman of the  
20 Council and is sitting right behind Ms.  
21  
22

1 Bailey, has asked me to provide your remarks  
2 today.

3 I'm Karen Patterson, a member of  
4 the Council and a resident of Aiken for almost  
5 40 years.

6 First, let me describe the Council  
7 to you so you can put our comments in context.  
8 The Council was created by statute to provide  
9 advice and recommendations to the governor for  
10 the use, handling, and management of  
11 transportation, storage, and disposal of  
12 nuclear materials and regarding the various  
13 programs of the U.S. Department of Energy  
14 pertaining to nuclear waste.

15 The statute prescribes the  
16 composition of the Council. One member each  
17 from the state Senate and the state House of  
18 Representatives, two members involved in  
19 environmental protection, two scientists or  
20 engineers from state universities, one member  
21 with experience in nuclear power generation,  
22 one with experience in nuclear activities

1 other than power generation, and one member of  
2 the public at large.

3 We appreciate the fact that the  
4 Commission on America's Nuclear Future is  
5 charged with recommending ways to manage the  
6 back end of the fuel cycle. We firmly believe  
7 that the single thing impeding our nuclear  
8 future is the effective handling of nuclear  
9 waste.

10 In South Carolina, we have a  
11 unique perspective on civilian defense used  
12 nuclear fuel and defense high-level waste. We  
13 have seven commercial reactors at four sites,  
14 all storing used fuel. Defense waste has been  
15 generated at the SRS since 1954, resulting in  
16 36 million gallons of liquid high-level waste  
17 waiting for vitrification prior to disposal in  
18 a geologic repository.

19 We have the only operating  
20 reprocessing facility in America, as you've  
21 already heard. We also have foreign and  
22 domestic research reactor used fuel, the

1 nation's excess plutonium, and commercial and  
2 defense low-level waste disposal facilities.

3 Construction on two new commercial  
4 reactors has begun, with two more planned. We  
5 have a commercial fuel fabrication facility.

6 Few states can match our inventory  
7 of nuclear materials. So when we think about  
8 nuclear waste disposal, we tend to circle back  
9 to two points.

10 The first is that the liquid  
11 defense waste at Savannah River Site must be  
12 disposed in a geologic repository. For one  
13 thing, it's required by law. For another, as  
14 you know, the decision to dispose of it in a  
15 geologic repository was made after exploring  
16 all the options under the Sun, including, I  
17 think, sending it to the Sun.

18 Finally, the waste currently is  
19 being vitrified into a form that meets the  
20 Waste Acceptance Criteria for a deep geologic  
21 repository with the characteristics consistent  
22 with Yucca Mountain.

1                   Our second point is that current  
2                   U.S. recycling generates too much waste. We  
3                   agree with the critics on that point.  
4                   However, we do not believe that reprocessing  
5                   is a reason to dismiss the nuclear future out  
6                   of hand. We understand that recycling has  
7                   challenges but our experience is that the  
8                   technology exists to solve those problems.

9                   With these points as our basis, we  
10                  identify four broad challenges to successfully  
11                  managing nuclear waste. The first, and in  
12                  some ways the easiest to address, are the  
13                  technical challenges. Since the end of World  
14                  War II, we have developed the capabilities to  
15                  safely manufacture, use, and dispose of  
16                  nuclear materials.

17                  I reiterate that we believe that  
18                  reprocessing should be part of our nuclear  
19                  future. However, in addition to developing a  
20                  more efficient recycling process, we would  
21                  also encourage research programs that focus on  
22                  fuel production and reactor technology with



1 the goal of creating a more efficient way to  
2 burn nuclear fuel.

3 The second challenge is the  
4 economics of nuclear energy and one that I  
5 believe has both direct and indirect  
6 implications. I will address only the  
7 indirect implications.

8 Tourism is a very large economic  
9 driver for South Carolina. Now, consider that  
10 many people have an inaccurate understanding  
11 of nuclear energy, leading to unfounded but  
12 very real fears about their health and safety.  
13 People will not vacation in South Carolina or  
14 retire here if they believe that nuclear waste  
15 is going to harm them. The state will not  
16 embrace any project that threatens its largest  
17 industry.

18 I will point out that contrary to  
19 what many critics of nuclear energy believe,  
20 local communities support nuclear facilities  
21 not only because they are economic engines but  
22 mostly because they are clean, safe, and well-

1 run industries.

2 The third challenge is political.  
3 And I can't improve on Senator Graham but I'm  
4 going to give it a shot. For any national  
5 policy to succeed, there has to be commitment  
6 and continuity by the federal government, as  
7 Senator Graham said. Even though the Council  
8 looks forward to South Carolina's role in the  
9 nation's nuclear future, we are very sensitive  
10 to the fact that the government has not always  
11 met its obligations regarding nuclear  
12 materials in South Carolina.

13 We are prepared to work with the  
14 federal decisionmakers to ensure that changing  
15 politics do not unduly effect the forward  
16 progress of waste disposition. However, we  
17 expect better alignment between the federal  
18 government's plans and the execution of those  
19 plans.

20 My fourth point gets to Mr.  
21 Sharp's question before lunch. The fourth  
22 challenge is building public acceptance.

1 Nuclear power is more accepted now than ever  
2 before. However, without almost universal  
3 acceptance, I think it is unlikely that any  
4 recommendations that the Committee makes will  
5 not come to fruition because any  
6 Administration's willingness to commit to an  
7 action appears to be directly related to its  
8 degree of public acceptance.

9 I personally believe that the root  
10 cause of the failure of Yucca Mountain was the  
11 lack of true public participation in the  
12 decision process. The country has  
13 demonstrated a reasonable and responsible  
14 solution to the disposal of highly radioactive  
15 materials and the failure of Yucca Mountain is  
16 not due to technical inadequacies.

17 This happens to be my soapbox  
18 issue, but I'm not going to belabor the point.  
19 Suffice to say that the National Academies of  
20 Sciences has concluded that better decisions  
21 are generated when the public is fully  
22 involved in every phase of the decision

1 process.

2 Other countries have successfully  
3 involved the public in making decisions. And  
4 the United States should follow their example.  
5 And it is -- there is a National Academies'  
6 publication 2008.

7 Okay, having named all of these  
8 challenges, I think it is only fair that we  
9 offer you our thoughts on some solutions.

10 So the Council feels that any  
11 national nuclear waste policy must be multi-  
12 pronged and have, at a minimum, these six  
13 elements.

14 First, flexibility. Different  
15 waste configurations and the environmental  
16 characteristics of potential disposal sites  
17 influence disposal options. One size will not  
18 fit all. Perhaps the approach of putting all  
19 commercial and defense waste in one facility  
20 or even one state is flawed and should be  
21 reevaluated.

22 Two, regulatory certainty. As I

1 mentioned, the vitrified waste at SRS is  
2 designed to be disposed in a facility that  
3 looks and acts like Yucca Mountain and we  
4 cannot reconfigure that waste nor reengineer  
5 the vitrification process to meet every new  
6 Administration's new ideas about how to manage  
7 waste.

8 Based on public law, the industry  
9 sized their used fuel storage and probably  
10 based their economic models on the expectation  
11 that they would not need to store, manage, or  
12 provide security for a reactor's lifetime's  
13 worth of spent fuel. There should be  
14 reasonable expectations that the rules will  
15 not change.

16 Third, a repository or  
17 repositories. Even with improved recycling,  
18 a repository will be needed to dispose of  
19 commercial used fuel. We've already talked  
20 about the need for a repository for the  
21 defense waste.

22 Fourth, recycling. The

1 technological basis for cost-effective  
2 recycling exists using lessons learned from  
3 DOE and the programs of other nations such as  
4 France. We believe that recycling must be a  
5 significant component of any policy. We also  
6 believe that the technology can be improved  
7 from its current inefficiencies.

8 Fifth, interim storage for used  
9 fuel. We offer that an effective way to  
10 identify potential sites for interim storage  
11 is to ask for volunteer communities. This  
12 method worked in Sweden and there's no reason  
13 it can't work here.

14 Sixth, funding for a rigorous R&D  
15 program to improve the repositories,  
16 recycling, and interim storage.

17 So our final point. No solution  
18 is perfect or pleases everyone. Even if some  
19 people consider our current solutions for  
20 nuclear waste disposal as flawed in some ways,  
21 we should not delay implementing them.

22 South Carolina has the benefit of

1 more than 50 years of lessons learned  
2 regarding nuclear materials. From that  
3 vantage point, we well understand the risks.

4 We also know that current  
5 technologies provide for the safe and secure  
6 management of nuclear materials. We support  
7 the country's need to be energy-independent  
8 and recognize nuclear technology as an  
9 important component.

10 We believe that the storage and  
11 disposal of nuclear waste is not yet a crisis,  
12 that there are multiple paths to resolution.  
13 That being said, it's time for the government  
14 to make some decisions and begin.

15 So I want to thank the Commission  
16 very much for visiting SRS. I hope that the  
17 visit was productive and pleasant, that you  
18 have benefitted from meeting some of us, and  
19 that when you leave, you will have a better  
20 idea of how the people in these communities  
21 think about nuclear waste.

22 CHAIR SCOWCROFT: Thank you very

1 much, Ms. Patterson, for a very well organized  
2 presentation.

3 MS. PATTERSON: Thank you.

4 CHAIR SCOWCROFT: We appreciate  
5 it.

6 (Applause.)

7 CHAIR SCOWCROFT: Are there  
8 comments or questions?

9 MS. PATTERSON: I should say,  
10 General, that I'm an editor so I don't take  
11 credit for it.

12 MEMBER SHARP: Yes, thank you very  
13 much. And it certainly has been an  
14 informative time here for all of us. I think  
15 some of our members have been here before. I  
16 have not.

17 And one of the things that I hope  
18 other people can recognize, it is obvious if  
19 you've visited here, is the sophisticated  
20 understanding of issues, the economics and  
21 management of these questions that resides  
22 beyond the people who are directly involved in



1 the industry itself, including its critics.

2 I mean it is just amazing. And that's another  
3 sign for why it is important to have  
4 participation by the public as these decisions  
5 go forward.

6 But I got on my soapbox now. So  
7 let me get off for a minute and ask you a  
8 question. You understand we raised the  
9 recommendation which one of our subcommittees,  
10 that I don't happen to be on, is looking at.  
11 And that is for the ultimate disposal site or  
12 -- well, it would be the same for the interim  
13 site, is the volunteer community that you  
14 would seek.

15 The question that always arises in  
16 that as we begin to define what we mean by  
17 that is how far does community -- what about  
18 the state government and also to what degree  
19 do you have surrounding states or surrounding  
20 communities? I mean obviously here we are  
21 right on the state border. And so what  
22 interest do they have? And how do we define

1 what constitutes a voluntary community?

2 MS. PATTERSON: Well, one size  
3 doesn't fit all for waste disposal. And it  
4 probably wouldn't fit all for picking a  
5 community.

6 And when you write a NEPA  
7 document, when you do a safety analysis,  
8 you've got a 50-mile radius around the site.  
9 So --

10 MEMBER SHARP: That's a starting  
11 point, right.

12 MS. PATTERSON: -- and I'm talking  
13 off the top of my head. At some point,  
14 somebody with some knowledge would have to  
15 narrow down who the effected, impacted  
16 communities would be. And then go from there.  
17 And you may identify more as you go through  
18 the process.

19 MEMBER SHARP: And I assume you  
20 presume the state government would have to be  
21 cooperative in this, I mean, because we have  
22 had situations where we have a community that

1 stepped up, not for ultimate disposal, but --  
2 and the state government has stepped in and  
3 said not here.

4 MS. PATTERSON: Well, I think as  
5 Tom said this morning, or somebody said, DHEC  
6 has a lot of regulatory authority over the  
7 tanks at the waste site and what's going on a  
8 Savannah River Site.

9 The reason there is a South  
10 Carolina Governor's Nuclear Advisory Council  
11 is because the Department of Energy of the  
12 federal government tried to move plutonium  
13 here without getting an input from us. So the  
14 result is the state took a greater interest.

15 I know that just as an aside,  
16 Governor Haley is -- Governor-elect Haley is  
17 much more interested in Savannah River issues  
18 than Governor Sanford was. Yes, the state  
19 definitely got to be -- and tribal nations,  
20 they have definitely got to be an important  
21 stakeholder.

22 CHAIR SCOWCROFT: Per?

1                   MEMBER PETERSON: You mentioned a  
2                   number of important changes in the process to  
3                   try to move forward towards developing  
4                   disposal technologies, storage, the other  
5                   elements that are needed for a functional back  
6                   into the fuel cycle.

7                   One of the things that is  
8                   discussed frequently and that, of course,  
9                   we've had an opportunity to look at also is  
10                  the idea that things might work better if  
11                  these responsibilities were transferred from  
12                  the Department of Energy to a new entity that  
13                  would have greater independence, direct access  
14                  to fee revenues, better continuity of  
15                  leadership, the flexibility to actually take  
16                  into account local, community, and state  
17                  concerns, and respond to them and so on.

18                  Have you thought about that within  
19                  your Council? And do you have any  
20                  recommendations?

21                  MS. PATTERSON: No. The Council  
22                  has not thought about it. Me, personally, I

1 have like thought about it a little bit.

2 My bottom line is I think that  
3 whatever we do -- and I mean a private entity  
4 is one option -- we have got, as Senator  
5 Graham said, we have got to get the politics  
6 out of this because the politics -- every four  
7 years an Administration can change. And that  
8 slows this process down tremendously. And we  
9 keep reinventing the rule which, for the  
10 people who live here, nobody needs to reinvent  
11 the wheel and it frustrates us.

12 CHAIR SCOWCROFT: Other comments?

13 (No response.)

14 CHAIR SCOWCROFT: Thank you very  
15 much, Ms. Patterson. We appreciate it.

16 MS. PATTERSON: Thank you.

17 CHAIR SCOWCROFT: Our next  
18 presentation is Savannah River Site Superfund  
19 Job Training Initiative will be give by  
20 Brendolyn Jenkins.

21 Ms. Jenkins?

22 MS. JENKINS: Good afternoon,

1 ladies and gentlemen. And certainly welcome  
2 again to our community. We are delighted to  
3 have you with us.

4 Again, I'm Brendolyn Jenkins. I'm  
5 the Executive Director of the Imani Group. It  
6 is a community-based nonprofit organization  
7 that's located in Aiken, South Carolina.

8 I'd like to talk with as has been  
9 said the Superfund Job Training Initiative and  
10 much has been said today and during your time  
11 about disposition and remediation and clean  
12 up. And I think that with this job training  
13 initiative, there was created true synergy  
14 within the community and with the site.

15 It was a win-win situation. We've  
16 coined a term called full-term or full-circle  
17 activism. That includes educating and  
18 empowering. But also in these economic times,  
19 employment. And so we were delighted to serve  
20 as the community partner for the Superfund Job  
21 Training Initiative.

22 What is the Superfund Job Training

1 Initiative? It is certainly a job-readiness  
2 program. Everybody is training in employment  
3 opportunities for under-employed, unemployed,  
4 and under-served communities.

5 It is offered by EPA in what's  
6 called a task grant. There are technical  
7 assistance services for communities. The  
8 communities that were impacted and recruited  
9 heavily from were those communities that are  
10 immediate neighboring communities to Savannah  
11 River Site and also here in Augusta,  
12 communities in the CSRA.

13 And certainly we don't need to  
14 remind ourselves of these economic climes and  
15 times but these communities were certainly  
16 severely impacted with joblessness. Allendale  
17 County, for instance, is a community that has  
18 25 percent unemployment. And to be a  
19 community that oft-time had been told that  
20 they would not, could not ever work at the  
21 Savannah River Site, for whatever reasons, we  
22 were delighted that this program came into

1 existence.

2                   How does the Superfund Job  
3 Training Initiative work? Each of these  
4 points will be explained in further detail.  
5 But it's about relationships and  
6 collaborations and partnerships built on a  
7 local level with businesses, community  
8 organizations, and federal agencies.

9                   We conducted candidate  
10 recruitment, training, and post-graduation  
11 follow up for the participants -- well, we  
12 call them scholars -- for our scholars.

13                   This pilot was initiated at the  
14 Savannah River Site. We were the first  
15 federal nuclear facility to have sponsored by  
16 the EPA TASC program a job training program.

17                   The first cycle was based in  
18 Aiken, South Carolina, and our recruitment  
19 period ran from January through May of 2009.  
20 Over 350 people attended the orientations, 113  
21 people were eligible for the tryouts. That  
22 was a two-day program of team building and



1 leadership. Twenty were selected for the  
2 program, five weeks of training, May through  
3 June of 2010. They went to work at the  
4 Savannah River Site in July 2010.

5 In the five weeks of training,  
6 they were offered pre-employment technical  
7 assistance. It's one thing to give folks a  
8 job, it's another thing for them to understand  
9 what a career means and being on a  
10 professional path. Not just having a job but  
11 what does it mean in terms of financial  
12 security. What does it mean to be responsible  
13 to your community as a good taxpaying citizen?

14 They received 40 hours of HAZWOPER  
15 training. They were CPR certified. They  
16 gained math and computer skills.

17 Our local partners for the first  
18 cycle was, in addition to the Imani Group,  
19 Aiken Technical College. Dr. Winsor, I think,  
20 is one of the Board members of this  
21 organization. And then the Savannah River  
22 Nuclear Solutions was the contractor that did

1 the hire.

2 The demographics, there were --  
3 let me back up for one second -- out of the --  
4 you see the age range, the trainee  
5 demographics, many of them were in their 20s.  
6 We had some range from 19 years old up until  
7 I think 58 years old. There were 18 African  
8 Americans, one Caucasian, one Native American,  
9 seven female, and 14 male participated in the  
10 program.

11 All of them that graduated from  
12 the program successfully work now with the  
13 contractor, Savannah River Nuclear Solutions.  
14 Seventeen graduates began to work as nuclear  
15 production operators and material handlers.  
16 The positions were full-time, permanent, with  
17 full benefits.

18 And just as an aside, one of the  
19 young ladies that participated in the program  
20 had worked for 11 years at one of the local  
21 factories and her highest salary that she made  
22 was nine dollars and 75 cents. And certainly

1 to be employed in a profession, a career  
2 track, was just life changing and  
3 transformative for her.

4 We want to thank Mr. Garry Flowers  
5 and any of the SRNS team that may be in the  
6 room for their participation.

7 After their completion, we conduct  
8 a 12-month follow up with all of them. On a  
9 monthly basis, we meet face to face. We do  
10 phone conferences. We got involved in  
11 children's honor roll exercises, graduation  
12 exercises, children being born, weddings,  
13 funerals, and in the photos that you see here  
14 of many of the scholars, this was in the first  
15 day of tryouts, the building there was also a  
16 local partner. It was a community church in  
17 Aiken that opened their doors and allowed for  
18 part of the training program to take place.

19 In the second photo here, we see  
20 where EPA Administrator Lisa Jackson visited  
21 with the scholars out at the Savannah River  
22 Site in addition to Representative Clyburn.

1 And they were featured in newsletters,  
2 billboards, and vans in the area.

3 In the tryouts, we had physical  
4 activity and we started the mornings with a  
5 vigorous workout and we continued it most  
6 mornings throughout the program.

7 Again, in Cycle 2, our second  
8 cycle, we were delighted to have the second  
9 cycle of the program. Our recruitment period  
10 was March through April of 2010. Two hundred  
11 and ninety-eight persons attended five  
12 orientations. One hundred and seventy-three  
13 people were eligible for tryouts. Forty-two  
14 were selected for the program.

15 This was an eight week program  
16 because our contractor was Savannah River  
17 Remediation. And so they received their  
18 preemployment technical assistance. Math and  
19 physics were taught to them, heat transfer,  
20 fluid flow.

21 The local partners for the Cycle 2  
22 was the Imani Group, Denmark Technical

1 College, Savannah River Remediation, and  
2 Allendale Department of Social Services.

3 The demographics, as you see, for  
4 that program in age, the age range, those that  
5 -- the age range shows there. And it shows  
6 the counties where the recruits came from.  
7 And we were delighted to have such a diverse  
8 group with us for Cycle 2.

9 It was twice as large as the  
10 first. And it came with twice as many  
11 headaches as the first. But it was very  
12 successful. And we're delighted to have had  
13 SRR as our contractor.

14 The young man that you see here in  
15 this picture was a young man who had graduated  
16 with a bachelor's degree in engineering and  
17 was languishing in his community, unable to  
18 find a job.

19 And so 11 of the 39 that -- of the  
20 42, I'm sorry, that entered our program, 11 of  
21 those trainees had college degrees. They were  
22 pulled out early and were fast-tracked

1 somewhat at Savannah River Remediation. And  
2 they are going through their training for  
3 radiological control inspectors. And they are  
4 becoming world class employees.

5 Of the others, the positions that  
6 they hired were for maintenance mechanics,  
7 nuclear production operators, and material  
8 handlers.

9 Again, we commend the SRR team,  
10 Mr. Jim French and certainly Ms. Michelle Mems  
11 and the entire SRR team. And the continued  
12 commitment, though, the partnership between  
13 the site, the EPA Region IV, Rob Pope and his  
14 team, certainly, certainly, I think some of  
15 them may be in the audience today, certainly  
16 bent over backwards to support this program.

17 And it's ongoing. Six of our  
18 graduates from Cycle 2 were employed  
19 temporarily until they passed a certain amount  
20 of testing that is required. And EPA Region  
21 IV is supporting that by sending staff to help  
22 them with tutorials and to prepare them for

1 future testing.

2 The benefits of the Superfund Job  
3 Training Initiative were so many. It  
4 increased the understand for the community of  
5 the cleanup effort at Savannah River Site. It  
6 provided the scholars with marketable skills  
7 and enhanced their employment potential.

8 It allowed them to play an active  
9 role in the protection and restoration of  
10 their homes. Certainly as remediation and  
11 cleanup at the site becomes more and more  
12 important, they were able to find themselves  
13 in making that happen.

14 It provided job opportunities for  
15 qualified residents and increased the labor  
16 pool and increased local taxes. And for EPA  
17 removed communication barriers between making  
18 community members more aware of the  
19 environmental issues. And it builds trust  
20 between the community and the agency.

21 The partnership opportunity for  
22 the Superfund Job Training Initiative and the

1 Department of Energy, it replicates programs  
2 at other DOE sites. Hopefully other sites  
3 would pick up this pilot and conduct similar  
4 job training initiatives on those sites, to  
5 those communities that are directly impacted,  
6 that would have an opportunity to work on  
7 those sites and improve the relationships  
8 between the community and the Department of  
9 Energy and the EPA.

10 Greater interagency partnership,  
11 these partnerships are very diverse. We had  
12 local faith community involved, business  
13 community, and the education community  
14 involved in this process.

15 These are the many partners that  
16 you see, the various governmental agencies,  
17 community agencies, and organizations that  
18 were involved to make this program the success  
19 that it is and the success then that it was.

20 This is the contact information  
21 that we can provide for you. Melissa  
22 Friedland is the new Program Manager for



1       Headquarters EPA. She has taken over the  
2       reigns for Ms. Karen Martin, who very, very  
3       successfully managed the program and then our  
4       information as the community partner  
5       stakeholder.

6                   Thank you so much for your time  
7       and your attention. If there are any  
8       questions, I'd love to entertain them.

9                   CHAIR SCOWCROFT: Thank you very  
10       much, Ms. Jenkins. We certainly appreciate  
11       it.

12                   Are there comments, questions?

13                   MEMBER BAILEY: I would just like  
14       to say how exciting it is to hear about this  
15       program, Ms. Jenkins. You know this is part  
16       of what we want to do from the standpoint of  
17       energy and America's energy future. Whether  
18       it's nuclear or whatever it is, is the issue  
19       that the path for training and education for  
20       young people and older citizens as well in the  
21       science, technology, the engineering, the  
22       math, of energy. And that is what is so

1 exciting about what you're doing and what you  
2 are working with these individuals in.

3 The money for this, tell me a  
4 little bit more about the Superfund. How this  
5 is funded. Tell me about that.

6 MS. JENKINS: It is funded through  
7 a program that exists with the Environmental  
8 Protection Agency. It's called the TASC  
9 Program. They have conducted Superfund job  
10 trainings at other industries around the  
11 country.

12 MEMBER BAILEY: Okay.

13 MS. JENKINS: But this one at the  
14 DOE Savannah River Site was the first at a  
15 federal nuclear facility. So it is a long-  
16 term program. It's not a new program.

17 MEMBER BAILEY: Yes.

18 MS. JENKINS: It was just new to  
19 the Savannah River Site. And as a caveat to  
20 that, my work in environment justice, as I  
21 said at the outset, it became full circle in  
22 that the site is there, not going anywhere.

1 And how do we empower people.

2 You know we may feel one way or  
3 the other --

4 MEMBER BAILEY: Right.

5 MS. JENKINS: -- about the nuclear  
6 cycle. But at the end of the day, families  
7 have to be fed, children have to be raised.  
8 And it is our contention that if we pour an  
9 expectation and an awareness and an activist  
10 and then give them the technical skills, they  
11 will become world-class employees with a  
12 conscience.

13 MEMBER BAILEY: Yes. Will this be  
14 at other sites? I don't know if some of my  
15 other panelists -- Commissioners here know but  
16 do you know will this be replicated at other  
17 sites?

18 MS. JENKINS: It is our hope. It  
19 is our dream that it would be replicated at  
20 the other sites in the complex. Certainly it  
21 is a valuable program. And it was piloted  
22 here.

1                   And I think it bodes well to say  
2                   that it was one cycle expected. And to come  
3                   back and have a second cycle done at the  
4                   Savannah River Site certainly should indicate  
5                   that it is a program worth replicating at  
6                   other DOE sites.

7                   MEMBER BAILEY: Thank you.

8                   MS. JENKINS: Thank you.

9                   CHAIR SCOWCROFT: Thank you very  
10                  much, Ms. Jenkins. We appreciate your  
11                  participation.

12                  MS. JENKINS: Thank you. Thank  
13                  you very much.

14                  CHAIR SCOWCROFT: Thank you.

15                  Now we will turn to our second  
16                  panel on economic and other considerations.  
17                  And would ask the representatives who are  
18                  serving on the panel to come up. They are  
19                  Aiken County Council Chairman Ronnie Young,  
20                  Community Reuse Organization, David Jameson,  
21                  CSRA Chambers of Commerce, Brian Tucker,  
22                  Economic Development Organizations, Danny

1 Black, and Aiken Technical College, Dr. Susan  
2 Winsor.

3 I thank you all very much for  
4 participating. And we will begin in order  
5 with Mr. Young.

6 MR. YOUNG: Thank you, Mr.  
7 Chairman.

8 Certainly on behalf of our County  
9 Council in Aiken, we welcome you folks to  
10 Aiken County. It's the county that I am  
11 privileged to serve, have served for 20 years.  
12 I've been their Chairman since '94, so 16  
13 years.

14 I have a great relationship with  
15 the site, a lot of inside information out  
16 there, and just a wonderful relationship. And  
17 a majority of the facilities at the Savannah  
18 River Site are in Aiken County and we have a  
19 special interest in the things that effect  
20 SRS.

21 The purpose of your Commission and  
22 of particular interest to me and my

1 constituents, since the mid-1980s, we have  
2 been assured and have expected a timely  
3 availability of a deep geologic repository for  
4 the permanent disposal of high-level  
5 radioactive waste resulting from SRS's Cold  
6 War defense activities.

7 With encouragement of the citizens  
8 of South Carolina, the Department of Energy  
9 has been very aggressively preparing our  
10 considerable inventory of high-level waste for  
11 geological disposal. Their efforts are truly  
12 a success story with one half of the waste  
13 canisters already processed and ready for  
14 final disposition.

15 I hope you can appreciate our  
16 concern with the Administration and the  
17 Department of Energy made their decision to  
18 terminate the nation's only Congressionally-  
19 designated permanent repository for high-level  
20 waste defense waste. If this determination is  
21 allowed by the courts, the defense waste at  
22 Savannah River Site and elsewhere within the

1 DOE complex would be orphaned and no approved  
2 pathway for final disposition.

3 Let me state clearly for the  
4 record, Aiken County believes DOE's decision  
5 is contrary to the mandates under the Nuclear  
6 Waste Policy Act. In any event, we believe a  
7 deep geological repository is necessary.

8 But my objective today is to  
9 discuss the interests of Aiken County and the  
10 nation in light of DOE's decision. No one has  
11 suggested any final disposition options for  
12 these processed defense wastes other than a  
13 deep geologic repository.

14 And it is my request that your  
15 Commission recommend at an early date the  
16 establishment of a geological repository for  
17 defense waste. It is interesting to note that  
18 even here, the DOE has acknowledged in  
19 testimony before the Atomic Safety and  
20 Licensing Board that the selected site is  
21 unsafe or has flaws. But that, in their  
22 terminology it is, "is not a workable option."

1                   Defense waste are only one half of  
2                   the story. Planning for high-level waste  
3                   resulting from commercial nuclear operations  
4                   have been similarly disrupted with uncertainty  
5                   being introduced just when our nation's energy  
6                   security is even more dependent upon abundant  
7                   supplies of economical and reliable nuclear  
8                   power.

9                   Many of the options being  
10                  presented for the back end of the commercial  
11                  nuclear cycle have attractive features such as  
12                  number one, recovering the unused energy value  
13                  in used nuclear fuel, and number two, reducing  
14                  the quantity and toxicity of nuclear waste  
15                  requiring isolation from the public. I  
16                  believe they are objectives worth pursuing in  
17                  concert with a geological repository.

18                  Many of the specialized  
19                  facilities, which would be required to  
20                  investigate and develop these options, are  
21                  uniquely available at the Savannah River Site.  
22                  As in the past, the vast majority of citizens



1 surrounding the Savannah River Site will step  
2 forward and support the program to meet this  
3 critical and national energy security need and  
4 clearly these back end commercial nuclear fuel  
5 cycle features.

6           However, resolving the back end of  
7 the commercial nuclear fuel cycle will not  
8 resolve our concerns regarding the disposition  
9 of high-level waste. These are two separate  
10 questions and each must be addressed  
11 separately.

12           Again, I want to thank you for  
13 your patience in listening to me. And I would  
14 be more than happy to answer your questions  
15 later on.

16           CHAIR SCOWCROFT: Thank you very  
17 much, Mr. Young.

18           Next we'd be happy to hear from  
19 David Jameson.

20           MR. JAMESON: Good afternoon. I'm  
21 David Jameson, President of the Greater Aiken  
22 Chamber of Commerce. And I also serve as the

1 current Chairman of the Savannah River Site  
2 Community Reuse Organization. And it is that  
3 capacity that I will speak here today.

4 First let me welcome you to the  
5 Central Savannah River Area of Georgia and  
6 South Carolina. You have an important job to  
7 do on behalf of our nation and we appreciate  
8 you taking the time to visit our region.

9 I have had the pleasure of living  
10 in this community twice. I was here for the  
11 first time for six years and left in early  
12 1990 for career advancement. I jumped at the  
13 chance to return a second time and have been  
14 back for an additional five years.

15 To paraphrase my favorite saying  
16 about my own city of Aiken, if you're lucky  
17 enough to live in our region, you're lucky  
18 enough.

19 Today you are meeting in what  
20 might be the most friendly, nuclear-friendly  
21 area in the entire United States. For six  
22 decades, our residents have been neighbors of

1 the Savannah River Site. Though we are  
2 separated by a fence and hundreds of square  
3 miles of buffer, we consider SRS to be a good  
4 neighbor, one that has excelled in its unique  
5 national security mission, holding America's  
6 secrets while introducing innovative new  
7 technology and creating thousands of well-  
8 paying jobs for the people of this region.

9 Those employed at SRS are the best  
10 in their respective fields. Whether they are  
11 engineers, operators, health physicists,  
12 chemists, or dozens of other nuclear  
13 specialties, they exemplify the highest  
14 standards of professionalism and expertise.  
15 And they stand ready to meet any national  
16 challenge.

17 For nearly 60 years, the Savannah  
18 River Site and the citizens of our region have  
19 played a key role in the security of this  
20 nation. We have done so willingly and proudly  
21 and as partners in a great undertaking that  
22 saw us successfully into the Cold War and

1       until the shock of 9/11, an unprecedented  
2       period of peace and prosperity.

3               As a community, we are proud of  
4       the impressive safety record compiled by our  
5       region's largest employer. SRS is one of the  
6       safest sites in the DOE complex and one of the  
7       safest major industrial sites in the world.

8               The SRS' outstanding safety  
9       performance has not gone unnoticed. Both the  
10      operations and construction contractors have  
11      received numerous safety awards from the  
12      National Safety Council, the South Carolina  
13      Manufacturers Alliance, and the South Carolina  
14      Labor Licensing and Review Board to name a  
15      few.

16              In addition, the Savannah River  
17      National Laboratory is considered the safest  
18      national lab in the complex.

19              We hope that while you are here  
20      you have gained a fuller appreciation of our  
21      regional capabilities and our commitment to  
22      helping the federal government find permanent

1 solutions for the pressing energy and defense  
2 challenges of the day.

3 The SRS CRO is the Department of  
4 Energy's designated Community Reuse  
5 Organization. The group was created in 1993  
6 in the wake of the first traumatic downsizing  
7 of the Savannah River Site following the end  
8 of the Cold War.

9 As a nonprofit regional  
10 organization, our primary mission is to  
11 facilitate economic development opportunities  
12 associated with Savannah River Site  
13 technology, capabilities, and missions, and to  
14 serve as an informed, unified voice for the  
15 five-county, two-state region.

16 Our coverage area includes Aiken,  
17 Allendale, and Barnwell Counties in South  
18 Carolina, and Richmond and Columbia Counties  
19 in Georgia.

20 Our group believes that it is  
21 important for you to recognize that SRS is not  
22 a closure site but a vibrant, active

1 contributor to the nation's nuclear security.

2 The Savannah River Site is one of the crown  
3 jewels of America's quest for national  
4 security, innovative technology, and new  
5 energy resources.

6 In the near term, SRS is playing a  
7 critical role in the tritium production,  
8 solidification of liquid waste into vitrified  
9 glass form for permanent storage and  
10 disposition of excess weapons plutonium by  
11 converting it into mixed oxide fuels suitable  
12 for use in nuclear power reactors.

13 In the long horizon, we are  
14 confident SRS can lead national efforts in  
15 nuclear nonproliferation and in resolving  
16 complex issues related to closing the back end  
17 of the nuclear fuel cycle through  
18 reprocessing.

19 At the same time, however, even as  
20 we actively promote the unique capabilities of  
21 SRS, we are not without concerns. As a group  
22 of communities throughout the region, we have

1       come together in the unified voice through the  
2       SRS CRO to study the issues and express our  
3       viewpoint.

4                   We are on record concerning our  
5       opposition of the government's position to  
6       halt work on Yucca Mountain. We also  
7       understand the Yucca Mountain is not  
8       specifically under your charter, therefore we  
9       will respect your time and not focus our  
10      discussion on this topic today.

11                   However, ultimately this nation  
12      will need some type of permanent repository.  
13      If recycling and reprocessing is identified as  
14      an alternative for managing commercial spent  
15      fuel, a permanent repository will still be  
16      required.

17                   However, recycling and  
18      reprocessing is not an option for vitrified  
19      glass logs that you saw yesterday at SRS.  
20      They need a permanent home. Having said that,  
21      I want to make it clear that the Savannah  
22      River Site and the regional community are

1 willing to be part of the solution, just as we  
2 have been for the last half century.

3 SRS knowledge and capabilities in  
4 reprocessing of nuclear fuel are unsurpassed.  
5 SRS has a proven track record as the go-to  
6 facility within the DOE complex when it comes  
7 to handling spent nuclear fuel.

8 In our view, as a nuclear  
9 community, H-Canyon is a particularly  
10 impressive facility with a one-of-a-kind  
11 capability that should be preserved and  
12 exploited for the good of this nation. In a  
13 reprocessing option, H-Canyon can play a  
14 critical role in the research and  
15 demonstration and testing of technologies to  
16 minimize the volume of spent fuel that  
17 otherwise must be stored in a repository.

18 Likewise, Savannah River National  
19 Laboratory is a unique and vital resource that  
20 can contribute immensely to solving nuclear  
21 waste issues. With its slogan, We Put Science  
22 to Work, SRNL's 50-year heritage of applying



1 science to meet the needs of DOE and the  
2 nation distinguishes it from the other DOE  
3 national laboratories.

4 This unique position will enable  
5 SRNL to lead the nation in translating basic  
6 research into practical application. The  
7 lab's near-term objective is to aggressively  
8 expand the application of SRNL expertise and  
9 technologies to solve critical national  
10 issues, especially in national security and  
11 secure sustainable energy.

12 These talents and capabilities can  
13 be readily trained on the national dilemma  
14 this Commission is now addressing. How can we  
15 resolve the pressing issue of spent fuel  
16 storage and nuclear storage disposition?

17 So in closing, I'll leave this  
18 Commission with two thoughts that I hope you  
19 will consider the essence of my input. First,  
20 we continue to believe that the failure to  
21 complete Yucca Mountain is a monumental  
22 mistake. If not Yucca Mountain, a permanent

1 repository is needed somewhere for the federal  
2 government to fulfill its obligation to our  
3 community.

4 SRS was never envisioned as the  
5 permanent home for the defense waste. We are  
6 not willing to become the de facto permanent  
7 repository. Let me repeat that. We are not  
8 willing to become the de facto permanent  
9 repository.

10 Second, the Savannah River Site  
11 and our communities are willing to be  
12 proactive contributors to solutions utilizing  
13 unique SRS capabilities and experience and the  
14 unsurpassed community support that exists in  
15 this region. You need to use these  
16 capabilities and support as a resource to help  
17 the Commission meet its objective of finding  
18 solutions for America's nuclear waste.

19 We firmly believe SRS is the key  
20 site for the nuclear future of our country --  
21 the key site for the nuclear future of our  
22 country.

1                   Again, thank you for being here.

2                   We look forward to continuing our dialogue  
3                   with you as this work progresses.

4                   CHAIR SCOWCROFT: Thank you very  
5                   much, Mr. Jameson.

6                   Our next presenter would be Brian  
7                   Tucker.

8                   MR. TUCKER: Good afternoon. I'm  
9                   Brian Tucker. I'm the President of the North  
10                  Augusta Chamber of Commerce. We appreciate  
11                  your interest in our region and for taking  
12                  time to listen to what we have to say today.

13                  I've called this area home for  
14                  more than ten years and I've been invited here  
15                  today to represent four Chambers of Commerce  
16                  located in our three-county, two-state region.  
17                  In addition to the businesses and  
18                  organizations that are members of the North  
19                  Augusta Chamber, I'm also speaking here today  
20                  for the members of the Augusta Metro Chamber  
21                  of Commerce, the Greater Aiken Chamber of  
22                  Commerce, and the Columbia County Chamber of

1 Commerce.

2 Collectively our membership  
3 represents thousands of small, medium, and  
4 large businesses who depend on the economic  
5 strength of this region for their survival.  
6 These businesses support hundreds of thousands  
7 of employees and their families who also call  
8 our local communities home.

9 Despite very uncertain economic  
10 conditions, our region's economy has remained  
11 relatively stable due to its significant  
12 diversification and the resiliency of our  
13 employers. Our stability can be attributed,  
14 in part, to the significant nuclear presence  
15 of the Savannah River Site and Plant Vogtle.

16 But beyond that, the CSRA region  
17 has notable depth in other high growth and  
18 extremely sophisticated sectors. We are home  
19 to one of the largest healthcare clusters in  
20 the southeast, including an academic and  
21 research medical center.

22 Our region includes a significant

1 military installation with a population of  
2 26,000 personnel used for communications  
3 training, intelligence gathering, medical  
4 training and deployment, and we have a high  
5 concentration of manufacturing and industry,  
6 many of which are unique to this part of the  
7 country.

8 Together with a burgeoning tourism  
9 economy, a rapidly expanding service sector,  
10 and an ever-increasing demand for higher  
11 education offerings, we are attracting jobs  
12 and population. This is a course we do not  
13 want to see change.

14 We are proud to be the home of the  
15 Department of Energy's Savannah River Site.  
16 SRS has played a major role in our national  
17 security for 60 years and continues to serve  
18 America in the important areas of nuclear  
19 nonproliferation and spent fuel reprocessing.

20 As a region that also serves as a  
21 home to the Southern Company's Vogtle Nuclear  
22 Power Plant, we have an enduring commitment to

1 nuclear energy and we fully support its  
2 expanded use and development.

3 We are also proud of the work  
4 being done in support of homeland security by  
5 the Savannah River National Laboratory, the  
6 Medical College of Georgia, as well as the  
7 national security role being carried out so  
8 effectively at Fort Gordon.

9 All four of our Chambers of  
10 Commerce consider our primary mission to be  
11 the promotion of the economic vitality and the  
12 entrepreneurial spirit of the communities we  
13 serve. We strive to create fertile ground and  
14 an encouraging attitude where existing  
15 businesses can thrive and new ventures can  
16 grow and root.

17 We also serve as their leading  
18 advocates on matters of public policy as we  
19 strive to balance their needs with an ever-  
20 changing legislative landscape. As such, I  
21 must include in my remarks that the federal  
22 government's decision to abandon Yucca

1 Mountain has sent a very alarming message to  
2 all of our members.

3 To them, the context of this  
4 decision appears to have been made absent any  
5 interest in studying economic impact or  
6 economic disparity. Our communities' effort  
7 to continue maximizing our region's growth  
8 based on what we know to be our strengths and  
9 weaknesses has now been marginalized without  
10 a clear explanation. This decision has made  
11 our decisions infinitely more difficult.

12 We had an ironclad deal, sealed by  
13 the force of law. It was a deal that required  
14 the government to take high-level defense  
15 waste from the Savannah River Site and move it  
16 to a permanent repository at Yucca Mountain.

17 This time last year the Department  
18 of Energy said the deal was off. Not only  
19 that, they offered no immediate alternative,  
20 making SRS the de facto permanent repository  
21 for the waste now stored here.

22 We are troubled by the

1 government's decision to halt work on Yucca  
2 Mountain and we will continue to view this  
3 measure as a serious and unfair impediment  
4 that is counterproductive to the character and  
5 strength of our region for as long as this is  
6 a matter of debate.

7 At the same time, like you, we are  
8 interested in a solution-focused discussion.

9 We are very aware that beyond the merits of a  
10 permanent geologic repository, this Commission  
11 is charged with exploring any and all options  
12 that will reduce waste, expand our energy  
13 independence while preserving our national  
14 safety and our national security.

15 For this reason, we are very  
16 pleased that you have made the decision to  
17 visit SRS so that you are able to understand  
18 firsthand the unique capabilities of the  
19 infrastructure and its workforce.

20 Let me share for a moment just a  
21 few of these facts. With respect to handling  
22 spent fuel and high-level waste, the Savannah



1 River Site has been a problem solver for more  
2 than a half century. Tens of thousands of  
3 tons of radioactive material were reprocessed  
4 at the Savannah River Site from the mid-1950s  
5 through the beginning of this decade.

6 Over the years, SRS personnel have  
7 established an enviable safety record in  
8 receiving and storing a wide variety of spent  
9 nuclear fuel assemblies from both domestic and  
10 foreign research reactors.

11 And to reiterate David's point,  
12 SRS has a long track history of being the  
13 safest site in the DOE complex and one of the  
14 safest industrial operations in the world. As  
15 a community, we are convinced that SRS  
16 management is committed to protecting workers,  
17 the public, and the environment as well as our  
18 national security interest.

19 As you have heard today, H-Canyon  
20 remains the only hardened nuclear chemical  
21 separations plant in operation in the United  
22 States. Due to its unique capabilities, H-

1 Canyon can support both DOE environmental  
2 clean up and nuclear nonproliferation goals  
3 while helping to expand our available uranium  
4 fuel supplies.

5 Part of H-Canyon's mission has  
6 been to blend down weapons-grade uranium into  
7 low enriched uranium suitable for fuel in  
8 commercial power reactors. Through its use in  
9 Tennessee Valley Authority reactors, this  
10 material is now providing electricity to homes  
11 throughout the southeast.

12 It's this kind of well-executed,  
13 innovative, problem-solving technology that we  
14 believe can be brought to bear, helping to  
15 resolve the pressing issues being addressed by  
16 your Commission.

17 Technology currently exists to  
18 recycle used commercial reactor fuel. We  
19 believe this Commission's report to the  
20 President should include a recommendation for  
21 a robust, well-funded technology and  
22 engineering development program aimed at

1       deploying the next generation fuel cycle  
2       program.

3                   The proven capabilities and  
4       outstanding expertise of the Savannah River  
5       Site, including those at the Savannah River  
6       National Lab, should play a key role in  
7       helping us meet this challenge.

8                   A key goal of any fuel cycle  
9       program should be to minimize the need for a  
10      geologic disposal of waste products. At the  
11      same time, we must all recognize that  
12      regardless of the best minimization efforts,  
13      a permanent repository of some kind will still  
14      be needed, even if it's not Yucca Mountain.

15                  Accordingly, we strongly urge this  
16      Commission to recommend that a geologic  
17      repository be provided. We further urge you  
18      to establish Yucca Mountain, which has been  
19      called the most studied piece of real estate  
20      on Earth, as the required reference point  
21      unless and until a technically equal  
22      alternative has been identified and approved

1 by the NRC.

2 We also request that this  
3 Commission recommend that the Nuclear Waste  
4 Fund be utilized as the source of funding for  
5 any program designed to close the back end of  
6 the nuclear fuel cycle and for the disposition  
7 of defense waste.

8 As ratepayers and taxpayers, our  
9 citizens have provided billions of dollars in  
10 funds with the expectation that this money  
11 would be used to dispose of commercial and  
12 defense waste. Use of the Waste Fund will  
13 allow this work to continue, even in the face  
14 of unprecedented strains on the federal  
15 budget.

16 In closing, let me underscore the  
17 tremendous importance the Savannah River Site  
18 plays in the economy of our region. With an  
19 annual budget of two billion dollars and  
20 yearly payroll of more than 900 million  
21 dollars, the economic impact of SRS is  
22 tremendous and irreplaceable.

1                   Because of SRS, we are proud to  
2                   have a disproportionate number of well-  
3                   educated, highly-trained scientists and  
4                   engineers among our population. As cleanup is  
5                   completed and existing missions are satisfied,  
6                   we should not allow these individuals to be  
7                   scattered to the four winds. They are needed  
8                   by our country and are ready to use their  
9                   talents and skills to meet any pressing  
10                  national need including solving the challenge  
11                  of closing the nuclear fuel cycle.

12                  In crafting your recommendations  
13                  to the President, we urge this Commission to  
14                  recognize the unique blends of talents and  
15                  capabilities that exist at Savannah River Site  
16                  and our broader region and to leverage these  
17                  tremendous assets and this supportive  
18                  community for the nation's benefit in the  
19                  years ahead.

20                  We thank you for your work. We  
21                  appreciate that. And I will be available for  
22                  questions afterwards. Thank you.

1 CHAIR SCOWCROFT: Thank you very  
2 much, Mr. Tucker. We appreciate your  
3 comments.

4 Our next presenter is Danny Black.

5 MR. BLACK: Thank you, Mr.  
6 Chairman.

7 I know this is very taxing on you  
8 guys and it's very taxing on us. If you don't  
9 mind, I'm a little bit older than these  
10 fellows. I'm going to stay here.

11 First of all, good afternoon. My  
12 name is Danny Black and I'm the President of  
13 the SouthernCarolina Alliance. I would like  
14 to add my welcome to this Commission and we  
15 appreciate you being here and hope you find  
16 your visit very useful.

17 I have been invited here today to  
18 represent the economic development entities in  
19 our region. These groups include the  
20 Development Authority of Richmond County and  
21 the Development Authority of Columbia County  
22 in Georgia as well as Aiken/Edgefield Economic

1 Development Partnership in South Carolina and  
2 my own organization, the SouthernCarolina  
3 Alliance.

4 First I have some brief remarks  
5 about my own organization. The  
6 SouthernCarolina Alliance represents four  
7 South Carolina counties around the Savannah  
8 River Site, Allendale, Bamberg, Barnwell, and  
9 Hampton. Our relationship with SRS extends  
10 across the entire 60-year history of the  
11 Savannah River Site.

12 In fact, more than two-thirds of  
13 the 310 square miles on which the Savannah  
14 River Site is situated lies in two of our  
15 counties, Allendale and Barnwell. This land  
16 was acquired by the government in the early  
17 1950s. In the process, several communities  
18 and thousands of farm families were displaced  
19 under eminent domain to make way for  
20 construction of the site.

21 Since the construction, thousands  
22 of residents in our four counties have been

1 employed at the site. Employment peaked in  
2 1995 when an estimated 4,000 residents of the  
3 four-county Southern Carolina region were  
4 employed either on the site or by industries  
5 related to the site and its missions.

6 While the people of Southern  
7 Carolina region have been dedicated employees  
8 and supporters of the site, the region as been  
9 challenged by the reduced tax base resulting  
10 from the acquisition of those thousands of  
11 acres 60 years ago.

12 Unlike other parts of the broader  
13 region, our counties are currently  
14 experiencing some of the highest unemployment  
15 levels in South Carolina, indeed probably the  
16 entire nation. In Allendale and Barnwell  
17 counties alone, unemployment is now  
18 approaching 20 percent, which is more than the  
19 figures this morning, twice the national  
20 average.

21 Now speaking for all of my  
22 colleagues in the business of job creation in



1 our region, I want to clearly state that we  
2 fully support the Savannah River Site. We  
3 appreciate the contributions SRS has made to  
4 our region and our nation and we are confident  
5 that its best years lie ahead as SRS continues  
6 to meet critical national challenges.

7 And I agree with all the others  
8 here today who have stated that the federal  
9 government has shirked its responsibility by  
10 failing to provide a permanent repository for  
11 commercial spent fuel and high-level defense  
12 waste. Regardless of waste management option  
13 is chosen, a repository will still be  
14 necessary and should be pursued without  
15 further delay.

16 The absence of a permanent waste  
17 storage solution is a potential impediment to  
18 economic development as many worry that SRS  
19 will become a de facto permanent repository.  
20 We are concerned that this negative image will  
21 impact our ability to attract industry and  
22 create new jobs, creating a chilling effect on

1 future economic development throughout the  
2 region.

3 We do not worry about immediate  
4 safety concerns. The safety of short-term  
5 storage of high-level nuclear waste has been  
6 assured. However, additional studies are  
7 needed to confirm that the waste would remain  
8 safe for significant additional periods such  
9 as hundreds or even thousands of years  
10 required for permanent storage until  
11 radioactivity in the waste decays to safe  
12 levels.

13 At the same time, we support full  
14 utilization of the Savannah River Site's  
15 impressive capabilities in helping your  
16 Commission and this country meet the current  
17 challenge.

18 For more than half a century, the  
19 Savannah River Site has possessed outstanding  
20 capabilities in spent fuel processing. In  
21 that time, SRS has assembled an unequalled team  
22 of experts and has built an enviable record of

1 performance and safety that exceeds any other  
2 facility in the DOE complex.

3 Those same proven capabilities and  
4 that same unparalleled expertise can now be  
5 redirected to meeting national needs  
6 identified by your Commission. We are  
7 confident SRS can play a major role in helping  
8 to close the fuel cycle, minimize the volume  
9 of waste, and put the country back on track  
10 with respect to ultimate disposal.

11 All of the local knowledge and  
12 expertise does not reside on the Savannah  
13 River Site. My own home county of Barnwell  
14 was home to what was to become America's first  
15 reprocessing plant for commercial spent fuel.  
16 Known as the Allied General Nuclear Services  
17 Facility, this 300 million dollar plant was  
18 completed in the `70s but never operated due  
19 to a change in U.S. policy prohibiting  
20 reprocessing.

21 Five hundred anticipated permanent  
22 jobs never materialized. The fully completed

1 facility was shuttered and stood dormant for  
2 decades until it was decommissioned and  
3 decontaminated and the land was dedicated to  
4 a new industrial site.

5 We believed then and we believe  
6 now that the government's decision to abandon  
7 reprocessing was wrong-headed. It denied the  
8 country a valuable fuel resource. It created  
9 the bulk of the storage problems we face  
10 today. And it put the U.S. behind other  
11 countries in the expanded use of nuclear  
12 energy.

13 We support reprocessing. However,  
14 supporting reprocessing does not mean we favor  
15 long-term centralized storage of spent fuel.  
16 This would violate one of our community's  
17 guiding principles. No waste or excess  
18 materials shall be brought into South Carolina  
19 unless an approved and funding pathway exists  
20 for its processing and shipment to either a  
21 customer or an out-of-state waste disposal  
22 facility.

1                   But we do not believe Savannah  
2 River Site -- I'm sorry -- but we do believe  
3 the Savannah River Site and the Savannah River  
4 National Laboratory, along with the commercial  
5 partners and communities of this region, can  
6 be key players in implementing a highly  
7 successful reprocessing program that would go  
8 a long way towards solving the issues that are  
9 on your agenda today.

10                   There are many critical and unique  
11 facilities and infrastructure at DOE sites  
12 which can be used in alternate fuel cycle  
13 programs. H-Canyon and the SRNL hot cells are  
14 two examples of such facilities, as you've  
15 heard.

16                   Many of these one-of-a-kind  
17 facilities will be lost during the next decade  
18 because of inadequate funding and maintenance  
19 and capability readiness. We strongly suggest  
20 the Commission's report identify the types of  
21 programs and facilities needed to address the  
22 back end of the fuel cycle and require that

1 these necessary capabilities be preserved.

2 As stated, it remains essential  
3 that a permanent repository is provided for  
4 those commercial and defense wastes that  
5 cannot be eliminated through alternate fuel  
6 cycle programs such as reprocessing.

7 Let me encourage you to recognize  
8 and appreciate the value the Savannah River  
9 Site continues to bring to America's national  
10 security and the key role it can play in  
11 resolving our waste management dilemma. On  
12 behalf of all economic developers in our  
13 region, I ask you to urge the Secretary and  
14 the President to make sure all unique SRS  
15 fuel-handling capabilities are funded and  
16 preserved, that the exceptional capabilities  
17 of Savannah River National Laboratory are  
18 invoked, that the world class SRS talent pool  
19 is utilized, and that the unequalled community  
20 support that exists here for things nuclear is  
21 leveraged for the good of the entire country.

22 Again, welcome Mr. Chairman.

1 Thank you for coming. We look forward to your  
2 report. Thank you.

3 CHAIR SCOWCROFT: Thank you very  
4 much, Mr. Black.

5 Our final presenter will be Dr.  
6 Susan Winsor. You may proceed.

7 DR. WINSOR: I am Dr. Susan Winsor  
8 and I am the President of Aiken Technical  
9 College. I am a resident of Aiken. Although  
10 it is not my place of birth, it is my place of  
11 choice and has been for the last 11 years.  
12 I'm sure after you've had the pleasure of  
13 visiting our community, you can understand  
14 why. Welcome so much to our fine community.

15 I'm here today to represent the  
16 region's institutions of higher education and  
17 specifically this includes two technical  
18 colleges, two state universities, a two-year  
19 branch of a state university, and a major  
20 medical university in the counties of South  
21 Carolina and Aiken surrounding the site. This  
22 network of educators are actively involved in

1 training craftsmen, technicians,  
2 professionals, and specialists for the  
3 workforce of the future, including the nuclear  
4 workforce.

5           And I might add that they do so  
6 from settings that are very urban to very  
7 rural. This programmatic and geographic  
8 diversity allows all of our citizens of the  
9 region to have local educational  
10 opportunities.

11           A large percentage of our  
12 collective students are native to this region.  
13 They attend school locally and are employed  
14 locally. And to provide an example from my  
15 institution, 72 percent of the students at my  
16 college are residents of Aiken County. And 85  
17 percent stay in the region to work. Nearly  
18 all other students of our network of colleges  
19 are South Carolina or Georgia residents and  
20 are from the counties neighboring those  
21 institutions.

22           Many of our colleges are



1 specifically now involved in preparing the  
2 nuclear workforce. And I will speak  
3 specifically to our college. Aiken Technical  
4 College began its radiation protection  
5 associate degree program in 2008. It started  
6 at the request of local nuclear employers.

7 With their generous support as  
8 well as grant support from the NRC, our  
9 program has quickly grown to be one of the  
10 largest in the United States, with 150  
11 students currently enrolled. This program has  
12 been designed to instruct both to NEI and DOE  
13 radiation protection standards, making it a  
14 unique program in the United States.

15 I'm pleased to say that after just  
16 a few short years, we currently have 21  
17 students who have graduated from the associate  
18 degree and nearly all are working in the local  
19 area.

20 The college is also pursuing NEI  
21 approval under the Nuclear Uniform Curriculum  
22 Program with final approval anticipated very

1       shortly. The college's utility partner is  
2       Southern Electric & Gas, through V.C. Summer  
3       Nuclear Plant. And our graduates will be  
4       eligible for employment at any nuclear  
5       utility, DOE site, or medical facility.

6                 In a similar approach, Augusta  
7       Technical College began offering an associate  
8       degree in nuclear engineering technology this  
9       past fall and is also in the process of  
10       pursuing NEI approval for its curriculum in  
11       partnership with Southern Company's Plant  
12       Vogtle.

13                I mention this because NEI  
14       approval is a very rigorous process to  
15       national standards. And both colleges have  
16       committed to the process of pursuing approval  
17       under NEI, which will give our graduates a  
18       portable certificate recognized by any utility  
19       in the United States. That speaks to our  
20       commitment to quality and excellence in our  
21       programming and to the quality of our local  
22       nuclear workforce.

1 I'm also here to speak in the role  
2 as Chair of the Nuclear Workforce Initiative,  
3 a forward-thinking program developed by the  
4 SRS Community Reuse Organization to assess the  
5 future needs of regional employers and ensure  
6 that those needs are met.

7 In 2009, the SRS CRO conducted an  
8 extensive and independent study of eight area  
9 nuclear employers through a contract with  
10 Booze Allen Hamilton. The study concluded  
11 that more than 10,000 workers will be needed  
12 in the next decade in this region alone to  
13 support the expansion of nuclear energy in our  
14 two-state region and to replace retirees.

15 With about 50 percent of the  
16 nuclear industry's staffers nearing  
17 retirement, this is a very critical issue. In  
18 addition, new jobs will be created that must  
19 be filled.

20 Our vision for our region is that  
21 as many people as possible locally are  
22 prepared for these jobs. In other words, we

1 want our citizens to have the option to  
2 receive their education locally and go to work  
3 locally for our nuclear employers. This  
4 includes workers who will fill the needed  
5 positions at the Savannah River Site as well  
6 as those in the area commercial nuclear  
7 plants.

8 We are implementing a unified  
9 strategy to address present and future  
10 workforce needs in our collaboration of the  
11 institutions that I mentioned. Working  
12 closely with partners in business, academia,  
13 economic development, state and local  
14 governments, we are focused on ensuring that  
15 people of our region have an opportunity to  
16 develop the skills they need to fill regional  
17 nuclear energy jobs.

18 We call this effort growing our  
19 own through collaboration. Together we are  
20 building a collaborative of local programs at  
21 local colleges that prepare graduates for a  
22 variety of needed professions to support

1 nuclear employment across all spectrums of job  
2 categories and support opportunities for  
3 economic growth.

4 The work we are doing here has  
5 been recognized as cutting edge. A group of  
6 local colleges and universities working  
7 together to provide an array of unduplicated  
8 programs within a region. This approach is  
9 now being duplicated in other areas of the  
10 country as we all prepare for an expected  
11 nuclear renaissance to support nuclear power  
12 as an expanding source of our nation's  
13 electricity.

14 In order to fully recognize that  
15 renaissance, we do believe it is essential for  
16 our country to reach consensus on the best way  
17 to close the fuel cycle. This is the great  
18 unanswered question about nuclear energy. And  
19 just as the resurgence of nuclear energy could  
20 be threatened by a lack of qualified workers,  
21 it can also be slowed or even derailed by our  
22 failure to satisfactorily spell out how we

1 handle waste materials.

2 We know nuclear energy is safe.  
3 We know it is reliable. We know it is  
4 scalable, that it can grow from its current 20  
5 percent share to produce even larger  
6 quantities of electricity to meet most of our  
7 future needs.

8 What we don't know at this moment  
9 is how the spent fuel from these plants and  
10 the higher level defense waste from government  
11 facilities like the Savannah River Site will  
12 be managed long term. We thought we had the  
13 answer. We thought the answer would be a  
14 place called Yucca Mountain in the Nevada  
15 desert where these materials could be stored  
16 safely and permanently.

17 But that solution has been taken  
18 off the table. We believe that's a serious  
19 mistake and now we are back to the drawing  
20 board without ready answers.

21 I don't envy your job, the job of  
22 this Commission that you have been given to

1 recommend a long-term management solution of  
2 the spent fuel and nuclear waste. But I do  
3 know that finding the answer is important and  
4 that it is an essential step in increasing the  
5 role of nuclear power as an energy workhorse  
6 for our country.

7 Like other speakers today, we are  
8 concerned about the billions of dollars that  
9 have been paid into the Nuclear Waste Fund  
10 with no apparent benefit to date. As you well  
11 know, the Nuclear Waste Fund was created to  
12 pay for permanent storage of commercial spent  
13 fuel. And we strongly believe those dollars  
14 in that fund should be applied directly to the  
15 task of closing the fuel cycle, whatever form  
16 that eventually takes.

17 For our part, we will do what is  
18 necessary to make sure that the workforce is  
19 trained and ready for current and future jobs  
20 in the nuclear industry. As educators, we  
21 work with our partners to make sure that there  
22 are enough scientists, engineers, health

1       physicists, welders, technicians, and other  
2       skills and specialties needed to meet the  
3       industry's needs.

4                 With these talents, we can expand  
5       our horizons to encompass new nuclear  
6       technology, such as small nuclear reactors, to  
7       create even more jobs, increase the export of  
8       U.S. goods and services, be even a better  
9       friend to the environment, and enhance our  
10      national security and energy policy.

11                For your part, we trust you will  
12      objectively examine the alternatives available  
13      for closing the fuel cycle and aggressively  
14      advocating what you believe will solve this  
15      challenge while engendering trust and  
16      confidence amongst the American public. In  
17      doing so, we believe you will find the  
18      Savannah River Site site and the region's  
19      educators are educating a skilled workforce to  
20      be willing and valuable allies.

21                Your success is critical if  
22      nuclear energy is to become more fully



1 supportive of our energy future. And we thank  
2 you for your service and participation. Thank  
3 you.

4 CHAIR SCOWCROFT: Thank you very  
5 much, Dr. Winsor.

6 We appreciate the comments of all  
7 the panelists.

8 Are there comments or questions  
9 for the panel from the Commission?

10 Yes? Dick?

11 MEMBER MESERVE: I'd like to thank  
12 you all for your presentation.

13 I think there was consensus or at  
14 least near consensus across all of you on two  
15 propositions. One was that that Yucca  
16 Mountain decision was a mistake. We should  
17 have a repository as soon as possible.

18 And you want the waste that has  
19 accumulated at the Savannah River Site to  
20 leave and you don't want any more to come  
21 here. You want to have the material handled.

22 And then you also said that you

1 think that the site could contribute at least  
2 its research on reprocessing. And that there  
3 is a way in which -- there's great capacity  
4 here technically. There's facilities here.  
5 There is a skilled workforce and so forth, all  
6 of which make that attractive as an  
7 opportunity for this site to contribute to the  
8 nation in yet other ways than what was done in  
9 the past.

10 It seems to me there is at least,  
11 in the near term, there is an inconsistency  
12 between those two propositions. That if you  
13 are going to be a site for research for  
14 reprocessing, there are going to be materials  
15 that are going to be here. And probably  
16 materials that have to be brought here to be  
17 stored for at least a time and used for that  
18 research.

19 I mean how should I reconcile what  
20 I see at least for the term until a repository  
21 is created this inconsistency between what I  
22 perceive to be at least the two consistent

1 elements in your comments?

2 MR. BLACK: I'll answer it this  
3 way. There's not an inconsistency as we see  
4 it. You're talking about storing everything  
5 at one location with no activities or missions  
6 going on. That's one thing. If you're  
7 talking about reprocessing or researching or  
8 looking at other alternative ways to take care  
9 of the waste issue for the country, that's  
10 something else.

11 I'm not the governor, obviously,  
12 of South Carolina. And I certainly would  
13 never put myself in that position of answering  
14 for the state. But if you bring research,  
15 development, demonstration, and jobs, you  
16 would think you would have to have some  
17 materials to propose that to do that on them.

18 That has not been proposed to  
19 anyone that I know of. If that's what this  
20 Commission would propose, I think you would  
21 have some more consistent answers along the  
22 way.

1                   This site, in our opinion, is  
2                   smart enough to handle anything that you throw  
3                   at them. And probably have the brain power at  
4                   this site to do anything that anyone else in  
5                   the world can do.

6                   Give us the opportunity to do  
7                   that. And there may be some surprising  
8                   results from it.

9                   But in our opinion again, to  
10                  answer your question, I don't see the  
11                  inconsistency as long as there is a dual role  
12                  to be played.

13                  CHAIR SCOWCROFT: Per?

14                  MEMBER PETERSON: Yes. I co-chair  
15                  one of the subcommittees of the Commission,  
16                  the Reactor and Fuel Cycle Technology  
17                  Subcommittee, which, of course, is looking in  
18                  its independent meetings at the topics that  
19                  relate to the potential role that advanced  
20                  fuel cycles could play in changing the nature  
21                  of the waste disposal problem.

22                  One of the issues with those

1 technologies is the fact that we need to have  
2 additional investment to develop them if we  
3 want to bring them to fruition. When we look  
4 at the contracts that utilities have with the  
5 Department of Energy, an important point about  
6 those contracts is that legislation cannot  
7 change them. They are binding. And Congress  
8 cannot go and change them through legislation.

9 This means that the various  
10 elements of the contracts, we have to develop  
11 a strategy and a framework that works within  
12 the context of those limitations, one of them  
13 being that the use of the funds is actually  
14 prescribed in the contracts and limited in  
15 certain ways that does not, at least when I've  
16 looked at it, permit those funds to be used  
17 for fuel cycle research and development or  
18 demonstration.

19 So this puts us in the position of  
20 needing to identify alternative approaches to  
21 generating the resources needed to do this  
22 work. And I'm just curious if people have

1 thought about this question, particularly in  
2 the current context of how we can move forward  
3 to develop these technologies but where do we  
4 get the money for that purpose, too?

5 (Laughter.)

6 MR. JAMESON: My guess is that the  
7 answer to that is above our paygrade. We  
8 don't know the answer. And we can't wait to  
9 hear your solution.

10 (Laughter.)

11 MEMBER PETERSON: I'll do my best.  
12 Thanks.

13 MEMBER SHARP: Yes, I wondered if  
14 I might ask you a similar question that I  
15 asked the previous panel. In a sense, what  
16 advice you would give us and/or we might pass  
17 on to the federal government about its  
18 relations with the local communities and the  
19 citizens, private citizens of the area as to  
20 how to manage those relations.

21 Let me be clear. We heard loud  
22 and clearly across the board keep your word is

1 the first piece of advice. But beyond that,  
2 I don't know if you have anything to add to  
3 help us understand what is the smartest way to  
4 proceed forward because some waste facilities  
5 may well be in brand new areas and at least  
6 there is a chance to start out with a clean  
7 slate.

8 MR. JAMESON: Well, I'll take a  
9 stab at that. And it is probably what Senator  
10 Graham might have said this morning.

11 We have to have a nonpolitical  
12 solution. And then once a solution is -- a  
13 decision is made, we have to stay the course.  
14 We, as a community of chambers and business  
15 and civic and government leaders, go to  
16 Washington on a frequent basis. And we talk  
17 to our elected officials. We talk to the  
18 folks at the DOE and the other agencies that  
19 have responsibility that interests us in this  
20 part of the country.

21 And it is amazing one year we get  
22 one answer, one year we get another answer.

1 It changes on a whim with Congress. It  
2 changes -- it can change on the whim of a  
3 committee chairman in Congress. And that's  
4 very frustrating.

5 So we have lots of stops and  
6 starts. We never know what the solid  
7 direction that we're going to follow. The  
8 community is -- its support erodes when we  
9 make an announcement that we're going in one  
10 direction and everybody believes that to be  
11 true. And then we move in another direction.  
12 And we move in a third direction. And a  
13 decade later, the announcement is made back to  
14 Direction A.

15 We need to get the politics out of  
16 it. You need to figure out somehow to get the  
17 politics out of it and give us a clear  
18 solution that does not change with every  
19 Administration and every Congress and every  
20 chairman of a Congressional committee.

21 DR. WINSOR: If I might add to  
22 that because I believe the second part of your



1 question is how do you engage the communities,  
2 every community has some sort of an  
3 educational system in it. And I would suggest  
4 that that perhaps might be a gathering place.

5 These issues are incredibly  
6 complex and difficult. And even those of us  
7 who have had the opportunity to learn more  
8 about them in recent years, it is still very,  
9 very complex.

10 So to be able to articulate the  
11 issues in a manner that is understandable to  
12 those who have not had the opportunity to work  
13 in the industry is a very big challenge,  
14 regardless of education level I might add.  
15 This isn't necessarily that those who have a  
16 college education automatically know these  
17 things. So it is a challenge across the  
18 board, regardless of that.

19 So I would suggest that partnering  
20 with the local education entities, the local  
21 chambers, and other institutions that are well  
22 known and have the network within the

1 communities, in all communities not just kind  
2 of the standard chamber kind of communities,  
3 I guess, but across all communities.

4 And that's where your educational  
5 institutions can be helpful because they do  
6 touch all communities. So that might be  
7 something to consider.

8 And then even considering how do  
9 you relate the issues of this industry in this  
10 particular sector of energy as it relates to  
11 other sectors of energy that perhaps we're  
12 more familiar with and don't necessarily  
13 consider to hold the same risks, although they  
14 often might and do. I mean we clearly have  
15 had a very visible demonstration of that in  
16 the Gulf just last year in what could happen.

17 So I think it is interesting that  
18 I've been hearing in the news that the oil  
19 industry is now looking to an NRC-type of  
20 approach to control its safety.

21 So other industries are actually  
22 looking to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission

1 model as a way of managing its safety. And  
2 I'm not sure that the general public is aware  
3 of how much effort has been put into  
4 maintaining safety regulations within the  
5 nuclear environment that simply are not  
6 necessarily in place with other sectors of  
7 energy. So perhaps a comparison and putting  
8 it in context would be helpful as well.

9 Thank you.

10 CHAIR SCOWCROFT: Other comments?

11 (No response.)

12 CHAIR SCOWCROFT: I'd like to  
13 thank the panel for your participation. We  
14 appreciate your comments very, very much.  
15 Thank you.

16 (Applause.)

17 CHAIR SCOWCROFT: And now we will  
18 proceed to the public comment period and here  
19 we have a serious problem. There are 57  
20 people who have signed up to make comments.  
21 So I'm going to have to behave in a very  
22 draconian way.

1                   We will use our green orange, and  
2 red lights. I would ask if the red light and  
3 the buzzer sounds, you complete the sentence  
4 you are on and stop.

5                   I will also, as I call the  
6 presenters, I will call then next two names.  
7 And I would ask you to come up and stand here  
8 so that we don't waste any time in between  
9 speakers. And I ask you all to cooperate in  
10 the order that your fellow citizens will all  
11 get a chance to express themselves.

12                   Our first presenter will be -- oh,  
13 yes, and the time limit will be two minutes --  
14 two minutes each. Our first presenter will be  
15 Stephen Stegall, representing NA-YGN, followed  
16 by Keith Graham and David Zigelman.

17                   Mr. Stegall?

18                   MR. STEGALL: My name is Stephen  
19 Stegall and I am an engineer at Southern  
20 Nuclear's Vogtle Electric Generating Plant.  
21 I was born and raised in the Augusta area and  
22 I've seen firsthand the benefits of having the

1 Savannah River Site and Vogtle in this  
2 community my entire life.

3 I'm here today to give you a few  
4 perspectives as a citizen, taxpayer, and  
5 nuclear worker. Nuclear energy is safe and  
6 provides sustainable jobs but it is still  
7 received cautiously by the average citizen.

8 Even though I grew up in this  
9 area, I, myself, knew little about it before  
10 working at Vogtle. And in the few years that  
11 I have worked in the industry, I've come to  
12 learn not only about the redundant safety  
13 systems and procedures that are in place to  
14 protect against an accident at a nuclear  
15 facility, there is also an ingrained attitude  
16 that the safety and health of the public is  
17 priority, above all else.

18 Not only that, but the U.S. Bureau  
19 of Labor Statistics says that 90 percent of  
20 the incident rate -- excuse me, it is 90  
21 percent safer at a nuclear power plant than at  
22 any other manufacturing facility. And it is

1 because of this proven safety record and  
2 safety culture that I believe nuclear energy  
3 should be a part of this nation's future.

4 Another part of this nation's  
5 future is the next generation of nuclear  
6 workers. I represent the 6,000 young  
7 professionals across this country in an  
8 organization known as North American Young  
9 Generation in Nuclear.

10 Today we ask the Commission to  
11 recommend a timely pathway for recycling and  
12 storing of both SRS defense high-level waste  
13 and commercial used nuclear fuel at a  
14 permanent repository and to honor the federal  
15 government's commitments to the Nuclear Waste  
16 Policy Act.

17 We also urge the Commission to  
18 consider interim storage facilities. And that  
19 the responsibility for used fuel management be  
20 transferred to an independent entity with a  
21 management and financial structure capable of  
22 withstanding political change.

1                   These requests will ensure  
2                   sustained growth for an industry that is on  
3                   the brink of a true renaissance.

4                   CHAIR SCOWCROFT: Thank you very  
5                   much, Mr. Stegall, for your comments and your  
6                   time.

7                   Next presenter is Keith Graham  
8                   from Regulatory Technology Services, followed  
9                   by David Zigelman, Charles Munns.

10                  MR. GRAHAM: Yes, I'm Keith Graham  
11                  from Regulatory Technology Services in Evans,  
12                  Georgia. And I'm just here to help the  
13                  Commission determine that SRS is the best  
14                  choice for a national headquarters for  
15                  managing spent nuclear fuel and waste.

16                  I have over 30 years experience in  
17                  the commercial nuclear power industry. I've  
18                  worked at 15 nuclear power plants, seven years  
19                  at Savannah River Site, part of the time at  
20                  DWPA up at the Canyons' tank farms.

21                  The state of the union that we  
22                  have between the nuclear power industry and

1 the U.S. government is not good. Mr. Obama is  
2 working on his. I've already got mine. It's  
3 not good.

4 And, you know, we -- the  
5 commercial industry entered into covenant  
6 agreements with the U.S. government under the  
7 Nuclear Waste Policy Act. President Carter's  
8 plans to bury spent nuclear fuel, they are  
9 outdated. They no longer make sense.

10 Reprocessing makes sense. The  
11 existing staff at Savannah River Site is the  
12 staff to do the reprocessing. We should make  
13 use of the talent skill sets that we have out  
14 there that already exist.

15 We all know that each day we're  
16 reducing our supplies of fossil fuels. We're  
17 running out every day. And they're going to  
18 get higher and higher.

19 We have to give proper attention  
20 to nuclear power. The public and most  
21 politicians don't know that over the past four  
22 decades, there has been 62,500 metric tons of



1 nuclear waste generated. That waste will fit  
2 on a football field, stacked 21 feet deep.  
3 That's all we're talking about folks from the  
4 commercial waste stream.

5 There's 104 power plants in the  
6 United States that produce 20 percent of the  
7 power. They preclude almost 700 million  
8 metric tons of pollution from entering the  
9 atmosphere.

10 The public doesn't have a  
11 comprehension of the size of the waste stream  
12 that we're talking about. Most of the public  
13 does not know that you get 100 times more  
14 radiation coming out of a coal-fired power  
15 plant than you do a nuclear plant. If you're  
16 scared about radiation, there's a lot of other  
17 things to be scared about besides what happens  
18 at a nuclear power plant.

19 My final comment is we ought to  
20 think a little bit more like the Russians. In  
21 Russia, they treat their nuclear waste as a  
22 national treasure. We should do the same

1 thing.

2 CHAIR SCOWCROFT: Thank you, Mr.  
3 Graham.

4 Next commenter, David Zigelman,  
5 followed by Charles Munns and Ernest Chaput.

6 PARTICIPANT: Zigelman is not  
7 here.

8 CHAIR SCOWCROFT: Oh, okay. All  
9 right.

10 MR. MUNNS: So I'm the fourth  
11 speaker.

12 General, Commissioners, welcome to  
13 our home. And thanks for listening.

14 My motivation here is to have a  
15 strong and free nation. My desire is that my  
16 grandchildren will have as good a life as I  
17 have. And so that's why I'm here making these  
18 comments.

19 I have certain experiences which  
20 pertain to the comments. I am a three-star  
21 admiral in the United States Navy. I ran the  
22 U.S. Submarine Force with its 74 nuclear power

1 plants. I was CEO of the local company that  
2 worked for the Department of Energy and ran  
3 the Savannah River Site.

4 And I'm now a special government  
5 employee, like you, although I'm working for  
6 a strategic command without compensation. And  
7 we're working on nuclear arms control and the  
8 health of our stockpile.

9 I'd like to leave you with three  
10 imperatives, three comments. One, the nation  
11 needs nuclear energy. Two, we need a  
12 comprehensive policy for us all to follow.  
13 And three, there is a magic formula here in  
14 the CSRA which you might try to replicate  
15 other places.

16 Nuclear energy is needed in this  
17 nation for the base load supply of our  
18 country. Without it, we will diminish the  
19 resources needed for growth and quality of  
20 life.

21 The policy is needed and that  
22 policy should include removing the uncertainty

1 in storage and it should include a path for  
2 reuse. It makes no sense to throw away 90  
3 percent of the energy in that fuel.

4 And lastly, the magic formula.  
5 It's geography, geology, engaged groups,  
6 effective government, a nuclear culture, and  
7 a great safety record.

8 Geography, we have an area where  
9 energy is needed. And we have 300 square  
10 miles that is unencumbered for use at the  
11 Savannah River Site.

12 Geology, one of the best studied  
13 and monitored areas in the country.

14 Engaged groups, have you seen from  
15 last night and today that want the best for  
16 our country?

17 Effective government, nuclear  
18 culture, CEO Miller talked about that this  
19 morning. It is crucial. You don't find that  
20 just everywhere.

21 And lastly, a record of safety.

22 Thank you for listening.

1                   CHAIR SCOWCROFT: Thank you,  
2                   Admiral. Appreciate it.

3                   (Applause.)

4                   CHAIR SCOWCROFT: The next speaker  
5                   is Ernest Chaput of Economic Development  
6                   Partnership, followed by Donald Bridges and  
7                   John Demko.

8                   MR. CHAPUT: Thank you very much,  
9                   Mr. Chairman.

10                  I am Ernest Chaput. I'm with the  
11                  Economic Development Partnership. It's a  
12                  group that's involved with investment and job  
13                  creation in Aiken and Edgefield Counties,  
14                  South Carolina. The Savannah River Site is  
15                  part of our existing industrial base. And  
16                  we're looking forward to continue to provide  
17                  good jobs for -- quality jobs for the people  
18                  in our area.

19                  I think it is important to note  
20                  that the nuclear industry in South Carolina  
21                  involves about 28,000 jobs and over three  
22                  billion dollars of economic activity. It is

1 a big part of not only the local industrial  
2 base -- economic base but also the state's  
3 industrial base.

4 We have a series of  
5 recommendations. And I'll leave a copy of  
6 those with you, sir.

7 One with regard to greatly upset  
8 with the Administrator's action on Yucca  
9 Mountain. It basically negated 20 years of  
10 planning and expectations on the part of our  
11 local community.

12 It is our understanding that  
13 there's no alternative other than geologic  
14 disposition of the Savannah River defense  
15 waste. And so I hope you understand the  
16 nature of our concern on that previous  
17 decision.

18 We recommend your panel endorse  
19 the early availability of a geologic  
20 repository. We also recommend that Yucca  
21 Mountain remain the primary geologic  
22 repository unless a more suitable option is

1 authorized and is authorized in accordance  
2 with the Nuclear Waste Policy Act, the law of  
3 the land.

4 We welcome your charter to review  
5 the back end of the fuel cycle. This is long  
6 overdue. Our current policies are based upon  
7 30-year-old dogma and deserve to be reexamined  
8 in light of today's circumstances and  
9 technology. Savannah River Site can be part  
10 of that solution.

11 We recommend that your Commission  
12 propose not only a research and development  
13 program but also an aggressive demonstration  
14 program. The people and facilities are  
15 available for this work here at Savannah River  
16 and elsewhere. H-Canyon has been talked about  
17 many times as being key to that.

18 The ratepayers of not only South  
19 Carolina but the nation have paid billions  
20 into the Nuclear Waste Fund. And it's time  
21 for them to get a return for their investment.

22 That's basically a summation of my

1 remarks. I've been asked to just provide a  
2 statement from George Fletcher of the South  
3 Caroline Council on Competitiveness. I will  
4 provide that to you for the record.

5 Thank you very much.

6 CHAIR SCOWCROFT: Thank you very  
7 much.

8 Our next presenter is Donald  
9 Bridges, representing Savannah River Site CAB,  
10 followed by John Demko and Christine Ridgeway.

11 MR. BRIDGES: I am Don Bridges and  
12 I'm speaking as an individual. I am a member  
13 of the CAB but I want to reflect my own views.

14 I will provide more expanded  
15 comments so I'll make a very concise summary.  
16 I want to make four points. One on the high-  
17 level waste and the low grade plutonium at  
18 Savannah River. I think that the decision to  
19 cancel Yucca Mountain has undermined  
20 confidence in DOE and the federal government  
21 to manage nuclear waste.

22 So I would ask this panel to take



1 an action to deal with the removal of the  
2 high-level waste from Savannah River Site in  
3 a prompt and efficient manner with a certain  
4 degree of urgency. Point number one.

5 Point number two is Yucca  
6 Mountain. It's difficult to imagine how Yucca  
7 Mountain could be -- a site as well qualified  
8 as that could be canceled with so little  
9 technical basis and so little nuclear industry  
10 support. So I would ask that you reconsider  
11 in some manner, even use of Yucca Mountain in  
12 a temporary manner, perhaps as a storage area  
13 for a matter of decades instead of millennia.

14 The third point I would make is  
15 relative to the reprocessing of nuclear fuel.  
16 I do think that reprocessing would be vital to  
17 the nation and would be a very useful area for  
18 this committee to look at and go into in  
19 further depth. So there are a lot of  
20 facilities at SRS. You've heard them, H-  
21 Canyon and the like, so I submit you have the  
22 facilities there.

1                   And the fourth one I'll make is  
2 nuclear friendly community. I think the  
3 regulatory aspects of dealing with any  
4 activity will be much easier in this area  
5 probably than any other place in the U.S.

6                   Thank you. And I'll provide  
7 written comments.

8                   CHAIR SCOWCROFT: Thank you very  
9 much, Mr. Bridges.

10                  Next is John Demko, representing  
11 himself, followed by Christine Ridgeway and  
12 then Kerry Ridgeway.

13                  MR. DEMKO: Thank you, Mr.  
14 Chairman.

15                  There has been a lot of discussion  
16 today about reprocessing the nuclear waste as  
17 a method to get rid of some of our nuclear  
18 fuel waste. At present, only a minuscule part  
19 of the spent fuel waste can be used.

20                  Presently the MOX facility has no  
21 customers for its reprocessed nuclear  
22 material. This includes CEO Miller's Southern

1 Company who refused the government's offer for  
2 this material.

3 Before pursuing waste fuel  
4 reprocessing and burdening the American  
5 taxpayers with the billions of dollars for  
6 such a facility, perhaps we should first find  
7 uses for the MOX fuel that is now being  
8 manufactured at SRS. It appears this  
9 processed plutonium will now be permanently  
10 sited at SRS. We should not send further  
11 nuclear waste to SRS until they get rid of  
12 what they already have.

13 (Applause.)

14 CHAIR SCOWCROFT: Thank you, Mr.  
15 Demko.

16 Next presenter is Christine  
17 Ridgeway from the Sierra Club followed by  
18 Kerry Ridgeway and Chris Hall.

19 MR. RIDGEWAY: I'm obviously not  
20 Christine. She's chosen to let me just go  
21 ahead and make a statement --

22 CHAIR SCOWCROFT: Okay. Fine.

1 MR. RIDGEWAY: -- in view of the  
2 number of people that you're dealing with.

3 I'm Kerry Ridgeway. I'm a  
4 veterinarian in Aiken. And speaking as a  
5 private citizen, but yes, I am a member of the  
6 Sierra Club as well, and I think Dianne  
7 Valentin spoke very, very well to much of what  
8 I wanted to address.

9 And I think a significant portion  
10 of this audience is pretty anti-nuclear. And  
11 I think a lot of that stems from fear. And we  
12 all do have fear about nuclear radiation. The  
13 people in Bamberg, that she spoke of, how many  
14 of you want to go and move your homes to  
15 Bamberg would be one of the questions I might  
16 ask.

17 And, you know, we have good reason  
18 to have distrust. The openness of our  
19 government has been pretty well exposed in  
20 recent months as well. And we have a lot of  
21 issues with industry and health issues and  
22 thinking back to Louisiana and all of the

1 chemicals and so forth.

2 And we were assured over and over  
3 and over that these have nothing -- those  
4 industries and including nuclear have nothing  
5 to do with the health problems that we are  
6 seeing in these communities. We are not  
7 convinced.

8 And what we really need -- and, I  
9 think, as part of the function of your  
10 Commission and where you go with the future of  
11 this is if this stuff is truly safe, safe,  
12 safe, as we keep hearing, we need to know with  
13 a great deal of openness where that  
14 information is coming from and where these  
15 studies are being done, how they are being  
16 conducted, and are they being conducted by the  
17 very people that we are concerned about doing  
18 these studies.

19 Thank you very much.

20 (Applause.)

21 CHAIR SCOWCROFT: Thank you very  
22 much.

1                   Our next presenter is Chris Hall  
2 followed by Mel Buckner and Louis Zeller.

3                   Are any of them here?

4                   PARTICIPANT: Mel Buckner is here.

5                   CHAIR SCOWCROFT: Okay.

6                   MR. BUCKNER: Well, I appreciate  
7 this opportunity to speak to this  
8 distinguished panel. My name is Mel Buckner.  
9 I'm a 36-year veteran from the Savannah River  
10 Site, retired in 2006.

11                   I'm currently an adjunct professor  
12 at the University of South Carolina teaching  
13 in their nuclear program. And I teach a  
14 course on nuclear energy and other energy  
15 sources along with a colleague.

16                   I wanted to state some comments  
17 regarding the Savannah River Site. As you've  
18 all heard, the Savannah River Site has a  
19 wealth of experience in processing nuclear  
20 materials and has been involved in the  
21 development of advanced processing techniques.  
22 These technologies can be used to help solve

1 the nuclear waste problem, which is vitally  
2 important to our future use of clear,  
3 efficient nuclear energy.

4 In the case of nuclear waste, the  
5 technology for disposal of radioactive waste  
6 is well established. And the U.S. government  
7 needs to get on with the licensing and opening  
8 a federal repository which as been designed  
9 for the disposal of waste.

10 Through the use of recycling  
11 technology, which have been designed to reduce  
12 the proliferation risk, it is possible to  
13 greatly decrease the quantity of nuclear waste  
14 by a factor of 100 or more and to reclaim 95  
15 percent of the energy content that remains in  
16 the nuclear fuel. In addition, it is possible  
17 to reduce the proliferation risk of nuclear  
18 energy by providing fuel services to  
19 developing countries where over two billion  
20 people live with little or no electricity.

21 Savannah River Site would be an  
22 ideal location for a nuclear fuel recycling

1 facility since the site is well characterized  
2 over the years through extensive environmental  
3 and ecological studies. And it has extensive  
4 experience in handling large projects,  
5 including the defense waste processing  
6 facility, which is utilizing the technology  
7 appropriate for disposal of nuclear waste.

8 Let me just say that the world  
9 markets are favorable to nuclear energy  
10 growth. The nuclear renaissance that we're  
11 hoping is going to occur in this country is  
12 already taking place around the world and the  
13 Savannah River Site would be an ideal location  
14 for developing the new technologies that will  
15 incorporate -- thank you.

16 CHAIR SCOWCROFT: Thank you very  
17 much.

18 Our next presenter will be Louis  
19 Zeller, followed by Bobbie Paul and Mindy  
20 Mets.

21 MR. ZELLER: Thank you, Mr.  
22 Chairman.



1                   My name is Lou Zeller. And I'm  
2                   the Science Director with Blue Ridge  
3                   Environmental Defense League. We were founded  
4                   in 1984 because of Department of Energy's  
5                   Crystalline Repository Project.

6                   Yucca Mountain was selected  
7                   because of politics. It was unselected  
8                   because of science and technology.

9                   (Applause.)

10                  MR. ZELLER: If a decision is made  
11                  and unmade, made and unmade in a democracy,  
12                  perhaps it should not be made where the people  
13                  rule. If there is no front end, there is no  
14                  back end.

15                  I recommend that the Commission,  
16                  duly constituted, consider that option within  
17                  its charter, which would reduce the level of  
18                  the back end of the problem by phasing out  
19                  nuclear power in the United States as other  
20                  advanced industrial nations have done.

21                  (Applause.)

22                  CHAIR SCOWCROFT: Thank you.

1                   Our next presenter is Bobbie Paul,  
2                   George Awon, followed by Mindy Mets and Tom  
3                   Himber.

4                   MS. HILL-ECKINSON: Hi, my name is  
5                   Amanda Hill-Eckinson. I'm with the Georgia  
6                   Women's Action for New Direction. I'm  
7                   standing in for Bobby Paul.

8                   I have a great concern around some  
9                   of the people who are up here speaking today  
10                  and I believe were giving a lot of false  
11                  information. One of the things that we are  
12                  not taking seriously is the renewable energy  
13                  because we are saying the nuclear power is  
14                  safe, clean, and reliable.

15                  Nuclear power is a finite  
16                  resource. It comes from uranium. You cannot  
17                  take the mining of uranium out of the picture  
18                  when you talk about nuclear power.

19                  From cradle to grave --

20                  (Applause.)

21                  MS. HILL-ECKINSON: Thank you.

22                  From cradle to grave, there is a radioactive

1       contamination stream from the mill mining  
2       through the conversion plant to the end of the  
3       use of the cycle. There is no closed loop.  
4       This is a contaminating from beginning to end  
5       and every community that is around each of  
6       these places has some sort of ground  
7       contamination where air contamination is a  
8       routine emissions from nuclear power plants.

9                       Now we can talk all day and I  
10       heard somebody say that nobody has been killed  
11       from nuclear power. Well, it depends on what  
12       you define as nuclear power. If you're  
13       talking about the nuclear power plant up and  
14       running, probably not.

15                      If you're talking about the  
16       releases, the waste, the management, the  
17       mining, yes, there have been deaths from  
18       nuclear power. So it is really upsetting to  
19       me that we start down this path of calling it  
20       safe and clean.

21                      Then the guy comes up and says oh,  
22       I think we should go into the poor countries

1 and that we should help them get this nuclear  
2 power up and running. Poor countries, that if  
3 you build nuclear infrastructure, you are 90  
4 percent of the way of a nuclear weapon  
5 infrastructure. It is a ridiculous assignment  
6 to that for our national security.

7 If you really want to help the  
8 poor countries out there, look at what their  
9 natural resources are and how they can develop  
10 it from a renewable perspective.

11 Thank you.

12 (Applause.)

13 CHAIR SCOWCROFT: Thank you. I  
14 would ask the audience to restrain itself to  
15 the extent it can.

16 (Laughter.)

17 CHAIR SCOWCROFT: Our next  
18 presenter is Tom Himber, representing himself,  
19 followed by Michelle Wilson and Suzanne  
20 Rhodes.

21 MR. HIMBER: My name is Tom  
22 Himber. My background spans 36 years in

1 commercial in DOE nuclear facilities and I've  
2 been interested in this subject for the last  
3 20 years.

4 Unfortunatly, with the exception  
5 of the Nuclear Waste Policy Act of 1982, this  
6 issue has been driven ever since by pure  
7 politics. The 1982 Policy Act specified that  
8 two regional nuclear waste disposal sites  
9 would be selected purely on scientific data.  
10 The `82 Policy Act directed that no one  
11 region, no one state, no one area would be  
12 burdened with all this nation's nuclear waste.

13 Afterwards, political pressure was  
14 used to eliminate, one by one, viable disposal  
15 locations across this country, including one  
16 here in Georgia. In 1987, science was  
17 eliminated from the selection process when  
18 hidden in the `88 Budget Reconciliation Bill,  
19 the Policy Act was amended to direct that  
20 Yucca Mountain, Nevada, be the sole repository  
21 of this nation's nuclear waste.

22 This was done without consulting

1 Nevada congressional leaders. I am sure you  
2 have heard and will hear about broken promises  
3 and outrageous politics that are responsible  
4 for Yucca Mountain being removed from  
5 consideration. We would not be in this  
6 present position if that widespread outrage  
7 had occurred 23 years earlier.

8 I have no demands and no  
9 recommendations. I do not have the  
10 experience, the background, or resources to  
11 suggest a logical path forward. But this  
12 Commission does.

13 I respectfully request that you  
14 resist all political influence as much as  
15 humanly possible before making your final  
16 recommendations. I would hope that all  
17 interested parties, including those that have  
18 attended this meeting, urge that your  
19 recommendations be based solely on science and  
20 fairness, even if they are contrary to  
21 regional wants.

22 In closing, this Commission should

1 be about science. I'm sure there will be  
2 sufficient time afterwards for politics.

3 CHAIR SCOWCROFT: Thank you, Mr.  
4 Hember.

5 Our next presenter will be  
6 Michelle Wilson, representing South Carolina  
7 DHEC, followed by Suzanne Rhodes and Samantha  
8 Siegal.

9 MS. WILSON: Yes. Thank you,  
10 General Scowcroft and members of the  
11 Commission. And greetings to everyone  
12 gathered here.

13 I'm Shelly Wilson and I'm speaking  
14 today for the South Carolina Department of  
15 Health and Environmental Control or DHEC.

16 Since the advent of environmental  
17 regulations in the '70s, DHEC has overseen  
18 reduction of environmental liabilities at the  
19 Savannah River Site. These liabilities,  
20 mainly legacy waste from the Cold War and  
21 various contaminated areas across the site,  
22 represent two negatives. One is risk to

1 people and to the environment and the second  
2 is potential long-term stewardship burdens for  
3 South Carolina.

4           Although we have made a great deal  
5 of progress in both legacy waste disposition  
6 and area clean up at the site, there is still  
7 quite a ways to go before all of that risk is  
8 mitigated. One of the highest priorities for  
9 DHEC is the closure of the high-level waste  
10 tanks at SRS -- aging tanks, some of which  
11 have leak sites holding 37 million gallons of  
12 liquid radioactive toxic waste.

13           South Carolina currently holds  
14 more than its fair share of proportionate risk  
15 from the nation's Cold War legacy. Again,  
16 DHEC's direction is to reduce that risk and  
17 mitigate the long-term stewardship burdens.

18           If the federal repository at Yucca  
19 Mountain is no longer available, the risk  
20 reduction in South Carolina becomes uncertain.  
21 And may call into the question the previous  
22 regulatory decisions that have been made at



1 SRS.

2 DHEC has several regulatory  
3 mechanisms in place that guide and document  
4 the enforceable clean up decisions that have  
5 been made so far for the site. And these  
6 decisions may no longer be suitable if the  
7 risk in South Carolina remains or increases.

8 Indefinite or long-term management  
9 of vitrified waste, commercial spent nuclear  
10 fuel, or related waste streams may all impact  
11 the clean up decisions that have been and will  
12 be made in relation to the magnitude of risk  
13 material present in the state.

14 The main comment is that any  
15 potential directional changes should be  
16 discussed with effected states, including the  
17 environmental agencies, well in advance to  
18 engage the state-specific political,  
19 technical, and equity considerations.

20 Thank you.

21 CHAIR SCOWCROFT: Thank you very  
22 much.

1 (Applause.)

2 CHAIR SCOWCROFT: Our next  
3 presenter is Suzanne Rhodes, representing  
4 LWVSC, followed by Samantha Siegal and Bill  
5 Lawless.

6 MS. RHODES: Good afternoon. I'm  
7 resenting the League of Women Voters of South  
8 Carolina. I thought it was interesting that  
9 the League of Women Voters of the United  
10 States opposed the congressional efforts to  
11 designate Yucca Mountain based on the lack of  
12 site suitability studies.

13 Actually, if you've got a twisted  
14 sense of humor, you might want to look at the  
15 legislative record. It had as much to do with  
16 CAF standards as it did with site  
17 suitability.

18 We're delighted that you, a Blue  
19 Ribbon Commission, are looking at a permanent  
20 solution. We suggest you not pursue a  
21 volunteer temporary solution.

22 We think, although it wasn't part

1 of the plan, the current waste storage at  
2 defense and commercial sites has been  
3 workable, transporting spent or defense waste  
4 to a temporary storage is unsafe and  
5 unnecessary. And politically, although I've  
6 got a thought about this for later, but it  
7 requires that each effected state and  
8 commercial interest maintain financial and  
9 technical vigilance in order to solve this  
10 problem.

11 We have heard a lot about the  
12 value in spent fuel. We urge you all to do  
13 some cost-benefit analyses. What I've done  
14 based on studies of French reprocessing  
15 indicates it is expensive, not counting the  
16 waste management. I think you all are the  
17 ones to determine that or to have it  
18 determined actually for us all from an  
19 independent site.

20 So unless there is site-specific  
21 safety issue, we think high-level waste should  
22 remain wherever it is presently until there is

1 a suitable permanent solution.

2 And you talked about how to get  
3 from where. As near as I can tell, a lot of  
4 the political problems have come from  
5 Washington, D.C. And with perhaps the  
6 exception of Senator Lindsay Graham, I suggest  
7 that congressional hands be grossly minimized  
8 in the finding of a permanent solution.

9 Thank you very much.

10 (Applause.)

11 CHAIR SCOWCROFT: Thank you very  
12 much.

13 Our next presenter is Samantha  
14 Siegal from the Sierra Club, followed by Bill  
15 Lawless and Ed Mueller.

16 MS. SIEGAL: Hello. My name is  
17 Samantha Siegal and I'm the Conservation and  
18 Development Coordinator for the South Carolina  
19 Chapter of the Sierra Club.

20 The 36,000 gallons of high-level  
21 nuclear waste at the Savannah River Site is a  
22 huge environmental threat to South Carolina.

1 We are opposed to any proposal that would  
2 bring more nuclear waste to our state,  
3 including those for interim spent fuel storage  
4 and reprocessing.

5 Not only does this endanger  
6 valuable natural resources, including water,  
7 plant, and animal life, but it also endangers  
8 the health and safety of citizens in South  
9 Carolina. While we recognize that the  
10 creation of new jobs is important, they should  
11 not come at the cost of the health of the  
12 people and the environment of South Carolina.

13 Reprocessing of nuclear fuel is a  
14 dirty and dangerous chemical process that the  
15 Savannah River Site is not geologically suited  
16 for due to its high water table, moist  
17 climate, numerous surface waters, and the  
18 soil's inability to prevent the migration of  
19 leaking radioactive materials.

20 I'd like to thank the Blue Ribbon  
21 Commission for taking on this important issue  
22 and offer my support in helping to find a safe

1 and responsible way to deal with nuclear waste  
2 in our country.

3 (Applause.)

4 CHAIR SCOWCROFT: Thank you very  
5 much.

6 Our next speaker is Bill Lawless,  
7 representing himself, followed by Tom Hallman  
8 and Mali Lightfoot.

9 DR. LAWLESS: Thank you for  
10 allowing me to speak to you today.

11 I worked at the Savannah River  
12 Site as a project engineer in 1977 and 1983 at  
13 which time I blew the whistle on the  
14 Department of Energy for its mismanagement of  
15 nuclear waste, for example, using cardboard  
16 boxes to dispose of 90 percent of its solid  
17 radioactive waste.

18 In 1992, I went and got a Ph.D. to  
19 partly address how a sophisticated, technical  
20 organization like the Department of Energy,  
21 with many of the top nuclear scientists in the  
22 world could make some of the errors that it

1 did -- technical errors.

2 After I got my Ph.D., DOE invited  
3 me to join the Savannah River Site Citizens  
4 Advisory Board where I have spent about 14  
5 years, including one year as a technical  
6 advisor.

7 DOE had lost public trust, which  
8 it recovered surprisingly well by giving the  
9 citizens on the Advisory Board full access to  
10 unrestricted information at the Savannah River  
11 Site, which led to a significant acceleration  
12 in clean-up, significant improvement,  
13 surprisingly, in the practices of scientists  
14 at the Savannah River Site, and strong public  
15 support for the WIPP transuranic repository  
16 and Yucca Mountain high-level waste  
17 repository.

18 However, since 2005, the  
19 Department of Energy has begun to lose the  
20 public trust that it had earned on its  
21 Savannah River Site Citizens Advisory Board.  
22 And I am concerned that that is linked to the

1 way that the Department of Energy suffered,  
2 and we did, a significant embarrassment at  
3 Yucca Mountain.

4 The Blue Ribbon Commission and the  
5 Department of Energy very much want the public  
6 to trust it. And the only way that I think  
7 that it can do that is to give the public  
8 trust in turn, which means, as closing, which  
9 means that the citizen boards must be able to  
10 choose their own technical advisors and their  
11 members and it means that you must be able to  
12 give the public the veto power of where the  
13 high-level waste repository is sited.

14 Thank you very much.

15 CHAIR SCOWCROFT: Thank you.

16 (Applause.)

17 CHAIR SCOWCROFT: Our next  
18 presenter is Tom Hallman from the University  
19 of South Carolina Aiken, followed by Mali  
20 Lightfoot and Leah Karpen.

21 MR. HALLMAN: Good afternoon, Mr.  
22 Chairman and members of the panel. I



1 appreciate the opportunity to talk to you.

2 I'm Tom Hallman with the  
3 University of South Carolina Aiken. I'll be  
4 happy to give you a copy of my published  
5 remarks.

6 I just want to reiterate one thing  
7 that you've heard several times this  
8 afternoon. As an academician, I would  
9 encourage you to get the politics out of this  
10 decisionmaking process. Academicians are  
11 interested in the pure.

12 As a longtime administrator, I  
13 guess I appreciate that's not very likely to  
14 happen. And so I can only encourage you to  
15 get as much of the politics out of it as is  
16 humanly possible.

17 The decisions that you are looking  
18 to give some advice on need to be based in  
19 science. They need to be based in the best  
20 use of our technology and our resources. I  
21 encourage you to do that.

22 Thank you very much for taking on

1       this very daunting task. And we, in this  
2       community, stand ready to help you in any way  
3       we can to make a good decision --  
4       recommendation.

5                     Thank you.

6                     CHAIR SCOWCROFT: Thank you very  
7       much, Tom.

8                     Next presenter, Mali Lightfoot  
9       from the Helen Caldicott Foundation, followed  
10      by Leah Karpen and Lew Patrie.

11                    MS. LIGHTFOOT: I'm just going to  
12      dive right in here. Transport of radioactive  
13      waste is always dangerous. It should not be  
14      undertaken except to move it to permanent  
15      storage where it can be isolated and  
16      safeguarded for as long as it remains  
17      radioactive. This is a very long time. And  
18      this facility does not exist.

19                    South Carolina's desire to  
20      reprocess waste effects every community on  
21      every transport route between the reactor  
22      sites and Savannah River. South Carolina does

1 not have the right to make this decision for  
2 Asheville or any of the other communities it  
3 will impact.

4 There are many in Asheville and  
5 North Carolina who do not accept or appreciate  
6 being volunteered for this against our will.  
7 And we will fight it.

8 Reprocessing may be the worst  
9 reason to move waste. It is extremely  
10 dangerous, ruinously expensive, and very  
11 inefficient. It is a major contaminator of  
12 the atmosphere and the oceans and creates an  
13 enormous health and environmental hazard.

14 We stopped reprocessing waste in  
15 the 1970s because of safety and security  
16 concerns. These concerns are still valid.

17 The idea that reprocessing  
18 eliminates waste is not accurate. A small  
19 amount of usable fuel is created but a much  
20 larger amount of waste is generated. This  
21 waste is actually harder to contain safely  
22 than spent fuel rods, were they to be stored

1 at the reactor sites.

2 And reprocessing separates out and  
3 purifies plutonium with everything that comes  
4 with that: proliferation danger, cancer risks,  
5 public health risks, environmental risks. And  
6 there is nowhere to put it.

7 So where is this waste from  
8 reprocessing going to go? We don't want it to  
9 come back to or through North Carolina. If it  
10 stays at Savannah River Site, it will pose an  
11 eternal health and environmental danger to the  
12 surrounding communities, which is  
13 unacceptable. They will fight that and we  
14 will support them.

15 CHAIR SCOWCROFT: Thank you very  
16 much.

17 Leah --

18 MS. LIGHTFOOT: Just one last  
19 thing. I'd like to say until there is a  
20 national waste repository, reactor waste  
21 should remain at the sites it was made. This  
22 is really for safety reasons but it will serve

1 as a reminder to the states that chose to  
2 retain or build nuclear reactors that the  
3 waste problem is not going away until we stop  
4 making it. And even then, we and all our  
5 descendants will be living with it forever.

6 CHAIR SCOWCROFT: Thank you.

7 (Applause.)

8 CHAIR SCOWCROFT: Our next  
9 presenter is Leah Karpen from PSR, followed by  
10 Lew Patrie and Robert Howarth.

11 MS. KARPEN: My name is Leah  
12 Karpen. I came from Asheville, North  
13 Carolina, along with about 30 other people  
14 because of our concern with this whole  
15 radioactivity issue.

16 Some of the speakers have been  
17 dealing with the past, as one of the speakers  
18 pointed out. Yucca Mountain is a dead issue.  
19 Let's go forward, not backwards.

20 There are several possible  
21 solutions for radioactive waste.  
22 Vitrification has been tried. We can leave

1 the waste in place where it is. And no  
2 further generation of waste.

3 Was construction of nuclear power  
4 plants a basic mistake? I believe it was. At  
5 the time of construction, they were viewed a  
6 s cheap, clean, safe way of generating power  
7 for domestic use. The chemistry and danger of  
8 radioactivity were not then widely known.

9 I'll remind you. There is no safe  
10 level of radiation. The southeastern United  
11 States has 19 nuclear power plants with a  
12 total of 33 reactors. So we're certainly  
13 concerned about how the spent fuel and  
14 radioactive waste will face disposal. And we  
15 can be sure there will be leakage of radiation  
16 from all of those.

17 Safety of the public is the first  
18 consideration. So transportation of waste  
19 should not be considered. Accidents do happen  
20 and the contamination could be great.  
21 Radioactive released to the public must be  
22 prevented.

1                   Transportation through western  
2 North Carolina is particularly undesirable, as  
3 even our bus driver told us, even hazardous  
4 because of the narrow, steep, and winding  
5 roads. And building more highways, as some  
6 have suggested, is not the answer.

7                   Nor does western North Carolina  
8 want to store the radioactive waste. We would  
9 not consider that a desirable industry for our  
10 region, undesirable and unwanted.

11                   The most desirable move would be  
12 no further generation of radioactive waste.  
13 It is possible to change our national policies  
14 and rely more on renewable sources of energy,  
15 solar, wind, and so forth.

16                   Thank you.

17                   (Applause.)

18                   CHAIR SCOWCROFT: Thank you.

19                   Our next presenter is Lew Patrie  
20 from the WNCPSR, followed by Robert Howarth  
21 and James Sheeler.

22                   DR. PATRIE: I am Dr. Lew Patrie,

1 Chair of Western North Carolina Physicians for  
2 Social Responsibility.

3 No one can deny the great economic  
4 boon that nuclear activities have contributed  
5 to South Carolina. However, considering our  
6 nation's current economic distress, how can we  
7 justify further billions on reprocessing?

8 Nuclear has cost the nation --  
9 nuclear actions have cost the nation trillions  
10 of dollars over 65 years. Why would our  
11 experts suggest that we spend billions more on  
12 unproved solutions?

13 One of the biggest unresolved  
14 problems in this nuclear fuel chain is nuclear  
15 waste. And it still persists. After 50  
16 years, the nuclear industry has not found any  
17 safe method of disposing of or storing this  
18 radioactive waste anywhere in the world.

19 Much has been touted about the  
20 French experiment and experiences with  
21 radioactive waste reprocessing. People  
22 considering the pros and cons of reprocessing



1        seem unaware that much less than ten percent  
2        of spent fuel can be recycled. And that the  
3        actual process creates a lot more waste than  
4        originally existed.

5                Also, there has been little airing  
6        of the facts that French nuclear reprocessing  
7        emits large quantities of radioactive material  
8        into the air, endangering undetermined numbers  
9        of people and the sea, contaminating the ocean  
10       as far as the Arctic Circle.

11               Some similar experiences have  
12       occurred in relation to Sellafields Plant in  
13       the United Kingdom where an expert has  
14       suggested that people should stop -- 20 more  
15       more years ago suggested people should stop  
16       having babies if they lived in that area.

17               There are many other things which  
18       I will submit in my written comments. In  
19       summary, with the questions I have raised, it  
20       is difficult for me to understand  
21       rationalizations for billions of dollars more  
22       to be invested in such unproved and hazardous

1 activity as nuclear reprocessing.

2 (Applause.)

3 CHAIR SCOWCROFT: Thank you.

4 Our next commenter will be Robert  
5 Howarth with WNCPSR, followed by James Sheeler  
6 and Laura Sorenson.

7 MR. HOWARTH: Good afternoon. I'm  
8 Robert Howarth. I've visiting here from my  
9 residence in Asheville, North Carolina.

10 I'm retired as a career as an  
11 electro-optical engineer. And I'm a member of  
12 the Western North Carolina Physicians for  
13 Social Responsibility and also a member of the  
14 Union of Concerned Scientists.

15 Now why should I be concerned from  
16 Asheville? I've got a whole list here, which  
17 I'll submit. But I'm not going to go over  
18 them all right here with you because I don't  
19 have much time.

20 Transit dangers have already been  
21 mentioned. That's one. But my -- and my  
22 overriding concern is that we, as citizens,

1 have been misled by nuclear proponents  
2 claiming that nuclear energy is clean and less  
3 expensive than other sources of energy.

4 This is revealed by EROEI  
5 analysis. Energy return on energy invested.  
6 And I give the source for that in my paper.  
7 This illustrates that of 20 feasible energy  
8 sources considered, 14 are superior to nuclear  
9 and 17 of the 20 have less carbon footprint  
10 than nuclear.

11 EROEI, also known as net energy,  
12 has been defined as the energy delivered by an  
13 energy-obtaining activity compared to the  
14 energy required to get it. This overall  
15 efficiency assessment includes a whole system  
16 consideration from the extraction at the  
17 source, processing, construction, and  
18 operation of the delivery plant, and cost of  
19 any subsequent waste handling and/or disposal.

20 This, I believe, is looking at the  
21 whole picture in the way it really is. It is,  
22 in my opinion, an honest appraisal.

1                   Furthermore, another comparison  
2                   shows that nuclear as having the third highest  
3                   carbon footprint among the same 20 candidates,  
4                   following only conventional coal and tar  
5                   sands. So the EROEI concept should be applied  
6                   to all projects, especially those dependent on  
7                   taxpayer support.

8                   CHAIR SCOWCROFT: Thank you, Mr.  
9                   Howarth.

10                   (Applause.)

11                   CHAIR SCOWCROFT: Our next  
12                   presenter is James Sheeler, followed by Laura  
13                   Sorenson and Ole Sorenson.

14                   MR. SHEELER: I'm James Sheeler  
15                   from Asheville, North Carolina. I've got an  
16                   MBA. I've worked for several major  
17                   corporations. I've also worked in economic  
18                   development for local government.

19                   I've spent a half a day coming  
20                   down here, 250 miles. Your panel has asked  
21                   what is the area of interest. Who should you  
22                   talk to? I'm telling you I'm 250 miles away

1 and I've very concerned about what is  
2 happening here.

3 I live within three miles actually  
4 in Interstate 26 in Asheville, near the U.S.  
5 40 intersection. It's kind of a dangerous  
6 place to start out with and there's been some  
7 talk earlier about the tremendous amount of  
8 material that has been processed down here.  
9 And a significant amount, if not the majority  
10 of that material, has come right by my house.

11 I don't like it. And I'm going to  
12 fight it as much as I can, everywhere I can.  
13 So, you know, you guys just keep this stuff  
14 out of Asheville and I'll respect your, you  
15 know, your jurisdiction, you kind of respect  
16 what we like to do up there. And I think you  
17 can tell from the group here that there are  
18 lot of us that are fired up about it.

19 Nuclear power is dirty. At least  
20 personally I believe that. It's an old-timey  
21 thing. It's not the way we ought to go. Ten  
22 years from now, if you continue like this,

1       you're going to have this same conversation.  
2       And 25 years from now, you're going to have  
3       the same conversation.

4                 If you took some of this energy  
5       and money and whatever and put it a little bit  
6       more into wind and solar, you know, I think  
7       ten or 20 or 25 years from now, we'd be a lot  
8       further than we are if we continue this way.  
9       In the long term, it's really dirty. It's the  
10      dirtiest of all power sources because it  
11      basically doesn't go away in the human scale.

12                There was some question about how  
13      the devil do you get feedback and know what is  
14      really going on. There's a tremendous amount  
15      of anger and angst and resentment in the  
16      broader-based community about a lot of things.  
17      And nuclear power is not the only thing.

18                But too often government panels  
19      try to take the easy way out and you go to the  
20      already organized places like Chambers of  
21      Commerce and whatever and these folks are  
22      disconnected and even local government, the

1 leaders are disconnected from their base.

2 And so if Proctor & Gamble wanted  
3 to know about marketing a new laundry  
4 detergent here, you know, they're going to go  
5 out and use consultants and other resources.  
6 And they're going to know what the community  
7 really feels like.

8 And finally, if I was Allendale  
9 and Aiken and all, I sure as hell wouldn't  
10 want to be identified as a nuclear community.

11 (Applause.)

12 CHAIR SCOWCROFT: Thank you, Mr.  
13 Sheeler.

14 The next presenter is Laura  
15 Sorenson, followed by Ole Sorenson and  
16 Terrence Clark.

17 MS. SORENSON: For those of you  
18 seeing the little hats we're wearing, they're  
19 bumper stickers from Students for the  
20 Environment who are homeschoolers who actually  
21 studied and took the time to look at nuclear  
22 power, decided it was dangerous, it's dirty,

1       it's expensive. That's what is on their  
2       bumper stickers. So we're up here supporting  
3       them today.

4                   I am Laura. I am a taxpayer, a  
5       utility ratepayer, a founder of a small solar  
6       company, mother of two, and a recent  
7       grandmother. I have so much to be thankful  
8       for and yet my heart is so sad to think of the  
9       future for our generations to come.

10                   Surely this Commission has taken  
11       some time to reflect and search in your  
12       hearts, not in your pocketbook, not about the  
13       money, not about the fear, but in your heart.  
14       And I wonder about that.

15                   How can you call this an energy  
16       park? Like it is some kind of fun and fancy  
17       playground. To experiment with the lives of  
18       hardworking people and their children.

19                   The dessert you serve up is  
20       renewable energy as the thin icing on a very  
21       dense, dark cake of nuclear reprocessing that  
22       is dry, overcooked, and hard to swallow. And



1 with no bathroom to expel the waste.

2 Oh, but wait, wait. We have lots  
3 of guns and bombs to play with now because  
4 reprocessing will give us plutonium and little  
5 boys and some little girls now, too, like to  
6 play with their weapons. It doesn't matter  
7 that mommy and daddy, the taxpayers and  
8 ratepayers don't want to pay for the bad toys  
9 or let their children play with explosives  
10 because little children don't think of the  
11 future. Or how the risk of destruction can  
12 harm the entire planet.

13 I think the pretend grownups call  
14 this national security. Please, let's get  
15 real and stop all the greenwashing with  
16 nuclear power. It's dangerous, dirty,  
17 expensive. The experimenting you want to do  
18 at this part is wasted taxpayer, ratepayer  
19 money being squandered to clean up a dirty  
20 path.

21 I've read so many government  
22 documents my eyes are crossed, weary,

1       frightened at the short-sightedness of such  
2       well educated people.  It's taken me hours to  
3       try to keep all these numbers, technologies,  
4       and agencies in my head.  But two plus two  
5       doesn't make four when you read this stuff.

6                   In the end, my heart has spoken.  
7       I think we owe our children, grandchildren,  
8       great grandchildren, great great  
9       grandchildren, and all the generations to come  
10      a big apology.  We need to say we're so sorry  
11      to leave you with all this dangerous waste.  
12      And we'll try not to drive it all over  
13      creation, expose you to the radiation.

14                   (Applause.)

15                   CHAIR SCOWCROFT:  Thank you.

16                   Our next presenter is Ole  
17      Sorenson, followed by Terrence Clark.  Ole  
18      Sorenson?

19                   MR. SORENSON:  Well, who can argue  
20      with that?  My name is Ole Sorenson.  And I  
21      had a lot prepared but I guess we're cut a  
22      little short today seeing it is public

1 opinion.

2 The one thing that bugs me a  
3 little bit up there is this is America's  
4 nuclear future. I hope you guys realize it is  
5 America's human future at stake.

6 (Applause.)

7 MR. SORENSON: I thank you for  
8 letting me voice my opinion and I respect your  
9 position. But I would like to suggest a few  
10 things.

11 Now what happened to our  
12 responsibility for the future generations?  
13 Where is the courage to make the right  
14 decisions for a sustainable lifestyle on this  
15 beautiful blue planet? We owe it, like Laura  
16 said, to our children not to make this century  
17 the age of stupid.

18 We need to grow up and fast. And  
19 we need to make this the age of courage. The  
20 courage is the time we finally realize that a  
21 sustainable future of our home is all that  
22 matters, the sustainability. I don't see

1 anything in this park that is sustainable.

2 I implore you to search within  
3 your hearts and realize the love and wonder of  
4 your human potential. This is possibly our  
5 last chance to step up to the plate so make  
6 your legacy the one of foresight and  
7 compassion.

8 Our children deserve a healthy  
9 future. It is in our hands to ensure that  
10 future.

11 Now I know you were asking a  
12 little bit about how to connect with us. And  
13 I would say open education, create forums  
14 where we can meet and talk about this, and  
15 make qualified decisions based on what the  
16 people are asking for.

17 Lastly, I would like to  
18 wholeheartedly offer my assistance in solving  
19 this dilemma should it be a bit daunting for  
20 you. I can be reached anywhere that  
21 commonsense folks gather to pool their  
22 energies for a sustainable future.

1 Thank you.

2 (Applause.)

3 CHAIR SCOWCROFT: Thank you very  
4 much.

5 Our next presenter is Terrence  
6 Clark, followed by Tom Coulson and Ellen  
7 Thomas.

8 DR. CLARK: Yes, hi. I'm Terry  
9 Clark. And I'm from Asheville, North  
10 Carolina. I'm a physician, a psychiatrist, a  
11 clinical professor of psychiatry at ETSU.

12 And you have a very important  
13 role. As Ole just said, that this is such an  
14 important decision to be made about nuclear  
15 issues. Nuclear requires a different mind set  
16 than other sort of financial things or  
17 whatever.

18 We are talking about poison that  
19 lasts for hundreds of thousands and years.  
20 And I think it is insane to pursue nuclear  
21 power as the big option.

22 (Applause.)

1 DR. CLARK: I think we need  
2 energy. I'd love to see an energy park here  
3 with an emphasis on solar. It is a bad joke  
4 to call it an energy park, quite frankly, when  
5 I hear the proportions.

6 A little bit of comment insight.  
7 We saw the NIMBY response on display and one  
8 of the gentleman asked the question what in  
9 the world is going on here. You want to make  
10 the stuff but you don't want the poison.

11 Nobody wants it. Nobody wants  
12 this waste. And you saw it on display earlier  
13 today.

14 We have a crisis in America.  
15 Financially we are in great trouble. Early  
16 this morning, I heard a speaker say we're  
17 going to be importing technology and equipment  
18 from China and Japan to build these nuclear  
19 facilities. I think that's crazy. We need to  
20 put America to work.

21 We need to use the great minds we  
22 have in America with our massive unemployment

1 problems. Put them to work with creating  
2 energy from the nuclear source we have 93  
3 million miles away.

4 So in summary, my recommendations  
5 are stop the subsidies to the nuclear  
6 industry. Subsidize development of real clean  
7 energy and that is solar.

8 Thank you.

9 (Applause.)

10 CHAIR SCOWCROFT: Thank you, Mr.  
11 Clark.

12 Our next presenter is Tom Coulson,  
13 followed by Ellen Thomas and Russell  
14 D'Arenbourg.

15 MR. COULSON: Good afternoon.  
16 Thank you for this opportunity to talk to you.

17 I noticed that you are interested  
18 in economic development. I happen to live in  
19 the Sandy Mush community in Madison County,  
20 North Carolina. But I'd like to talk to you  
21 just for a moment about economic development  
22 in poor counties, of which Madison is one.

1                   When industry and government come  
2                   to offer us economic development, what do they  
3                   give us? Hog farms, garbage, prisoners, and  
4                   now nuclear waste. Now we don't have the  
5                   offer to get nuclear waste here in Madison  
6                   County this time yet.

7                   But I'm concerned because our  
8                   senators are not highly placed in the Senate.  
9                   And our state is not an important state for  
10                  the presidential primary. We're kind of  
11                  sucking on the hind tit, as we say in the  
12                  country.

13                  And I'd also like to say this.  
14                  I'm not an expert on this issue. Unlike Will  
15                  Rogers, all I know is what I read in the  
16                  paper. But I read enough to have a little  
17                  cognitive dissonance.

18                  Today, we've heard presentations  
19                  from people around Savannah who want to  
20                  increase the amount of nuclear waste coming  
21                  here but don't know what to do with the  
22                  detritus that's equally toxic.



1                   And your Commission was put  
2 together to talk about our nuclear future.  
3 But we've never solved the problem of  
4 neutralizing nuclear waste. And we have all  
5 these wonderful scientists who can solve  
6 problems, to quote Tevye, that would cross a  
7 rabbi's eyes. But they're not working on  
8 that.

9                   And I think before we build more  
10 nuclear plants, before we do any more  
11 reprocessing, figure out what to do to  
12 neutralize that waste.

13                   Thank you.

14                   (Applause.)

15                   CHAIR SCOWCROFT: Thank you, Mr.  
16 Coulson.

17                   Our next presenter is Ellen  
18 Thomas, followed by Russell D'Arenbourg and  
19 Mel Jenkins.

20                   MS. THOMAS: For the past 30  
21 years, I have been working nonstop for global  
22 nuclear disarmament. In 2009, I traveled the

1 country visiting radioactive sites along the  
2 entire nuclear chain.

3 In the process, I met down-winders  
4 and uranium miners and nuclear power plant  
5 workers and nuclear weapons builders from  
6 World War II whose colleagues have died young  
7 or who, themselves, have suffered from  
8 cancers.

9 There are two highways a few miles  
10 from my house in western North Carolina which  
11 are used to transport nuclear waste to, from,  
12 and between Oak Ridge, Tennessee and Savannah  
13 River. As population and traffic increases,  
14 so do accidents. I beg you to recognize our  
15 shrinking environment cannot afford even one  
16 radioactive accident.

17 To be able to stop this transport,  
18 you will need to endorse the following  
19 policies. First, keep all existing  
20 radioactive waste on site where it is  
21 produced. The safest way to do this is to  
22 create hardened on-site storage near each

1 nuclear power plant, far enough away from any  
2 lake, river, or ocean to protect the waterway.

3 Second, stop building new nuclear  
4 power plants and phase out the existing  
5 nuclear power plants as truly clean and  
6 renewable alternatives are actively developed  
7 in each community. We have the know-how to  
8 use wind, sun, tides, rivers, and geothermal  
9 taps to replace nuclear and fossil fuels. We  
10 merely need the commitment and the resources.

11 If the money that is currently  
12 going into nuclear power, nuclear weapons, and  
13 war were, instead, spent on clean energy, we  
14 could solve this problem very quickly.

15 (Applause.)

16 MS. THOMAS: Third, continue to  
17 research ways to neutralize radiation.  
18 Perhaps some day this will actually happen.  
19 But in the meantime, for now we have no right  
20 to continue with the very bad policies of  
21 nuclear expansion, which endanger not only  
22 ourselves but all future generations.

1 Thank you.

2 (Applause.)

3 CHAIR SCOWCROFT: Thank you.

4 Our next presenter is Russell  
5 D'Arenbourg, followed by Mel Jenkins and Andy  
6 Yasinsac.

7 MR. D'ARENBOURG: I have a chicken  
8 joke. I knew my phone was going to go off.  
9 Thank you.

10 Why did the chicken cross the  
11 Savannah River? To get away from the Savannah  
12 River Site. That chicken may be Chicken  
13 Little but maybe he isn't.

14 I'm worried. I have no  
15 credentials but I'm worried. I got up this  
16 morning and heard about -- read the paper  
17 about the PCBs in the fish. We can't eat the  
18 fish anymore.

19 I can remember when we were being  
20 told how safe nuclear energy is. I can  
21 remember when physicians were making cigarette  
22 commercials. So I'm worried.

1 I'll continue the chicken  
2 metaphor. Let's not put all our eggs in one  
3 basket. Whose football field are we going to  
4 pile it on?

5 Thank you.

6 (Applause.)

7 CHAIR SCOWCROFT: Thank you.

8 Our next presenter is Mel Jenkins,  
9 followed by Any Yasinsac and Joe Ortaldo.

10 MR. JENKINS: I can't believe  
11 Russell didn't use all this time. I've never  
12 heard him be that short before.

13 I'd like to thank everybody who  
14 came down here. Thirty people from Asheville,  
15 congratulations. We brought 12 in from  
16 Columbia. This is really good. Thank you.

17 I'm not going to go too deep. But  
18 I will say that I have great qualms about  
19 following any Soviet Russian nuclear process.  
20 Do I need to say anything more than Chernobyl?  
21 Okay.

22 I was a reporter for a while. And

1       why am I not a reporter? Well, because I  
2       think I was a good reporter and that means you  
3       don't keep working.

4                   I learned quickly follow the  
5       money. Cui bono? Who benefits? Let's think  
6       about that as we evaluate the presentations  
7       we've heard today. Who benefits out of these  
8       things?

9                   I'm going to take a couple of  
10      quick looks at things. One is that I suggest  
11      if you really want to get some information, go  
12      to the Nuclear Information and Resource  
13      Service site, [www.nirs.org](http://www.nirs.org). Really good  
14      research material.

15                  They did a lot of research and  
16      evaluation. Good stuff. I'm not going to try  
17      to duplicate it here.

18                  The point that General Scowcroft  
19      really brought forward about participatory  
20      democracy is where all this needs to go.  
21      Participatory democracy is something we've  
22      tried to get toward in this country a few

1 times.

2 It's why Glenn Beck is so upset  
3 about the progressives. They were working on  
4 this. Anything Glenn Beck is upset about, I'm  
5 in favor of.

6 (Laughter.)

7 MR. JENKINS: You have all the  
8 information, the expertise you need to  
9 evaluate to move ahead on this, to understand  
10 how to get opinions. You talk about going to  
11 the schools. They were in -- the progressives  
12 were in the schools with study groups, with  
13 information process.

14 Go back to New England, talk about  
15 town meetings and listening to people there.  
16 We know how to do this stuff.

17 I've been at it a long time and so  
18 have a lot of other people. And anybody who  
19 wants to talk about it, come talk to most of  
20 us who are in this room. And my email is  
21 greenpalmetto@yahoo.com. And I would love to  
22 talk to you.

1 Thank you.

2 CHAIR SCOWCROFT: Thank you.

3 (Applause.)

4 CHAIR SCOWCROFT: Our next  
5 presenter is Andy Yasinsac, followed by Joe  
6 Ortaldo and Charlie Cato.

7 MR. YASINSAC: Hello. My name is  
8 Andy Yasinsac. I'm a retired environmental  
9 engineer. I spent a little more than 30 years  
10 working for DHEC, permitting industrial waste  
11 water.

12 As a matter of fact, that's one of  
13 my bases of my concerns. I permitted an  
14 industry to dispose of waste water just  
15 downstream of the Savannah River Site on a  
16 land application site. So I'm somewhat  
17 acquainted with the geology.

18 I've heard that the geology at  
19 Savannah River Site has been thoroughly  
20 studied. I think that should frighten us  
21 rather than encourage us because what I found  
22 at the site immediately below the Savannah



1 River Site is surface soils are extremely  
2 porous sand that allow storm water and  
3 contaminants from leakage that does occur at  
4 these manufacturing sites, which this will be,  
5 to flow into the ground unattenuated. It  
6 doesn't capture any of the contaminants.

7 Underneath that coarse sandy soil  
8 is a very permeable sandstone aquifer. And  
9 that sandstone aquifer is essentially the sole  
10 source of drinking water for the city of  
11 Savannah.

12 The Savannah River Site is a very  
13 hazardous place to put a chemical operation.  
14 And there should be no consideration at all  
15 for storing any waste at the Savannah River  
16 Site.

17 Certainly there are facilities for  
18 processing waste. I'm an optimistic person  
19 and I'd love to see a well operated and  
20 designed recycling. And if it can be done at  
21 Savannah River Site, that's a good idea. But  
22 there should be no more storage there than is

1 absolutely necessary to carry out the  
2 immediate operation of a waste recycling  
3 facility.

4 Thank you very much.

5 CHAIR SCOWCROFT: Thank you.

6 (Applause.)

7 CHAIR SCOWCROFT: Our next  
8 presenter if Joe Ortaldo, followed by Charlie  
9 Cato and Delores Williams.

10 MR. ORTALDO: Good afternoon.

11 Thank you for coming to the CSRA to give us  
12 the opportunity to speak to the Commission.

13 My name is Joe Ortaldo. I'm a 30-  
14 year resident of Aiken. And I intend to stay  
15 here through my retirement.

16 I'm also presently the Chairman of  
17 the Citizens Advisory Board Waste Management  
18 Subcommittee. I'm going to speak as a citizen  
19 and not a member of the committee, although I  
20 agree with everything Manuel said earlier this  
21 morning.

22 We've heard a lot of comments

1 today, which on the surface appear to be  
2 contradictory. Some of them I agree with,  
3 some of them I disagree with. I'm confident  
4 that you folks will be able to sort out what  
5 is right and what is wrong in your  
6 deliberations as you prepare for your final  
7 report.

8 I'm going to ask you to consider  
9 two things that may be on the fringe of your  
10 charter or maybe outside your charter. One  
11 has to do with Yucca Mountain. We've heard a  
12 lot about Yucca Mountain.

13 One thing that would certainly  
14 help the credibility and the openness of this  
15 Administration is if they would tell the  
16 public why was Yucca Mountain dropped. I mean  
17 Yucca Mountain has been studied for over two  
18 decades. Tens of billions of dollars have  
19 been spent on it. And numerous peer review  
20 panels have reviewed it.

21 And up until a few months ago, it  
22 was the law of the land. We're going to go

1       there.  And then bingo, an edict comes out and  
2       no more Yucca Mountain.

3                   We can't get answers to the  
4       question well why was Yucca Mountain dropped.  
5       I know that's not in your charter but please  
6       consider some way of using your influence to  
7       get that information out to the public.

8                   The second area has to do with the  
9       resources in this area, the Savannah River  
10      Site and the general area.  You all were on a  
11      tour.  I'm sure you were impressed with some  
12      of the things you saw, the operating  
13      facilities that are there, the things that are  
14      under construction, the track record of the  
15      site.

16                   We've heard from DHEC and how it  
17      cooperates with this area.  The site can  
18      contribute an awful lot to the well-being, the  
19      future well-being of this country.  And I  
20      would ask that you consider that and some way  
21      of bringing that into whatever your final  
22      report and your final recommendations are.

1                   One final thing I would ask, to  
2                   put a little plug in for the Advisory Board,  
3                   immediately after this meeting, nominally  
4                   around four o'clock, there will be a joint  
5                   meeting of the Nuclear Materials Committee and  
6                   the Waste Management Committee here in this  
7                   building. It's in one of these rooms. I  
8                   think it is the Lamar Room.

9                   If you're interested in coming,  
10                  just check the sign board at the head of the  
11                  stairs. And that will tell you. I think it  
12                  is the Lamar Room.

13                  Again, thank you for the  
14                  opportunity for us to give our presentations.

15                  CHAIR SCOWCROFT: Thank you very  
16                  much.

17                  Our next speaker is Charlie Cato,  
18                  followed by Delores Williams and Clare  
19                  Hanrahan. Are any of them here?

20                  MS. HANRAHAN: What a crowd you  
21                  are. I'm from Asheville, North Carolina also.

22                  We've heard from the nuclear

1 industry, the engineers and the academics, the  
2 businesses, the Chambers of Commerce, and even  
3 the Commander in the Nuclear Navy, all who  
4 gain economic benefit and collude in the  
5 perpetration of this deadly and dirty  
6 industry.

7 (Applause.)

8 MS. HANRAHAN: Nuclear power and  
9 nuclear weapons are tied together in a  
10 criminal co-dependency that we must not allow  
11 to continue. Any suggest economic benefits  
12 that may accrue to some, even folks with no  
13 access to jobs, cannot outweigh the reckless  
14 endangerment to the health of our communities  
15 and our planet.

16 Shut down production. Clean up  
17 the mess if you can. And make economic  
18 reparations to those who have suffered from  
19 this insane and short-sighted policy.

20 Thank you.

21 (Applause.)

22 CHAIR SCOWCROFT: Thank you very

1 much.

2 The next speaker is Clare Hanrahan  
3 followed by Ben Rusche --

4 PARTICIPANT: That was Clare.

5 CHAIR SCOWCROFT: That was Clare?

6 All right.

7 PARTICIPANT: Want to try Delores  
8 Williams again?

9 CHAIR SCOWCROFT: Is Delores  
10 Williams here?

11 (No response.)

12 CHAIR SCOWCROFT: Then the next  
13 speaker is Ben Rusche, followed by Eunice  
14 Rusche and Robert Guild.

15 (No response.)

16 CHAIR SCOWCROFT: None of them  
17 here? How about Leslie Miner, Debbie Parker,  
18 Elaine Cooper?

19 MR. GUILD: Good afternoon, Mr.  
20 Chairman, members of the Commission.

21 My name is Robert Guild. I'm from  
22 Columbia, South Carolina. I'm active with the

1 South Carolina Chapter of the Sierra Club.

2 And I practice environmental law.

3 I have a couple of recommendations  
4 for you. First is that you state clearly or  
5 recommend clearly that no away-from-reactor  
6 storage or interim storage of high-level waste  
7 or spent fuel take place at the Savannah River  
8 Site.

9 Secondly, that no reprocessing of  
10 used or spent fuel be recommended to resume at  
11 Savannah River Site. I'd make the point that  
12 as others have said, reprocessing does not  
13 reduce the volume. But instead increases the  
14 volume of high-level waste to be managed by a  
15 factor of between seven and ten times.

16 And finally that no commercial  
17 nuclear waste be received at Savannah River  
18 Site where there is no assured exit commitment  
19 or exit strategy.

20 We have abundant experience in  
21 South Carolina with the failure to live up to  
22 that final conditions. That is to assure an



1 exit strategy or an exit for waste generated  
2 within our borders.

3 And I want to just illustrate with  
4 two points briefly. I represented the Natural  
5 Resources Defense Council, the Sierra Club,  
6 and other conservation groups in litigation  
7 against the Department of Energy in 2007 with  
8 respect to the efforts by the Department of  
9 Energy to renege on their long-standing  
10 commitment to remove the legacy waste, the  
11 tank waste that we have been discussing, from  
12 South Carolina permanently.

13 And instead with the Section  
14 3.1.1.6 to the 2005 Defense Authorization  
15 Bill, we were told that we were to retain over  
16 three million curies of the 300-plus million  
17 curies of defense waste generated at the site.  
18 This represented a breach of trust with South  
19 Carolina but one we fear will resume and be  
20 repeated should South Carolina be designated  
21 as a temporary storage facility.

22 We recommend a hardened on-site

1 storage at existing reactor sites as the most  
2 secure and scientifically defensible waste  
3 management strategy as an interim measure and  
4 not transport of such waste to South Carolina.

5 And lastly I'd close by responding  
6 to an earlier question with regard to  
7 recommendations with respect to transparency.

8 And would note that as part of the 2007  
9 settlement in the litigation with the  
10 Department, there was a requirement that the  
11 Department post on its website curie content,  
12 inventories of the waste tanks, and of the  
13 salt stone processing waste stream so that the  
14 public would see precisely what fractions of  
15 waste were being glassified and what fractions  
16 of waste would likely remain forever in South  
17 Carolina.

18 And we would urge you to require  
19 that transparency practice to continue in the  
20 future.

21 Thank you.

22 CHAIR SCOWCROFT: Thank you, Mr.

1 Guild.

2 (Applause.)

3 CHAIR SCOWCROFT: Next presenter  
4 is Leslie Miner, followed by Debbie Parker  
5 and Elaine Cooper.

6 MS. MINER: Hi. I'm Leslie  
7 Miner and I've been to so many of these  
8 meetings I don't remember how many. And I  
9 hate speaking in public. But here I am again.

10 Anyway, I know that you nice  
11 Commissioners are here to help come up with a  
12 problem to deal with the back end of the  
13 nuclear fuel cycle. And South Carolina has  
14 been dealing with the back end of nuclear and  
15 other toxic cycles for a really, really long  
16 time.

17 And we're also being unfairly  
18 treated on the front end. I don't know if you  
19 guys know but we have a law in this state.  
20 Basically ratepayers are forced to pay for the  
21 nuclear power plants before they're built.  
22 They did that in Georgia, too.

1                   So this whole nuclear cycle is  
2 funded by the federal government or the  
3 taxpayers. It's not a standalone industry.

4                   And I think that I'm starting to  
5 hear -- this war cry I've been hearing for  
6 reprocessing, it seems like it started eight  
7 years ago, which is another ploy for Savannah  
8 River Site to feed at the federal trough,  
9 which is -- I don't know if anybody has  
10 noticed but the government is sort of running  
11 out of money.

12                   And I think our money can be way  
13 better spent.

14                   (Applause.)

15                   MS. MINERD: For example, we spent  
16 four-point-something billion dollars on a MOX  
17 plant and it doesn't even -- there's not even  
18 a utility that wants the MOX fuel even at the,  
19 what I called it yesterday, the blue light  
20 special Walmart price that they're offering  
21 it.

22                   So we need to quit acting like the

1 Russians, which, by the way, went broke  
2 spending all their money on defense, and I  
3 consider the Department of Energy a subsidiary  
4 of our Defense Department.

5 (Applause.)

6 MS. MINERD: So we need to quit  
7 blowing our money on that and finding wiser  
8 ways to spend our money. And we do not need  
9 reprocessing in South Carolina because that  
10 will turn into interim storage. And interim  
11 storage will turn into long-term storage.

12 As Dick Riley said, the first rule  
13 of nuclear waste is where you put it, that's  
14 where it stays. And the community does not  
15 want that here.

16 Thank you for coming to visit  
17 South Carolina.

18 (Applause.)

19 CHAIR SCOWCROFT: Thank you very  
20 much.

21 Our next speaker is Debbie Parker,  
22 followed by Elaine Cooper and Nicolas

1 Hernandez.

2 MS. PARKER: Thank you for  
3 allowing me to speak. I am Debbie Parker, the  
4 Legislative Director for Conservation Voters  
5 of South Carolina. We facilitate the common  
6 agenda process, which brings together over 36  
7 organizations representing 45,000 South  
8 Carolinians who promote a clean, healthy, and  
9 economically vibrant South Carolina.

10 We have a proud tradition of  
11 contributing to our national security and  
12 making sacrifices for our country. Essential  
13 to this legacy has been Savannah River Site  
14 and Conservation Voters is grateful for the  
15 contributions of SRS and the people who work  
16 their to our national defense.

17 However, as the Blue Ribbon  
18 Commission deliberates how to manage the high-  
19 level waste nuclear waste accumulating at  
20 nuclear plants, please consider that South  
21 Carolina's conservation community has grave  
22 concerns about any proposals that would bring

1 more nuclear waste to our state.

2 Conservation Voters, along with  
3 Audubon South Carolina, Coastal Conservation  
4 League, South Carolina Sierra Club,  
5 Environmental Education Association of South  
6 Carolina, the Solar Business Alliance, Upstate  
7 Forever, Morning Sun Foundation, South  
8 Carolina Wildlife Federation, League of Women  
9 Voters of South Carolina, Waccamaw  
10 Riverkeeper, and Wildlife Action would like to  
11 state, for the record, that we oppose  
12 importing waste under any conditions,  
13 including under the pretext of interim spent  
14 fuel storage and/or reprocessing proposals.  
15 These proposals substitute a long-term  
16 national solution with a short-term South  
17 Carolina problem.

18 Our country stands at a nuclear-  
19 waste crossroads. Leaving aside the  
20 environmental and scientific suitability or  
21 unsuitability of Yucca Mountain, both its  
22 selection and its apparent recent failure were

1 essentially political in nature.

2           Rather than pointing fingers over  
3 Yucca's demise, elected leaders at every level  
4 need to return to the table and hold an  
5 intellectually-honest discussion centered  
6 exclusively on a long-term solution to our  
7 nuclear waste challenge.

8           This discussion should be guided  
9 by policy, not politics, and by science, not  
10 special interest. We look forward to  
11 participating in this discussion. And we  
12 thank the Blue Ribbon Commission for your  
13 efforts to help facilitate it.

14           (Applause.)

15           CHAIR SCOWCROFT: Thank you.

16           Our next speaker is Elaine Cooper,  
17 followed by Nicolas Hernandez and Judy  
18 Treichel.

19           MS. COOPER: Hello. I'm Elaine  
20 Cooper from Columbia, South Carolina. I've  
21 been in South Carolina for about 32 years and  
22 I've never taken a tour of Savannah River



1 Site. Yesterday was my first time that I took  
2 a tour on the bus. And I have a few  
3 impressions.

4 One major impression was the  
5 amount of money that was being poured into the  
6 place. There was a huge line of contractors  
7 and business people all lined up when we first  
8 arrived. And as we looked out through our bus  
9 windows, we saw a lot of hustling and  
10 bustling, a lot of building, et cetera.

11 So let's be clear. This is trying  
12 to move and forward as possible and utilize as  
13 much money as this area had for as quick as  
14 they can before it disappears.

15 With that said, I thank my  
16 President for creating the Blue Ribbon  
17 Commission. I'm proud of President Obama for  
18 doing that. And I hope that he will listen to  
19 the public, you know, not just the people who  
20 are involved in their monies and salaries, et  
21 cetera, who are invested in here but the  
22 common man who put him in office.

1                   And with that said, I would like  
2                   to talk about a few major points on  
3                   reprocessing like I oppose reprocessing as a  
4                   regular citizen and a member of the Sierra  
5                   Club.

6                   Reprocessing would mean that the  
7                   nation's radioactive spent fuel would be  
8                   shipped to the reprocessing plant for storage  
9                   and processing. A reprocessing plant is a  
10                  large facility that cannot be fed with just  
11                  the spent fuel generated in South Carolina.

12                  I just want to end with just that  
13                  major point that of course you hear two  
14                  conflicting statements today. One is that  
15                  nuclear is safe yet most of the people who  
16                  came forward were very alarmed at why Yucca  
17                  Mountain is closed.

18                  Why should they be so concerned  
19                  about the closing of Yucca Mountain if nuclear  
20                  energy is so safe? I know that's a simple  
21                  question but I was just struck with the  
22                  importance of that.

1                   So therefore it is not safe to  
2 store all of this in this area and you can  
3 rest assured I think even the South  
4 Carolinians and people in Georgia who are  
5 asleep would rise up and take notice if there  
6 is no other place to send this stuff. And  
7 there shouldn't be.

8                   Anyway, that's what I'd like to  
9 say.

10                  CHAIR SCOWCROFT: Thank you.  
11 Thank you very much.

12                  (Applause.)

13                  CHAIR SCOWCROFT: Our next speaker  
14 is Nicolas Hernandez, followed by Judy  
15 Treichel and Rose Hayes.

16                  MR. HERNANDEZ: Good afternoon.  
17 My name is Nicolas Hernandez. I'm originally  
18 from El Paso, Texas, but I now live in  
19 Greenville, South Carolina.

20                  I'm an employee of Duke Energy. I  
21 am a nuclear engineer at their Oconee Nuclear  
22 Station, which is located two-and-a-half hours

1 north of here. And though I am an employee of  
2 Duke, I have come here on my day off to speak  
3 with you as a citizen.

4 My background is somewhat varied.  
5 I come from the deserts of west Texas. And I  
6 went to school at MIT where I got my  
7 bachelor's degree. I also became a Senior  
8 Reactor Operator at the research reactor  
9 there.

10 But what may interest you is when  
11 I started my nuclear engineering degree, I was  
12 actually anti-nuclear. I wanted to get into  
13 fusion research, find alternatives to fission  
14 reactors, which is what we're talking about  
15 right now, the waste of that, and the weapons  
16 complex.

17 And it was in the course of  
18 learning about that stuff, the facts, the  
19 math, the science, the engineering, that my  
20 mind was changed. And they say that there is  
21 no greater zealot than a convert, well you're  
22 looking at a convert right now.

1                   And I just want to invite anybody,  
2                   particularly my anti-nuclear friends -- and I  
3                   do consider you my friends because you guys  
4                   care so much about the environment and about  
5                   this community and social justice and  
6                   sustainability. I do, too.

7                   I know that we can disagree about  
8                   things passionately. But still in the end  
9                   love and care about each other. And I love  
10                  and care about you guys. I really support  
11                  what you're doing.

12                  I think in a strange way -- well,  
13                  maybe not so strange, that you guys may have  
14                  actually helped save the nuclear industry at  
15                  various points in our history by being such  
16                  good questioners about stuff. And have gotten  
17                  us to the point where we are right now, where  
18                  we are operating so safely and so efficiently  
19                  and so reliably.

20                  So if anybody wants to take a tour  
21                  of the Oconee Nuclear Station, I'll do my best  
22                  to get you in. But at the very least, I'd

1 love to talk to you for hours and hours and  
2 hours. I'll be available outside.

3 Thank you. Thank you very much.

4 CHAIR SCOWCROFT: Thank you very  
5 much.

6 (Applause.)

7 CHAIR SCOWCROFT: All right. Our  
8 next speaker is Judy Treichel, followed by  
9 Rose Hayes, and David Penix.

10 MS. TREICHEL: First I want to  
11 thank the Commission and especially the staff  
12 for making such a really big effort and a  
13 successful effort to hear the people in this  
14 area because I was afraid, and many of them  
15 were as well, that this was just going to be  
16 overwhelmed and there wouldn't be enough time  
17 to hear from people. And because of the  
18 efforts that you've made, I think just about  
19 everybody that wanted to speak is going to be  
20 able to do that.

21 I'm the Executive Director the  
22 Nevada Nuclear Waste Task Force. And I need

1 to put on the record, not particularly your  
2 record but for this audience, that the ending  
3 of Yucca Mountain was not a mistake. It was  
4 not a failure. It was a victory for the  
5 public in Nevada.

6 (Applause.)

7 MS. TREICHEL: And as for why the  
8 site closed, you could ask any local scientist  
9 or old-timer that was familiar with the inter-  
10 mountain west and they could tell you that  
11 Yucca Mountain was a very bad geologic choice.  
12 And finally was officially found to be that.

13 It took us 23 years but the public  
14 finally won the battle for our own safety.  
15 And we do support the people here in the  
16 Southeast in their similar battle for their  
17 safety because as far as we are concerned, we  
18 have to all win together.

19 And all of these groups that are  
20 around that do really, really care need to be  
21 taken seriously. And there has to be an  
22 acceptable answer, the best answer we can find

1 but that is a victory for all of us.

2 So thank you very much.

3 (Applause.)

4 CHAIR SCOWCROFT: Thank you, too.

5 Thank you.

6 Our next speaker is Rose Hayes,  
7 followed by David Penix and Bill Tinley.

8 MS. HAYES: Good afternoon and  
9 thank you for being here.

10 I recognize that the Commission  
11 has been directed by the Secretary of Energy  
12 to take off from the table the Yucca Mountain  
13 planned repository. However, I would like to  
14 urge the Commission in their deliberations to  
15 remember that a national repository is a point  
16 of law. As a matter of fact, it is a point of  
17 several laws.

18 In 1982, Congress passed the  
19 Nuclear Waste Policy Act. And that Act named  
20 Deaf Smith County, Texas, Hanford, Washington,  
21 and Savannah River Site as potential sites to  
22 be selected as a national repository.



1           In `87, the law was amended to  
2           designate that Yucca Mountain would be that  
3           repository, followed by billions of dollars  
4           spent in studying the mountain and many  
5           scientific studies and reports. President  
6           Bush even declared it to be scientifically  
7           sound for its mission.

8           The law, the 1982 law, was  
9           followed by other laws as well. And one of  
10          them specifically covers the rights of the  
11          State of South Carolina where nuclear waste is  
12          concerned.

13          Public Law 107-107, Section  
14          31.55(c) and item 4 under that section, first  
15          of all, the law calls for the Secretary of  
16          Energy to prepare a plan for disposal of the  
17          surplus defense plutonium and defense  
18          plutonium materials currently located at the  
19          Savannah River Site, and for disposal of  
20          defense plutonium and defense plutonium  
21          materials to be shipped to the Savannah River  
22          Site in the future.

1                   Item 4 under that section says a  
2                   specification of the means by which all such  
3                   defense plutonium and defense plutonium  
4                   materials will be removed in a timely manner  
5                   from the Savannah River Site for storage or  
6                   disposal elsewhere.

7                   I urge the Commission to review  
8                   this law and to take it into its deliberations  
9                   when you file your final report.

10                  Without some eventual compliance  
11                  with this law, the complex and sophisticated  
12                  programs that have cost billions of dollars at  
13                  the Savannah River Site are left with no place  
14                  to go.

15                  And the community around the  
16                  Savannah River Site is left in a continual  
17                  state of expectation that their government  
18                  will, in fact, move the nuclear materials out  
19                  of the State of South Carolina and that  
20                  Savannah River will not become, by default,  
21                  the national repository.

22                  Thank you.

1 CHAIR SCOWCROFT: Thank you, Ms.  
2 Hayes.

3 The next speaker is David Penix,  
4 followed by Bill Tinley and Michael Colatarci.

5 MR. PENIX: I'm David Penix. I'm  
6 a commercial realtor, economic developer,  
7 Augusta and Aiken. And my father brought our  
8 family to Aiken in 1952. He was a DuPonter.

9 And I have been familiar with  
10 DuPont from that time forward. I can tell you  
11 there are two rules for working with DuPont.  
12 And I've worked with DuPont in Textile Fibers  
13 as well as Savannah River Site.

14 Safety is first. And the second  
15 rule is you don't break the first. And that  
16 has been the environment out there forever.

17 And in my observations here in  
18 getting ready to share some thoughts with you  
19 come from [www.ans.org](http://www.ans.org) and  
20 [www.aboutnuclear.org](http://www.aboutnuclear.org). 2012, it just so  
21 happened that this meeting happened now and  
22 2012 is next year but the nation's annual

1 demand for fossil fuel, oil, coal, and gas is  
2 a curve here. And our demand drops below the  
3 curve next year. That's on these sites.

4 That means we have to have fuel  
5 from other sources outside the country or what  
6 we provide inside the country.

7 I have learned to grow to  
8 understand and appreciate the brain trust that  
9 we have at the Savannah River Site. They  
10 continue to amaze me with their brilliance.

11 And the Savannah River Site saved  
12 us from -- saved our freedom from atomic bombs  
13 early on in the late '50s and '60s in the Cold  
14 War. Today they can save our freedom by  
15 giving us our electrical energy by nuclear  
16 fuel.

17 (Applause.)

18 CHAIR SCOWCROFT: Thank you, Mr.  
19 Penix.

20 Our next speaker is Bill Tinley,  
21 followed by Michael Colatarci and Lam Le.

22 MR. TINLEY: I am Bill Tinley and

1 I'm not from Asheville but I've been there and  
2 it is a beautiful city.

3 Appreciate you folks coming down  
4 to our community to listen to us and to hear  
5 what we have to say about nuclear energy. I'm  
6 from Waynesboro, Georgia, the county seat of  
7 Burke County and I feel compelled -- I wasn't  
8 planning on speaking today but I feel  
9 compelled to give you guys some information  
10 that maybe you didn't exactly catch this  
11 morning.

12 Number one, Burke County is the  
13 second largest county in the State of Georgia.  
14 We have 832 square miles of territory. And in  
15 1970, in the early 1970s when Plant Vogtle,  
16 when they were looking for a place to put a  
17 nuclear plant, Burke County had about 20,  
18 22,000 people in it. So with that many miles  
19 and that much land, we were sparsely  
20 populated.

21 East Burke County butts the  
22 Savannah River. And on the Savannah River

1       there was a lot of land that was sparsely  
2       populated that would be suitable for a nuclear  
3       plant. It would be away from population  
4       centers and there would be very few people  
5       that would have to be displaced. That was how  
6       that place was chosen.

7               The county commission didn't go in  
8       some smoke-filled room behind doors. The  
9       mayor of the town of Waynesboro did not decide  
10      that Plant Vogtle was coming to Waynesboro.  
11      It was announced. It was publicly announced.  
12      It was publicly announced at a forum in the  
13      National Guard Armory with all of the citizens  
14      of Burke County invited to come listen to the  
15      presentation.

16             Not only that, but during the  
17      construction and during the whole process, the  
18      public was continued to be informed. That  
19      continues today with 3 and 4.

20             We've had -- the Nuclear  
21      Regulatory Commission has come. We've had  
22      public forums. We've had public forums at

1 school house. We've had public forums all  
2 over the community. People know where the  
3 decision came from.

4 Some of the good things that came  
5 -- and one other thing, and I'll say it -- I'm  
6 sorry, I'm genetically messed up because I  
7 come from the South and I don't talk fast.

8 (Laughter.)

9 MR. TINLEY: But I hope you'll  
10 hear this. Plant Vogtle did not just help  
11 people that were rich and people that were  
12 connected. It put 12 EMA stations throughout  
13 our county, 832 square miles. Nobody lives  
14 more than seven miles from an ambulance and a  
15 fire truck.

16 And I don't know of any other  
17 place in the State of Georgia or in the United  
18 States that might have EMA services that  
19 efficient.

20 Thank you.

21 CHAIR SCOWCROFT: Thank you.

22 (Applause.)

1 CHAIR SCOWCROFT: Our next speaker  
2 is Michael Colatarci, followed by Lam Le and  
3 Denise Traina.

4 MR. COLATARCI: Good afternoon.  
5 My name is Michael Colatarci and I live in  
6 Aiken. And I'm here as a private citizen.

7 I'm a retiree and I'm a refugee  
8 from New Jersey. I came to South Carolina for  
9 a better life. In many respects, I am a South  
10 Carolinian and a happy Aikenite by choice, not  
11 by accident of birth.

12 I've heard a lot of whining today  
13 about the need to reopen the Yucca Mountain  
14 issue and to move the nuclear waste to Nevada.  
15 It is whining. We created it here. We need  
16 to store it here. It isn't moving on.

17 I'm not a scientist. I'm an  
18 accountant by profession. But it defies logic  
19 to move that stuff across the country and to  
20 incur the danger for all of the folks from  
21 here to there.

22 You, as a committee, can help us



1 to get the funding and the public policy  
2 necessary to store that stuff on site and to  
3 store it safely.

4 The second thing I'd like to  
5 mention is that this country was built, in  
6 many respects, on cheap and abundant energy.  
7 Without it, our future is very much in  
8 jeopardy.

9 We need to build nuclear power,  
10 not to close it down. The Savannah River Site  
11 provides an excellent place. It's an  
12 opportunity to build and experiment with good  
13 nuclear power.

14 I would suggest that the Committee  
15 consider and look into small, proven nuclear  
16 power such is that which powers many of our  
17 naval vessels, linked together in order to  
18 provide a safe environment and a building  
19 environment. Again, funding will be  
20 necessary.

21 The third thing I'd like to leave  
22 you with is since coming here, I've met a lot

1 of folks from France. They've been very good  
2 people. And I've enjoyed their company.

3 They're here on contract. They're  
4 engineers and they're scientists. It appalls  
5 me that we find ourselves in a situation where  
6 as a country we are importing French technical  
7 labor when we have abundant intelligent folks  
8 here.

9 This underscores, I believe, the  
10 bankruptcy in our educational policy. I ask  
11 you as a Committee to address that issue  
12 because without that improved educational  
13 base, we will not solve our other issues.

14 Thank you.

15 CHAIR SCOWCROFT: Thank you very  
16 much, sir.

17 (Applause.)

18 CHAIR SCOWCROFT: Our next speaker  
19 is Lam Le, followed by Denise Traina and  
20 Barbara Wise.

21 MS. LE: Hello. My name is Lam Le  
22 and I'm 21 years old. And I've lived in Aiken

1 since I was ten years old and I consider it my  
2 home.

3 So also speaking on behalf of  
4 countless other students and youth who aren't  
5 here in solidarity with me, you know, we're  
6 here to speak about the future of nuclear  
7 power in America. But as the future, you  
8 know, I can tell you that I don't want this.  
9 And I cannot support a project that will  
10 create more nuclear waste that will never  
11 leave South Carolina.

12 And my generation is not plagued  
13 by blind idealism but I realize that I cannot  
14 stand by and watch my policymakers make  
15 irresponsible decisions that I have to clean  
16 up someday. Nuclear doesn't have much of a  
17 future in comparison to solar and wind and  
18 other renewable energies.

19 Nuclear has an infinitely closer  
20 end than solar and wind. So we must realize  
21 that we are not abstract entities, separate  
22 from nature and we can no longer treat nature

1 as something to be exploited. We know the  
2 dangers we are in and we choose to believe  
3 that the Earth is not something that we can  
4 destroy.

5 We must also behave in a way that  
6 is in line with our morals and our ethical  
7 codes. So if you really believe that the  
8 future is important and that you have a duty  
9 to future generations, I mean I think it is  
10 very clear that there is a need to invest in  
11 energies that are safe and clean and renewable  
12 out of everything we have options for.

13 And, you know, nuclear is often  
14 seen as a source of power to transition us  
15 into that. But what we need is long-term  
16 solutions.

17 And I thank you again for your  
18 time but I am so nervous.

19 (Laughter.)

20 MS. LE: But really thank you so  
21 much. And I appreciate everybody that has  
22 spoken today.

1 (Applause.)

2 CHAIR SCOWCROFT: Thank you very  
3 much.

4 Our next speaker is Denise Traina,  
5 followed by Barbara Wise and Andy Cwalina.

6 MS. TRAINA: Barbara Wise is not  
7 here.

8 CHAIR SCOWCROFT: Okay.

9 MS. TRAINA: But I'm Denise  
10 Traina. And I welcome you to Augusta,  
11 Georgia. It's great to have you here and  
12 being here listening to us.

13 One of the things that inspires  
14 me, one of the people, my little grandchild is  
15 why I'm here. Over the years, I have been to  
16 many of these events. And I want to just --  
17 short and sweet because I've listened to some  
18 wonderful people with a lot more expertise  
19 than I have -- I am a healthcare professional,  
20 a parent, and, as I said, grandparent.

21 I do urge that this Commission  
22 look more closely at safer alternatives for

1 our citizens to find sources of energy. We  
2 know there are consequences, both to our air,  
3 our water, our soil. Thus our health and our  
4 environment.

5 Therefore, and especially when  
6 releases occur, which have happened on a  
7 number of occasions in this very town, we know  
8 that high-level waste waste management is  
9 costly and dangerous. So I'm just urging you  
10 to please look further at eliminating funding  
11 for nuclear sources of energy and, instead,  
12 redirecting those funds.

13 They're out there. And with our  
14 scientists and all the expertise that we've  
15 heard, we can do this. Redirect those funds  
16 to much safer alternatives. Until then, just  
17 keep it in your own backyard.

18 Thank you.

19 (Applause.)

20 CHAIR SCOWCROFT: Thank you.

21 Our next speaker is Andy Cwalina,  
22 followed by Fred Cavanaugh and Gabriel Fair.

1 MR. CWALINA: Chairman Scowcroft  
2 and members of the Commission, I welcome the  
3 opportunity to address this Commission today.

4 My name is Andy Cwalina and I'm  
5 Vice Chair of the Savannah River Site Retiree  
6 Association, the largest chartered retirement  
7 organization in the State of South Carolina  
8 with a membership of a thousand retired SRS  
9 workers.

10 You have already heard numerous  
11 presentations regarding the technical and  
12 physical capabilities of SRS. I'd like to  
13 tell you today about the existence of a strong  
14 public confidence in the Savannah River Site  
15 and its people for playing a key role in the  
16 treatment, storage, and processing, and  
17 disposal of spent nuclear materials.

18 I recognize that site selection  
19 may not be a key part of your mission;  
20 however, process selection will inherently  
21 narrow the choice of location.

22 I believe that the position of my

1 association for which I speak is an excellent  
2 proxy, if not the best proxy, for the local  
3 public sentiment towards the SRS. Our  
4 association represents 30,000-plus worker  
5 years of experience at the site, raising our  
6 children, grandchildren, as neighbors of the  
7 site.

8 We live here. This is our site.  
9 And we will not get on a bus and leave town  
10 after this meeting. We are the pulse of the  
11 region.

12 Having worked for most of our  
13 careers at Savannah River Site, we have the  
14 firsthand knowledge of its physical and  
15 technical superiority. And most importantly,  
16 its dedication to safety.

17 We took part in cultivating its  
18 safety culture, long before it became  
19 fashionable to talk about safety culture. The  
20 legacy of that safety culture is enduring.  
21 Because of the unprecedented experience with  
22 the site, the membership of my association is



1 uniquely positioned to make judgements about  
2 the site's safety. And we believe there is  
3 none better across the entire nuclear defense  
4 complex.

5 Therefore, it is the  
6 recommendation of our association that the  
7 Savannah River Site be given highest priority  
8 for conducting work involving the back end of  
9 the nuclear fuel cycle.

10 And we thank the Commission and  
11 offer ourselves as a resource to the  
12 Commission. Thank you.

13 (Applause.)

14 CHAIR SCOWCROFT: Thank you very  
15 much.

16 Our next speaker is Fred  
17 Cavanaugh, followed by Gabriel Fair and Holly  
18 Garrett.

19 MR. CAVANAUGH: Mr. Chairman and  
20 members of the Committee, thank you so much  
21 for being with us today. I also want to say  
22 thank you to all those folks that are here.

1 I'm Mayor of the City of Aiken.  
2 I've been mayor for 19 years. I've been on  
3 Council for 25 years. And I moved to the City  
4 of Aiken, when I was 16, 57 years ago I think  
5 that is. And I've also been an employee of  
6 the Savannah River Site.

7 And I just want to say I am proud  
8 of our community. I'm proud of those who have  
9 worked at the site all these years, back  
10 during the Cold War. And as Andy Cwalina just  
11 said, and I support everything Andy said, I'm  
12 proud of all these folks.

13 They've given their lives and some  
14 would say well, they were getting paid. Of  
15 course they were. But at times, looking back  
16 at history, they couldn't change. They  
17 couldn't move. They had to stay at this site  
18 and do their job.

19 On behalf of our community at  
20 large, I want to thank the Commissioners for  
21 coming to our community and providing  
22 information and allowing opportunities for our

1 citizens to give their comments and thoughts  
2 concerning the management policies for the  
3 back end of the nuclear fuel cycle.

4 As we know, the Savannah River  
5 Site and its talented and qualified, very  
6 qualified workforce, has been a key player in  
7 the defense of our country for 60 years. And  
8 there has been strong community support for  
9 years and years and years.

10 We certainly want this partnership  
11 to continue. And we look forward to future  
12 opportunities to be involved in discussions  
13 about the future of Savannah River plan.

14 We know your task is not an easy  
15 one. It's very much like City Council  
16 meeting. Any time an issue comes up, there's  
17 always many sides to the story and the issues.  
18 So it is a daunting task that you have. And  
19 I thank you for serving on this Commission.

20 At the point of comprehensive  
21 review policies, potential policies, one can  
22 only ask that it be an open and transparent

1 process. And that the outcome be in the best  
2 interests of our citizens.

3 Again, thank you for being here  
4 today and serving our country on this  
5 Commission. And I do want to add I certainly  
6 endorse this group that was up here earlier,  
7 Aiken County Council members who I know and  
8 work with very closely. I support their  
9 comments and I support many of the other very  
10 positive comments.

11 We need to look at the facts.  
12 Just like any issue that comes to Council, we  
13 need to look at the facts, get down to the  
14 facts of each issue, of this particular issue,  
15 and what needs to be done in our country.

16 We know we need the energy. We're  
17 now bringing in about 65 percent of our  
18 petroleum, I understand, from off -- outside  
19 of our country. So something needs to be  
20 done.

21 And to me I think it is a variety  
22 of various energy producing elements to do

1 that job. But I think nuclear is one of the  
2 most important at this time.

3 Thank you.

4 CHAIR SCOWCROFT: Thank you very  
5 much, Mr. Mayor.

6 (Applause.)

7 CHAIR SCOWCROFT: Our next speaker  
8 is Gabriel Fair and our final speaker, Holly  
9 Garrett.

10 MR. FAIR: Hello. My name is  
11 Gabriel Fair. I'm co-President of Students  
12 for Environmental Action at Clemson  
13 University. I'm here today to talk about the  
14 future of nuclear waste, specifically in South  
15 Carolina.

16 Clemson University is on the  
17 doorstep of Duke Power. And we all know how  
18 expensive temporary storage of nuclear waste  
19 is. We also know about some of the dangers of  
20 nuclear power and also some of the proposed  
21 benefits of nuclear power.

22 The long-term storage of nuclear

1 waste in South Carolina is not in the best  
2 interest of South Carolina. It's also not in  
3 the best interest of taxpayer money.

4 Temporary storage is expensive --  
5 hello, nuclear power is expensive. So it is  
6 our recommendation that we hold nuclear waste  
7 in the storage site where it is produced, in  
8 the nuclear power plant where it is produced  
9 temporary indefinitely.

10 So transportation is expensive and  
11 also poses a slight risk. Centralized storage  
12 also is expensive and poses a slight risk.

13 I know the citizens of Aiken and  
14 the citizens surrounding Aiken don't want to  
15 see nuclear waste come to their town. As a  
16 citizen of South Carolina, I respect that.

17 Thank you very much.

18 (Applause.)

19 CHAIR SCOWCROFT: Thank you, Mr.  
20 Fair.

21 Our final speaker is Holly  
22 Garrett. I didn't know there were going to be

1 two speakers.

2 MS. GARRETT: She'll probably just  
3 squeal.

4 My name is Holly Garrett and I'm  
5 from Anderson, South Carolina. I'm a student  
6 at Clemson University. I'm getting my  
7 master's in environmental engineering. And I  
8 went to Furman University and studied  
9 chemistry there.

10 So I've lived in Anderson my whole  
11 life. And I'm also one of the co-Presidents  
12 of Clemson Students for Environmental Action.  
13 And this is Caroline. She's my one-year-old  
14 daughter.

15 So I could stand up here and talk  
16 about all the reasons why -- well, first of  
17 all, growing up I went to the World of Energy  
18 up at Keowee-Toxaway for school field trips at  
19 least once a year. And I never really had a  
20 full understanding of nuclear power.

21 At least I thought I did but then  
22 as I got older and went to college, I realized

1 that the nuclear power isn't really all it is  
2 cracked up to be. So for the purposes of this  
3 meeting, I would ask that we please not bring  
4 any more nuclear waste to South Carolina.

5 We've been -- our state has been a  
6 repository for nuclear waste for many, many  
7 years. And I know that we can come up with  
8 ways to store it indefinitely.

9 And so yes, basically I would ask  
10 you please not bring any more nuclear waste to  
11 our state. And I'm not really a nuclear  
12 scientist so I don't understand reprocessing.  
13 So I wouldn't know what to say about should we  
14 or should we not reprocessing it.

15 But I know that many of us have  
16 kids here. And I would just ask you guys  
17 please think about our future when you think  
18 about nuclear waste and that it will be around  
19 for 250,000 years.

20 Because I know we can find safer  
21 alternatives. And one thing I would probably  
22 -- Caroline, okay, you can touch it -- one



1        thing I would flag is I think we need to  
2        figure out how to store our energy better. I  
3        think battery research is really important,  
4        novel batteries so we can make solar and wind  
5        more effective. And actually, you know, draw  
6        off of that battery for a really long time.

7                        So that would be my  
8        recommendation.

9                        CHAIR SCOWCROFT: Thank you very  
10       much.

11                       I want to thank all of our  
12       presenters again for their contributions and  
13       for their discipline in keeping us within a  
14       reasonable time period.

15                       We are very grateful. We have  
16       appreciated our visit here. And this meeting  
17       is adjourned.

18                       (Whereupon, the above-entitled  
19       meeting was concluded at 3:53 p.m.)  
20  
21  
22

<b>A</b>				
<b>abandon</b> 238:22 252:6	195:3,8 <b>accepted</b> 63:22 195:1	223:6 278:16 280:7 287:2 301:5 301:7,10,19 368:19,19	<b>Additionally</b> 95:6 <b>address</b> 60:18 77:15 80:15 86:18 99:8,17 133:11 136:10 141:5 146:11 192:12 193:6 253:21 260:9 292:8 310:19 378:11 383:3	<b>advanced</b> 119:16 268:19 294:21 297:20 <b>advancement</b> 226:12 <b>advancements</b> 23:6 105:14 <b>advances</b> 105:13 <b>advantage</b> 33:2 88:11 109:5 <b>advent</b> 303:16 <b>adverse</b> 20:12 125:9 126:16 177:15 <b>adversely</b> 130:22 132:4 178:12 <b>advertising</b> 121:21 <b>advice</b> 184:13 189:9 270:16 271:1 313:18 <b>advise</b> 119:9 175:6 <b>advisor</b> 311:6 <b>advisors</b> 312:10 <b>Advisory</b> 2:8,11 4:17 16:4 109:20 118:14 136:7 188:12,19 203:10 311:4,9,21 346:17 349:2
<b>ability</b> 26:9 28:13 47:3 67:1 71:6 93:13 137:18 144:15 185:22 249:21	<b>access</b> 45:5,10 59:6 131:19 181:21,21 183:22 204:13 311:9 350:13 <b>accident</b> 277:14 338:16 376:11	<b>acting</b> 80:18 356:22 <b>actinide</b> 136:1 <b>action</b> 2:6 109:19 129:7 195:7 286:8 289:1 298:6 359:10 389:12 391:12 <b>actions</b> 98:8 320:9 <b>active</b> 95:21 215:8 229:22 351:22 <b>actively</b> 230:20 255:22 339:6 <b>activism</b> 206:17 <b>activist</b> 178:1 219:9 <b>activists</b> 129:15 <b>activities</b> 7:4 189:22 222:6 267:5 320:4 <b>activity</b> 212:4 285:22 290:4 322:1 323:13 <b>acts</b> 125:3 197:3 <b>actual</b> 321:3 <b>ad</b> 121:22 <b>adaptable</b> 85:18 <b>add</b> 35:14 102:13 110:5,21 111:14 161:15 174:20 176:11 246:14 256:5 271:2 272:21 273:14 388:5 <b>added</b> 133:9 <b>addition</b> 12:9 79:16 160:4 192:19 209:18 211:22 228:16 235:17 259:18 295:16	<b>addressed</b> 93:21 183:12 225:10 242:15 <b>addressing</b> 233:14 <b>adds</b> 83:13 <b>adequate</b> 184:1 <b>adequately</b> 128:5 <b>adjourned</b> 187:2 393:17 <b>Adjournment</b> 4:22 <b>adjunct</b> 294:11 <b>administration</b> 24:10 60:4 63:2 64:20 65:1,5 67:8 68:13,14 70:8 76:13,21 106:9 115:17 205:7 222:16 272:19 347:15 <b>administrations</b> 106:20 107:5 <b>administration's</b> 75:12 76:22 195:6 197:6 <b>administrator</b> 211:20 313:12 <b>Administrator's</b> 286:8 <b>admiral</b> 282:21 285:2 <b>admire</b> 62:3 <b>admit</b> 152:3 <b>adoption</b> 24:7 <b>ads</b> 173:9,11,14,20 <b>advance</b> 46:21 47:17 64:17 75:10 305:17	<b>advised</b> 119:16 268:19 294:21 297:20 <b>advancement</b> 226:12 <b>advancements</b> 23:6 105:14 <b>advances</b> 105:13 <b>advantage</b> 33:2 88:11 109:5 <b>advent</b> 303:16 <b>adverse</b> 20:12 125:9 126:16 177:15 <b>adversely</b> 130:22 132:4 178:12 <b>advertising</b> 121:21 <b>advice</b> 184:13 189:9 270:16 271:1 313:18 <b>advise</b> 119:9 175:6 <b>advisor</b> 311:6 <b>advisors</b> 312:10 <b>Advisory</b> 2:8,11 4:17 16:4 109:20 118:14 136:7 188:12,19 203:10 311:4,9,21 346:17 349:2 <b>advocate</b> 50:2 143:16,18 147:4 <b>advocated</b> 98:6 <b>advocates</b> 238:18 <b>advocating</b> 100:16 264:14 <b>affairs</b> 177:21 <b>affect</b> 133:4 150:22 <b>affiliation</b> 49:22 <b>affirmative</b> 133:6 <b>afford</b> 146:1 338:15 <b>affordable</b> 59:3,6 137:14 <b>AFL-CIO</b> 81:16 <b>afraid</b> 366:14 <b>African</b> 210:7 <b>afternoon</b> 5:16 6:1
<b>able</b> 9:5,6 34:13 41:8 42:18 44:13 47:14 54:8 69:17 75:19 88:21 92:4 120:15 130:16 150:1 182:4 215:12 240:17 273:10 312:9,11 338:17 347:4 366:20	<b>accommodate</b> 134:15 <b>accomplished</b> 16:15 <b>account</b> 139:4 204:16 <b>accountant</b> 376:18 <b>accrue</b> 350:12 <b>accumulated</b> 61:17 67:2,15 265:19 <b>accumulating</b> 81:10 358:19 <b>accuracy</b> 17:22 <b>accurate</b> 315:18 <b>achieve</b> 83:15 146:21 148:15 <b>achieved</b> 67:4 70:16 106:21 148:4 <b>achievement</b> 88:16 <b>achievements</b> 18:16 <b>achieving</b> 13:8 <b>acidity</b> 140:8 <b>acknowledge</b> 35:22 <b>acknowledged</b> 223:18 <b>acquainted</b> 344:17 <b>acquired</b> 247:16 <b>acquisition</b> 248:10 <b>acres</b> 53:2 248:11 <b>ACRS</b> 16:8 <b>act</b> 19:1,15 20:7 21:13 22:13 35:5 39:3 130:10 132:2	<b>action</b> 2:6 109:19 129:7 195:7 286:8 289:1 298:6 359:10 389:12 391:12 <b>actions</b> 98:8 320:9 <b>active</b> 95:21 215:8 229:22 351:22 <b>actively</b> 230:20 255:22 339:6 <b>activism</b> 206:17 <b>activist</b> 178:1 219:9 <b>activists</b> 129:15 <b>activities</b> 7:4 189:22 222:6 267:5 320:4 <b>activity</b> 212:4 285:22 290:4 322:1 323:13 <b>acts</b> 125:3 197:3 <b>actual</b> 321:3 <b>ad</b> 121:22 <b>adaptable</b> 85:18 <b>add</b> 35:14 102:13 110:5,21 111:14 161:15 174:20 176:11 246:14 256:5 271:2 272:21 273:14 388:5 <b>added</b> 133:9 <b>addition</b> 12:9 79:16 160:4 192:19 209:18 211:22 228:16 235:17 259:18 295:16 <b>additional</b> 18:4 104:15 105:3 132:20 226:14 250:6,8 269:2	<b>addressed</b> 93:21 183:12 225:10 242:15 <b>addressing</b> 233:14 <b>adds</b> 83:13 <b>adequate</b> 184:1 <b>adequately</b> 128:5 <b>adjourned</b> 187:2 393:17 <b>Adjournment</b> 4:22 <b>adjunct</b> 294:11 <b>administration</b> 24:10 60:4 63:2 64:20 65:1,5 67:8 68:13,14 70:8 76:13,21 106:9 115:17 205:7 222:16 272:19 347:15 <b>administrations</b> 106:20 107:5 <b>administration's</b> 75:12 76:22 195:6 197:6 <b>administrator</b> 211:20 313:12 <b>Administrator's</b> 286:8 <b>admiral</b> 282:21 285:2 <b>admire</b> 62:3 <b>admit</b> 152:3 <b>adoption</b> 24:7 <b>ads</b> 173:9,11,14,20 <b>advance</b> 46:21 47:17 64:17 75:10 305:17	<b>advised</b> 119:16 268:19 294:21 297:20 <b>advancement</b> 226:12 <b>advancements</b> 23:6 105:14 <b>advances</b> 105:13 <b>advantage</b> 33:2 88:11 109:5 <b>advent</b> 303:16 <b>adverse</b> 20:12 125:9 126:16 177:15 <b>adversely</b> 130:22 132:4 178:12 <b>advertising</b> 121:21 <b>advice</b> 184:13 189:9 270:16 271:1 313:18 <b>advise</b> 119:9 175:6 <b>advisor</b> 311:6 <b>advisors</b> 312:10 <b>Advisory</b> 2:8,11 4:17 16:4 109:20 118:14 136:7 188:12,19 203:10 311:4,9,21 346:17 349:2 <b>advocate</b> 50:2 143:16,18 147:4 <b>advocated</b> 98:6 <b>advocates</b> 238:18 <b>advocating</b> 100:16 264:14 <b>affairs</b> 177:21 <b>affect</b> 133:4 150:22 <b>affiliation</b> 49:22 <b>affirmative</b> 133:6 <b>afford</b> 146:1 338:15 <b>affordable</b> 59:3,6 137:14 <b>AFL-CIO</b> 81:16 <b>afraid</b> 366:14 <b>African</b> 210:7 <b>afternoon</b> 5:16 6:1
<b>above-entitled</b> 107:18 187:3 393:18	<b>accountant</b> 376:18 <b>accrue</b> 350:12 <b>accumulated</b> 61:17 67:2,15 265:19 <b>accumulating</b> 81:10 358:19 <b>accuracy</b> 17:22 <b>accurate</b> 315:18 <b>achieve</b> 83:15 146:21 148:15 <b>achieved</b> 67:4 70:16 106:21 148:4 <b>achievement</b> 88:16 <b>achievements</b> 18:16 <b>achieving</b> 13:8 <b>acidity</b> 140:8 <b>acknowledge</b> 35:22 <b>acknowledged</b> 223:18 <b>acquainted</b> 344:17 <b>acquired</b> 247:16 <b>acquisition</b> 248:10 <b>acres</b> 53:2 248:11 <b>ACRS</b> 16:8 <b>act</b> 19:1,15 20:7 21:13 22:13 35:5 39:3 130:10 132:2	<b>acts</b> 125:3 197:3 <b>actual</b> 321:3 <b>ad</b> 121:22 <b>adaptable</b> 85:18 <b>add</b> 35:14 102:13 110:5,21 111:14 161:15 174:20 176:11 246:14 256:5 271:2 272:21 273:14 388:5 <b>added</b> 133:9 <b>addition</b> 12:9 79:16 160:4 192:19 209:18 211:22 228:16 235:17 259:18 295:16 <b>additional</b> 18:4 104:15 105:3 132:20 226:14 250:6,8 269:2	<b>Addressed</b> 93:21 183:12 225:10 242:15 <b>Addressing</b> 233:14 <b>adds</b> 83:13 <b>adequate</b> 184:1 <b>adequately</b> 128:5 <b>adjourned</b> 187:2 393:17 <b>Adjournment</b> 4:22 <b>adjunct</b> 294:11 <b>administration</b> 24:10 60:4 63:2 64:20 65:1,5 67:8 68:13,14 70:8 76:13,21 106:9 115:17 205:7 222:16 272:19 347:15 <b>administrations</b> 106:20 107:5 <b>administration's</b> 75:12 76:22 195:6 197:6 <b>administrator</b> 211:20 313:12 <b>Administrator's</b> 286:8 <b>admiral</b> 282:21 285:2 <b>admire</b> 62:3 <b>admit</b> 152:3 <b>adoption</b> 24:7 <b>ads</b> 173:9,11,14,20 <b>advance</b> 46:21 47:17 64:17 75:10 305:17	<b>advanced</b> 119:16 268:19 294:21 297:20 <b>advancement</b> 226:12 <b>advancements</b> 23:6 105:14 <b>advances</b> 105:13 <b>advantage</b> 33:2 88:11 109:5 <b>advent</b> 303:16 <b>adverse</b> 20:12 125:9 126:16 177:15 <b>adversely</b> 130:22 132:4 178:12 <b>advertising</b> 121:21 <b>advice</b> 184:13 189:9 270:16 271:1 313:18 <b>advise</b> 119:9 175:6 <b>advisor</b> 311:6 <b>advisors</b> 312:10 <b>Advisory</b> 2:8,11 4:17 16:4 109:20 118:14 136:7 188:12,19 203:10 311:4,9,21 346:17 349:2 <b>advocate</b> 50:2 143:16,18 147:4 <b>advocated</b> 98:6 <b>advocates</b> 238:18 <b>advocating</b> 100:16 264:14 <b>affairs</b> 177:21 <b>affect</b> 133:4 150:22 <b>affiliation</b> 49:22 <b>affirmative</b> 133:6 <b>afford</b> 146:1 338:15 <b>affordable</b> 59:3,6 137:14 <b>AFL-CIO</b> 81:16 <b>afraid</b> 366:14 <b>African</b> 210:7 <b>afternoon</b> 5:16 6:1
<b>abroad</b> 164:11 <b>absence</b> 249:16 <b>absent</b> 239:4 <b>absolutely</b> 46:21 346:1 <b>abstract</b> 379:21 <b>abundance</b> 109:5 <b>abundant</b> 224:6 352:20 377:6 378:7 <b>academia</b> 260:12 <b>academic</b> 236:20 <b>academician</b> 313:8 <b>Academicians</b> 313:10 <b>academics</b> 350:1 <b>Academies</b> 195:19 196:5 <b>Academy</b> 134:2 183:5 <b>acceleration</b> 311:11 <b>accept</b> 75:15 315:5 <b>acceptable</b> 367:22 <b>acceptance</b> 39:9 191:20 194:22	<b>accepted</b> 63:22 195:1 <b>accepting</b> 70:9 <b>access</b> 45:5,10 59:6 131:19 181:21,21 183:22 204:13 311:9 350:13 <b>accident</b> 277:14 338:16 376:11 <b>accidents</b> 152:2 318:19 338:14 <b>accommodate</b> 134:15 <b>accomplished</b> 16:15 <b>account</b> 139:4 204:16 <b>accountant</b> 376:18 <b>accrue</b> 350:12 <b>accumulated</b> 61:17 67:2,15 265:19 <b>accumulating</b> 81:10 358:19 <b>accuracy</b> 17:22 <b>accurate</b> 315:18 <b>achieve</b> 83:15 146:21 148:15 <b>achieved</b> 67:4 70:16 106:21 148:4 <b>achievement</b> 88:16 <b>achievements</b> 18:16 <b>achieving</b> 13:8 <b>acidity</b> 140:8 <b>acknowledge</b> 35:22 <b>acknowledged</b> 223:18 <b>acquainted</b> 344:17 <b>acquired</b> 247:16 <b>acquisition</b> 248:10 <b>acres</b> 53:2 248:11 <b>ACRS</b> 16:8 <b>act</b> 19:1,15 20:7 21:13 22:13 35:5 39:3 130:10 132:2	<b>223:6 278:16</b> 280:7 287:2 301:5 301:7,10,19 368:19,19 <b>acting</b> 80:18 356:22 <b>actinide</b> 136:1 <b>action</b> 2:6 109:19 129:7 195:7 286:8 289:1 298:6 359:10 389:12 391:12 <b>actions</b> 98:8 320:9 <b>active</b> 95:21 215:8 229:22 351:22 <b>actively</b> 230:20 255:22 339:6 <b>activism</b> 206:17 <b>activist</b> 178:1 219:9 <b>activists</b> 129:15 <b>activities</b> 7:4 189:22 222:6 267:5 320:4 <b>activity</b> 212:4 285:22 290:4 322:1 323:13 <b>acts</b> 125:3 197:3 <b>actual</b> 321:3 <b>ad</b> 121:22 <b>adaptable</b> 85:18 <b>add</b> 35:14 102:13 110:5,21 111:14 161:15 174:20 176:11 246:14 256:5 271:2 272:21 273:14 388:5 <b>added</b> 133:9 <b>addition</b> 12:9 79:16 160:4 192:19 209:18 211:22 228:16 235:17 259:18 295:16 <b>additional</b> 18:4 104:15 105:3 132:20 226:14 250:6,8 269:2	<b>Additionally</b> 95:6 <b>address</b> 60:18 77:15 80:15 86:18 99:8,17 133:11 136:10 141:5 146:11 192:12 193:6 253:21 260:9 292:8 310:19 378:11 383:3 <b>addressed</b> 93:21 183:12 225:10 242:15 <b>addressing</b> 233:14 <b>adds</b> 83:13 <b>adequate</b> 184:1 <b>adequately</b> 128:5 <b>adjourned</b> 187:2 393:17 <b>Adjournment</b> 4:22 <b>adjunct</b> 294:11 <b>administration</b> 24:10 60:4 63:2 64:20 65:1,5 67:8 68:13,14 70:8 76:13,21 106:9 115:17 205:7 222:16 272:19 347:15 <b>administrations</b> 106:20 107:5 <b>administration's</b> 75:12 76:22 195:6 197:6 <b>administrator</b> 211:20 313:12 <b>Administrator's</b> 286:8 <b>admiral</b> 282:21 285:2 <b>admire</b> 62:3 <b>admit</b> 152:3 <b>adoption</b> 24:7 <b>ads</b> 173:9,11,14,20 <b>advance</b> 46:21 47:17 64:17 75:10 305:17	<b>advanced</b> 119:16 268:19 294:21 297:20 <b>advancement</b> 226:12 <b>advancements</b> 23:6 105:14 <b>advances</b> 105:13 <b>advantage</b> 33:2 88:11 109:5 <b>advent</b> 303:16 <b>adverse</b> 20:12 125:9 126:16 177:15 <b>adversely</b> 130:22 132:4 178:12 <b>advertising</b> 121:21 <b>advice</b> 184:13 189:9 270:16 271:1 313:18 <b>advise</b> 119:9 175:6 <b>advisor</b> 311:6 <b>advisors</b> 312:10 <b>Advisory</b> 2:8,11 4:17 16:4 109:20 118:14 136:7 188:12,19 203:10 311:4,9,21 346:17 349:2 <b>advocate</b> 50:2 143:16,18 147:4 <b>advocated</b> 98:6 <b>advocates</b> 238:18 <b>advocating</b> 100:16 264:14 <b>affairs</b> 177:21 <b>affect</b> 133:4 150:22 <b>affiliation</b> 49:22 <b>affirmative</b> 133:6 <b>afford</b> 146:1 338:15 <b>affordable</b> 59:3,6 137:14 <b>AFL-CIO</b> 81:16 <b>afraid</b> 366:14 <b>African</b> 210:7 <b>afternoon</b> 5:16 6:1

6:5 188:11 205:22 225:20 235:8 246:11 306:6 312:21 313:8 322:7 335:15 346:10 351:19 363:16 368:8 376:4	<b>ahead</b> 25:21 76:1 77:1 82:1 105:6 107:16 119:19 188:4,8 245:19 249:5 291:21 343:9	251:16 <b>allies</b> 59:14 99:12 264:20 <b>Allison</b> 1:14 157:14 <b>allot</b> 9:20 <b>allotted</b> 8:18 <b>allow</b> 12:1 23:5 65:20 66:21 70:2 72:20 83:18 131:20 132:21 146:3 162:6 244:13 245:6 345:2 350:10	<b>ambulance</b> 375:14 <b>amended</b> 301:19 369:1 <b>Amendment</b> 16:7 <b>America</b> 13:16 47:11 56:14 59:2 59:18 60:16 64:3 65:21 68:22 69:12 70:3,6 73:6 76:1 177:19 186:10 190:20 237:18 334:14,20,22 379:7	382:21 383:4 386:10,11 <b>and/or</b> 84:14 126:12 270:16 323:19 359:14 <b>anger</b> 326:15 <b>angst</b> 326:15 <b>animal</b> 309:7 <b>announce</b> 172:16 <b>announced</b> 52:21 374:11,11,12 <b>announcement</b> 272:9,13 <b>annual</b> 11:18 162:17 244:19 371:22
<b>age</b> 210:4 213:4,4,5 331:17,19 <b>agencies</b> 208:8 216:16,17 271:18 305:17 330:4 <b>agency</b> 176:5 215:20 218:8 <b>agenda</b> 107:16 253:9 358:6 <b>aggressive</b> 287:13 <b>aggressively</b> 144:1 146:5 222:9 233:7 264:13 <b>aging</b> 40:21 304:10 <b>AGNS</b> 115:12 <b>ago</b> 20:17 31:15 51:22 63:1 92:15 122:4 135:19 136:21 161:11 163:14 248:11 321:15 347:21 356:7 386:4	<b>Aiken</b> 2:13,17 68:8 135:14 136:14 153:7 171:5 189:4 206:7 208:18 209:19 211:17 220:19 221:1,9,10 221:18 223:4,9 225:21 226:16 229:16 235:21 255:8,9,21 256:16 257:3 285:13 292:4 312:19 313:3 327:9 346:14 371:7,8 376:6 378:22 386:1,4 388:7 390:13,14	<b>allowed</b> 9:12 39:4 48:17 162:15 179:22 211:17 215:8 222:21 <b>allowing</b> 49:15 84:1 100:21 310:10 358:3 386:22 <b>allows</b> 23:2 129:10 132:19 256:8 <b>all-of-the-above</b> 57:15 <b>alongside</b> 96:17 <b>Altamaha</b> 30:22 <b>alternate</b> 99:14 253:12 254:5 <b>alternative</b> 71:4,12 118:17 139:14 231:14 239:19 243:22 267:8 269:20 286:13 <b>alternatives</b> 20:22 114:18 148:9,13 177:18 264:12 339:6 364:13 381:22 382:16 392:21	<b>American</b> 73:8 81:17 123:20 129:4 210:8 264:16 278:8 291:4 <b>Americans</b> 14:20 58:16 94:15 210:8 <b>America's</b> 1:1 5:12 6:11 55:3 93:2 94:7 96:7,19 103:22 157:6 190:4 217:17 227:5 230:3 234:18 251:14 254:9 331:3,5 <b>amount</b> 9:19 45:19 53:20 99:15 103:10 104:3,9 112:21 113:21 188:7 214:19 315:19,20 325:7,9 326:14 336:20 361:5 <b>amounts</b> 45:6 103:20 <b>analogy</b> 139:7 <b>analyses</b> 307:13 <b>analysis</b> 15:10 39:9 78:20 183:17 202:7 323:5 <b>ancillary</b> 17:5 80:1 <b>Anderson</b> 391:5,10 <b>Andy</b> 3:9,19 340:5 344:5,8 381:5	<b>answer</b> 24:12 29:4 55:15 56:18 80:10 91:6 123:1,20 124:2 129:3 139:17 160:15 177:14 225:14 262:13,13 263:3 267:2 268:10 270:7,8 271:22,22 319:6 367:22,22 <b>answering</b> 267:13 <b>answers</b> 96:18 262:20 267:21 348:3 <b>anticipated</b> 251:21 257:22 <b>anti-nuclear</b> 292:10 364:12 365:2 <b>anybody</b> 68:16 123:3 141:1 343:18 356:9 365:1,20 <b>anymore</b> 340:18 <b>Anyway</b> 355:10 363:8 <b>apart</b> 75:10 <b>apologize</b> 48:8 71:2 141:11 <b>apology</b> 330:10 <b>appalls</b> 378:4
<b>aging</b> 40:21 304:10 <b>AGNS</b> 115:12 <b>ago</b> 20:17 31:15 51:22 63:1 92:15 122:4 135:19 136:21 161:11 163:14 248:11 321:15 347:21 356:7 386:4 <b>agree</b> 34:21 46:17 81:20 132:16 158:10 185:18 192:3 249:7 346:20 347:2 <b>agreed</b> 95:8 <b>agreeing</b> 75:2 <b>agreement</b> 25:19 67:5 69:1 75:2 82:4,7 83:11,13 83:17,22 84:5,9 86:3,9,14,16 88:20 <b>agreements</b> 75:8 82:6 280:6 <b>agribusiness</b> 52:10 <b>agriculture</b> 52:10	<b>Aikenite</b> 376:10 <b>Aiken/Edgefield</b> 246:22 <b>aimed</b> 242:22 <b>air</b> 125:1 299:7 321:8 382:2 <b>airing</b> 321:5 <b>Alabama</b> 11:13,20 26:18 31:4 103:15 <b>alarmed</b> 362:16 <b>alarming</b> 239:1 <b>Alaska</b> 90:21 <b>Alexander</b> 155:4 <b>alignment</b> 194:17 <b>alive</b> 152:2 <b>Allen</b> 259:10 <b>Allendale</b> 207:16 213:2 229:17 247:8,15 248:16 327:8 <b>Alliance</b> 228:13 246:13 247:3,6 359:6 <b>Allied</b> 113:16	<b>amaze</b> 372:10 <b>amazes</b> 179:22 180:6 <b>amazing</b> 201:2 271:21	<b>amount</b> 9:19 45:19 53:20 99:15 103:10 104:3,9 112:21 113:21 188:7 214:19 315:19,20 325:7,9 326:14 336:20 361:5 <b>amounts</b> 45:6 103:20 <b>analogy</b> 139:7 <b>analyses</b> 307:13 <b>analysis</b> 15:10 39:9 78:20 183:17 202:7 323:5 <b>ancillary</b> 17:5 80:1 <b>Anderson</b> 391:5,10 <b>Andy</b> 3:9,19 340:5 344:5,8 381:5	<b>anybody</b> 68:16 123:3 141:1 343:18 356:9 365:1,20 <b>anymore</b> 340:18 <b>Anyway</b> 355:10 363:8 <b>apart</b> 75:10 <b>apologize</b> 48:8 71:2 141:11 <b>apology</b> 330:10 <b>appalls</b> 378:4

<b>apparent</b> 263:10 359:22	87:3 91:12 92:5 96:14 97:3,18 101:5 105:5 109:14 122:22 123:12 135:10 147:14 178:15 181:6 186:18 190:3 200:4 205:15 217:10 220:10 222:15 226:7 235:10 245:21 246:2,15 249:3 254:8 265:6 275:14 285:2 294:6 313:1,13 315:5 372:8 373:3 380:21	26:16,19 27:2 35:13 53:4 79:2 79:21 85:4 87:11 104:5 155:1 <b>April</b> 116:19 212:10 <b>AP1000</b> 16:6 25:21 28:3 40:6 90:1 152:16 <b>AP1000s</b> 39:22 <b>aquifer</b> 345:8,9 <b>Arab</b> 45:14 <b>Arctic</b> 321:10 <b>area</b> 12:6 17:22 30:15,18 31:3,13 40:19 49:6 50:6 52:13 68:8 72:7 87:16 97:17 99:5 100:2,5 108:16 109:8,10 114:6 132:6 136:9,15 153:11,11 160:3 166:11 175:11,16 179:20 212:2 226:5,21 229:16 235:13 257:19 259:8 260:6 270:19 276:21 277:9 284:8 285:18 289:12,17 290:4 301:11 304:6 321:16 324:21 348:8,9,10 348:17 361:13 363:2 366:14 <b>areas</b> 30:1 37:14 80:20 151:21,22 167:6 175:16,21 237:18 261:9 271:5 284:13 303:21 <b>arena</b> 71:10 <b>argue</b> 138:17 330:19 <b>arguments</b> 139:3 <b>arises</b> 201:15 <b>Arjun</b> 148:21	<b>armed</b> 131:11 <b>Armory</b> 374:13 <b>arms</b> 283:7 <b>arrange</b> 5:18 <b>arrangements</b> 29:6 <b>array</b> 261:7 <b>arrived</b> 361:8 <b>arsenal</b> 96:3 <b>art</b> 54:2 <b>articulate</b> 273:10 <b>Asheville</b> 315:2,4 317:12 322:9,16 324:15 325:4,14 333:9 341:14 349:21 373:1 <b>aside</b> 119:12 203:15 210:18 359:19 <b>asked</b> 25:12 135:3 167:21 168:3,8,12 168:14,15,15,16 168:16,17 169:12 189:1 270:15 288:1 324:20 334:8 <b>asking</b> 89:5 332:11 332:16 <b>asleep</b> 363:5 <b>aspects</b> 290:3 <b>assembled</b> 5:4 250:21 <b>assemblies</b> 241:9 <b>assembly</b> 17:6 90:8 <b>assertions</b> 34:8 <b>assess</b> 102:10 259:4 <b>assessment</b> 77:16 116:20 117:1 323:15 <b>assets</b> 20:4 136:14 144:6 245:17 <b>assignment</b> 300:5 <b>assist</b> 101:3 <b>assistance</b> 86:21 207:7 209:7 212:18 332:18 <b>associate</b> 65:18 135:21 257:5,17	258:7 <b>associated</b> 13:18 19:13 39:8 41:20 80:15 144:6 229:12 <b>association</b> 81:17 359:5 383:6 384:1 384:4,22 385:6 <b>assume</b> 202:19 <b>assuming</b> 87:20 <b>assure</b> 166:10,12 170:13 181:20 352:22 <b>assured</b> 183:21 222:2 250:6 293:2 352:18 363:3 <b>athletic</b> 56:20 <b>atmosphere</b> 281:9 315:12 <b>atom</b> 14:19 140:14 140:16 <b>atomic</b> 223:19 372:12 <b>attached</b> 10:21 <b>attempt</b> 113:17 <b>attend</b> 256:13 <b>attended</b> 150:13 208:20 212:11 302:18 <b>attendees</b> 108:14 <b>attention</b> 122:22 183:11 217:7 280:19 <b>attitude</b> 238:14 277:15 <b>attitudes</b> 22:12 <b>attract</b> 249:21 <b>attracting</b> 237:11 <b>attractive</b> 144:22 224:11 266:6 <b>attributed</b> 236:13 <b>attrition</b> 80:5 <b>audience</b> 9:11 101:9 214:15 292:10 300:14 367:2 <b>audits</b> 41:22
----------------------------------	--	--	--	---

<b>Audubon</b> 359:3	352:5	<b>backward</b> 72:13	306:11 307:14	170:7 221:8 226:7
<b>August</b> 136:12	<b>awe</b> 46:22	<b>backwards</b> 214:16	313:18,19 332:15	254:12 379:3
<b>Augusta</b> 1:9,10,19	<b>awesome</b> 156:16,19	317:19	<b>baseload</b> 14:13,17	386:19
4:5 5:14 10:8	<b>awful</b> 32:12 348:18	<b>backyard</b> 382:17	15:13 27:6,9	<b>behave</b> 275:21
12:2,6 36:4 48:5	<b>Awon</b> 298:2	<b>bad</b> 64:12 152:17	<b>bases</b> 144:17	380:5
48:14,21 49:5	<b>Ayers</b> 1:13 24:19	154:7 155:6 329:8	344:13	<b>belabor</b> 195:18
50:6 54:13,22	28:6 42:12 44:17	334:3 339:20	<b>basic</b> 13:13 57:3	<b>belief</b> 19:20
68:7 87:18 97:17	46:5 87:7,14,20	367:11	122:8 233:5 318:4	<b>believe</b> 13:6 21:4
101:19 122:2	89:3,9	<b>bag</b> 69:9	<b>basically</b> 52:9	45:14 50:8 57:7
171:5 173:10	<b>A-F-T-E-R-N-O-...</b>	<b>Bailey</b> 1:14 26:6	115:3 286:9	57:11 59:9,17
207:11 235:10,19	188:1	27:3,12 28:9,15	287:22 326:11	68:8 87:12 93:2
235:20 258:6	<b>a.m</b> 1:9 5:2 107:19	29:5,13,22 30:6,9	355:20 392:9	94:2,4 95:18
276:21 371:7	107:20 187:4	31:7,18 33:9,18	<b>basis</b> 18:15 36:19	98:12 99:7,18
381:10		33:22 189:1	163:7 182:2 192:9	133:17,18 136:22
<b>authority</b> 133:1	<b>B</b>	217:13 218:12,17	198:1 211:9	137:5 176:2,4
167:12 173:2	<b>babies</b> 321:16	219:4,13 220:7	271:16 289:9	179:13 182:3
203:6 242:9	<b>bachelor's</b> 213:16	<b>balance</b> 36:22	<b>basket</b> 341:3	190:6 192:4,17
246:20,21	364:7	93:14 104:16	<b>bathroom</b> 329:1	193:5,14,19 195:9
<b>authorization</b>	<b>back</b> 6:19 25:14,15	238:19	<b>batteries</b> 393:4	198:4,6 199:10
12:16 353:14	28:2 38:22 42:18	<b>balancing</b> 93:7	<b>battery</b> 393:3,6	223:6 224:16
<b>authorized</b> 287:1,1	44:16 45:14 49:18	<b>Ballroom</b> 1:9	<b>battle</b> 121:17	233:20 234:19
<b>automatically</b>	61:1 75:11 85:18	<b>Bamberg</b> 247:8	367:14,16	242:14,19 252:5
273:16	90:19 95:22 100:7	292:13,15	<b>Baxley</b> 11:11 26:22	253:1,2 261:15
<b>automobile</b> 154:9	117:22 132:15	<b>bankruptcy</b> 378:10	30:21	262:18 263:13
<b>availability</b> 77:22	141:12 152:20	<b>banks</b> 154:6	<b>bear</b> 111:13 146:13	264:14,17 272:22
222:3 286:19	155:18 165:3,13	<b>Barbara</b> 378:20	242:14	278:2 298:10
<b>available</b> 8:15 9:18	167:10 168:22	381:5,6	<b>bearing</b> 43:2	318:4 323:20
9:19 22:4 50:4,12	173:19 178:15	<b>bargain</b> 72:22	<b>bears</b> 145:21	325:20 341:10
66:17 96:9 104:2	181:2 185:7 190:6	<b>Barnwell</b> 113:12,15	<b>bear's</b> 57:10	378:9 380:2,7
107:2 109:7	191:8 204:5 210:3	113:20 114:5	<b>beautiful</b> 30:14	383:22 385:2
131:19,21 224:21	220:3 224:10	115:13 151:21	331:15 373:2	<b>believed</b> 252:5
242:3 245:21	225:4,6 226:14	153:7 229:17	<b>Bechtel</b> 78:21	<b>believer</b> 58:19
264:12 287:15	230:16 244:5	247:8,15 248:16	<b>Beck</b> 343:2,4	<b>believes</b> 65:14
304:19 366:2	251:9 253:22	251:13	<b>becoming</b> 214:4	223:4 229:20
<b>average</b> 248:20	262:19 272:13	<b>barrier</b> 34:11,16	<b>beg</b> 80:7 338:14	272:10
277:7	287:5 292:22	<b>barriers</b> 130:16	<b>began</b> 15:5 104:17	<b>bell</b> 168:19
<b>avoid</b> 44:3 142:15	297:14,18 316:9	215:17	104:22 210:14	<b>Ben</b> 188:21 351:3
<b>awaiting</b> 103:12	343:14 355:12,14	<b>Barrow</b> 2:5 4:15	257:4 258:7	351:13
<b>awards</b> 228:11	385:8 386:9,15	101:7 108:6,11	<b>beginning</b> 27:10	<b>beneficial</b> 61:16
<b>aware</b> 73:19 90:3	387:3	<b>base</b> 106:17 126:7	130:6 241:5 299:4	<b>benefit</b> 36:12 72:21
159:4 177:7	<b>backed</b> 117:13	248:9 283:17	<b>begun</b> 29:20 191:4	82:21 83:9 132:1
215:18 240:9	<b>Backfill</b> 16:20	285:15 286:2,2,3	311:19	198:22 245:18
275:2	<b>background</b>	327:1 378:13	<b>behalf</b> 1:24 2:1,2,4	263:10 350:4
<b>awareness</b> 2:9	173:17 300:22	<b>based</b> 50:10 110:19	11:22 92:3,6	<b>benefits</b> 37:14
109:22 135:16	302:10 364:4	184:12 197:8,10	97:12 123:14	38:14 39:17,18
219:9	<b>backgrounds</b> 138:3	208:17 239:8	130:11 131:20	53:11 86:15
<b>away-from-react...</b>	<b>backlash</b> 126:5	287:6 302:19	132:2 147:20	210:17 215:2

276:22 342:5,7 350:11 389:21 <b>benefitted</b> 36:10 199:18 <b>bent</b> 214:16 <b>best</b> 13:9 15:18 21:1,3 49:12 50:3 50:9,11 54:5 56:18 62:2 64:21 81:7 93:8,18 105:17 108:20 144:1 154:18 168:2 227:9 243:12 249:5 261:16 270:11 279:13 284:12,15 313:19 365:21 367:22 384:2 388:1 390:1,3 <b>Bettencourt</b> 2:7 109:21 132:13,14 135:10 176:1 177:5 186:12 <b>better</b> 15:9 25:5 58:20 65:7,15,21 76:5 93:9 126:13 148:12 168:16 194:17 195:20 199:19 204:10,14 264:8 356:13 376:9 385:3 393:2 <b>beyond</b> 66:18 89:14 183:7 200:22 236:16 240:9 271:1 <b>bid</b> 132:8 <b>bidding</b> 15:15 <b>big</b> 58:19 273:13 286:1 330:10 333:21 366:12 <b>biggest</b> 59:21 69:19 80:22 320:13 <b>bill</b> 3:1,15 116:3 155:2 301:18 306:4 308:14 310:6 353:15 368:7 371:4	372:20,22 <b>billboard</b> 52:17 <b>billboards</b> 212:2 <b>billion</b> 20:5 58:11 60:19 62:19 63:9 75:5,17 85:4 104:14,15 111:10 118:7 149:6 165:13 244:19 285:22 295:19 356:16 <b>billions</b> 94:9 106:4 106:5 114:3 244:9 263:8 287:19 291:5 320:7,11 321:21 347:18 369:3 370:12 <b>bills</b> 125:21 154:19 <b>binding</b> 269:7 <b>bingo</b> 348:1 <b>biosphere</b> 140:7 <b>bipartisan</b> 68:12 78:22 <b>birth</b> 255:10 376:11 <b>Bisconti</b> 33:15 <b>bit</b> 29:17 31:20 38:6 49:6 61:7 119:12 205:1 218:4 246:9 281:20 326:5 331:3 332:12,19 334:6 <b>black</b> 2:15 111:2 221:1 246:4,5,12 255:4 267:2 <b>bleep</b> 76:17 <b>blend</b> 142:22 242:6 <b>blends</b> 245:14 <b>bless</b> 157:9 <b>blessing</b> 87:21 <b>blessings</b> 132:9 <b>blew</b> 310:13 <b>blind</b> 379:13 <b>blinking</b> 110:8 <b>blowing</b> 357:7 <b>blown</b> 184:8	<b>blue</b> 1:1 2:9 5:11 6:10 48:13 92:22 108:13 109:22 110:14 134:5,22 148:1 173:13,19 174:15 297:2 306:18 309:20 312:4 331:15 356:19 358:17 360:12 361:16 <b>Bluff</b> 151:20 <b>board</b> 2:8 53:21 109:20 111:3 118:14 182:17 186:3 209:20 223:20 228:14 262:20 270:22 273:18 311:4,9,21 346:17 349:2,10 <b>boards</b> 183:20 312:9 <b>Bobbie</b> 296:19 298:1 <b>Bobby</b> 298:7 <b>bodes</b> 220:1 <b>Bodman</b> 76:17 <b>boilermakers</b> 78:14 <b>Boiling</b> 11:12 26:22 27:1 <b>bold</b> 59:16 82:14 <b>bomb</b> 62:6 152:9 <b>bombs</b> 64:5 329:3 372:12 <b>bonds</b> 140:3 <b>bono</b> 342:5 <b>boon</b> 320:4 <b>Booze</b> 259:10 <b>border</b> 92:1 201:21 <b>borders</b> 353:2 <b>born</b> 111:10 211:12 276:21 <b>bottom</b> 63:21 205:2 <b>boundaries</b> 30:16 <b>boundary</b> 30:4 <b>boxes</b> 310:16 <b>boys</b> 329:5	<b>brain</b> 153:16 268:3 372:8 <b>branch</b> 255:19 <b>brand</b> 271:5 <b>breach</b> 20:10 353:18 <b>breadth</b> 31:21 <b>break</b> 174:10 371:15 <b>breaking</b> 140:3 <b>breathe</b> 125:1 <b>breeder</b> 119:21 <b>Brendolyn</b> 2:12 205:20 206:4 <b>Brent</b> 1:10,13 <b>Brian</b> 2:15 220:21 235:6,9 <b>Bridges</b> 2:21 285:6 288:9,11,11 290:9 <b>brief</b> 5:15 10:21 108:12 247:4 <b>briefings</b> 102:9 <b>briefly</b> 11:3 41:16 353:4 <b>bright</b> 32:11 <b>brightest</b> 49:12 <b>brilliance</b> 372:10 <b>bring</b> 18:5 51:7 154:4 165:3 183:11 254:9 267:14 269:3 309:2 358:22 392:3,10 <b>bringing</b> 116:14 167:22 348:21 388:17 <b>brings</b> 161:20 358:6 <b>brink</b> 279:3 <b>British</b> 65:8 75:14 120:16 <b>broad</b> 135:2 167:16 192:10 <b>broader</b> 245:16 248:12 <b>broader-based</b> 326:16	<b>broke</b> 357:1 <b>broken</b> 302:2 <b>brought</b> 17:11 54:17 242:14 252:18 266:16 341:15 342:19 371:7 <b>Broun</b> 2:3 4:14 101:11,21 <b>Brown</b> 111:3 <b>Buckner</b> 2:22 294:2,4,6,8 <b>budget</b> 18:6 26:2 38:8 77:1 82:19 118:5,8 127:19 162:19 174:13 244:15,19 301:18 <b>budgetary</b> 114:15 <b>buffer</b> 227:3 <b>bugs</b> 331:2 <b>build</b> 25:17,22 26:1 32:21,22 40:9,17 47:12,14 52:21 59:20 60:21 70:6 75:16 81:12 88:19 90:5 149:17 155:9 160:2 300:3 317:2 334:18 337:9 377:9,12 <b>builder</b> 81:14 <b>builders</b> 89:19 338:5 <b>building</b> 17:6 38:9 59:21 78:11,18,18 80:8,11 81:15 83:5 86:11 90:18 102:15 159:20 160:5 194:22 208:22 211:15 260:20 319:5 339:3 349:7 361:10 377:18 <b>buildings</b> 112:7 149:17 <b>builds</b> 215:19 <b>built</b> 33:7 38:2 42:10 54:1 78:7
---	---	--	--	---

83:12 208:6 250:22 355:21 377:5 <b>bulk</b> 13:16 252:9 <b>bumper</b> 327:19 328:2 <b>bunch</b> 111:12 122:17 <b>bundles</b> 44:14 <b>burden</b> 123:18 <b>burdened</b> 125:20 301:12 <b>burdening</b> 291:4 <b>burdens</b> 127:4 129:17 130:18 131:17 304:2,17 <b>Bureau</b> 168:16 277:18 <b>burgeoning</b> 237:8 <b>Burke</b> 32:5,6 51:8 51:10,18,20 52:8 52:18 53:3,12,22 55:2 373:7,12,17 373:21 374:14 <b>burn</b> 147:2 193:2 <b>bury</b> 280:8 <b>bus</b> 319:3 361:2,8 384:9 <b>buses</b> 171:22 <b>Bush</b> 63:1 65:4 68:13,14,15 76:13 76:21 369:6 <b>business</b> 25:14 52:6 59:5 68:9 168:16 179:17 216:12 248:22 260:12 271:14 359:6 361:7 <b>businesses</b> 208:7 235:17 236:4,6 238:15 350:2 <b>business-friendly</b> 57:13 <b>bustling</b> 361:10 <b>butts</b> 373:21 <b>buy</b> 58:11 143:8 154:6,7,9	<b>buyers</b> 27:18 <b>buying</b> 71:8 155:8 <b>buzzer</b> 276:3 <hr/> <b>C</b> <hr/> <b>CAB</b> 135:2 170:19 288:9,13 <b>CAF</b> 306:16 <b>cake</b> 328:21 <b>calculated</b> 138:19 <b>Caldicott</b> 314:9 <b>call</b> 12:12,12 26:14 39:6 50:21 86:22 119:16 175:19 208:12 236:7 260:18 276:5,6 304:21 328:15 329:13 334:4 <b>called</b> 27:17 127:10 135:21 160:6,7 177:6 206:16 207:6 218:8 235:13 243:19 262:14 356:19 <b>calling</b> 175:7 299:19 <b>calls</b> 173:16 369:15 <b>Campaign</b> 110:17 <b>Canada</b> 45:18 <b>cancel</b> 288:19 <b>canceled</b> 115:16 117:2 289:8 <b>cancer</b> 153:17 316:4 <b>cancers</b> 124:14 125:9 338:8 <b>candidate</b> 208:9 <b>candidates</b> 324:3 <b>canisters</b> 112:20,22 134:18 161:13 222:13 <b>Canyon</b> 66:22 159:17 164:16 165:10 242:1 289:21 <b>Canyons</b> 114:9 279:20	<b>capabilities</b> 149:5 192:14 228:21 229:13 230:20 232:3 233:12 234:13,16 240:18 241:22 243:3 245:15 250:15,20 251:3 254:1,15,16 383:12 <b>capability</b> 38:7 165:14 232:11 253:19 <b>capable</b> 33:5 47:13 47:14 144:5 278:21 <b>capacities</b> 180:16 <b>capacity</b> 14:8 38:1 80:9,11,14 85:6 85:10 103:3 226:3 266:3 <b>capita</b> 59:8 <b>capture</b> 345:6 <b>car</b> 143:9 155:8 <b>carbon</b> 57:5,8,11 140:16 323:9 324:3 <b>carbon-emitting</b> 145:1 <b>carbon-free</b> 148:20 <b>carcinogens</b> 150:12 <b>cardboard</b> 310:15 <b>care</b> 8:6 32:12 52:6 156:11,12 267:8 365:4,9,10 367:20 <b>career</b> 85:11 209:9 211:1 226:12 322:10 <b>careers</b> 81:7 384:13 <b>careful</b> 96:21 <b>carefully</b> 163:4 <b>Carolina</b> 1:22,25 59:4,7 60:12,21 61:10,20 63:7,11 68:17,18 69:12,14 72:10,21 87:18 91:22 92:8,18	95:3,7,20 101:18 102:4 103:15,16 107:9 110:20 114:1 115:10,19 116:6,7 118:20 120:6 121:5 122:8 122:15 124:8,9 132:22 133:7 134:20 136:16,17 173:8 188:18 190:10 193:9,13 194:12 198:22 203:10 206:7 208:18 222:8 226:6 228:12,13 229:18 247:1,7 248:3,7,15 252:18 255:21 256:19 267:12 285:14,20 287:19 294:12 303:6,14 304:3,13 304:20 305:7 306:8 308:18,22 309:9,12 312:19 313:3 314:22 315:5 316:9 317:13 319:2,7 320:1,5 322:9,12 324:15 333:10 335:20 338:10 349:21 351:22 352:1,21 353:12 353:19,20 354:4 354:17 355:13 357:9,17 358:5,9 359:3,4,6,8,9,17 360:20,21 362:11 363:19 369:11 370:19 376:8 379:11 383:7 389:15 390:1,2,16 391:5 392:4 <b>Carolinas</b> 135:17 <b>Carolina's</b> 194:8 314:19 358:21 <b>Caroline</b> 288:3 391:13 392:22	<b>Carolinian</b> 376:10 <b>Carolynians</b> 358:8 363:4 <b>carried</b> 238:7 <b>carries</b> 123:17 <b>carry</b> 127:4 346:1 <b>Carter's</b> 280:7 <b>cascading</b> 61:4 <b>case</b> 40:6 95:5 106:10 127:11 136:13 138:4 151:15 168:1 172:14 174:11,17 295:4 <b>cases</b> 125:5 <b>cask</b> 29:10,16 104:20 112:4 114:22 <b>casks</b> 23:8 30:10 43:17 <b>catastrophic</b> 152:1 172:20 <b>catch</b> 373:10 <b>categories</b> 261:2 <b>category</b> 103:14 104:12 138:20 <b>Cato</b> 344:6 346:9 349:17 <b>Caucasian</b> 210:8 <b>cause</b> 195:10 <b>caused</b> 85:7 <b>cautiously</b> 277:7 <b>Cavanaugh</b> 3:20 382:22 385:17,19 <b>caveat</b> 218:19 <b>cell</b> 170:15 171:20 <b>cells</b> 253:13 <b>center</b> 12:7 236:21 <b>centered</b> 360:5 <b>centers</b> 374:4 <b>central</b> 97:17 99:4 100:5 109:7 136:15 226:5 <b>centralized</b> 22:22 43:17 252:15 390:11 <b>cents</b> 210:22
--	---	---	---	--

<b>centuries</b> 13:19	166:3 176:10	312:22 346:16	194:14 211:2	328:18 329:9,10
<b>century</b> 14:15,16	184:9 186:15	351:20 383:1	238:20 268:20	330:7 331:16
14:18,19 232:2	188:10 199:22	385:19	<b>Chapter</b> 173:8	332:8 384:6
241:2 250:18	200:4,7 203:22	<b>chairperson</b> 135:16	308:19 352:1	<b>children's</b> 211:11
331:16	205:12,14,17	136:7	<b>Chaput</b> 2:20 282:5	<b>chilling</b> 249:22
<b>CEO</b> 4:3 10:12,20	217:9 220:9,14	<b>challenge</b> 41:7,11	285:5,8,10	<b>chime</b> 157:19
283:1 284:18	225:16 235:4	193:3 194:2,22	<b>character</b> 240:4	<b>China</b> 39:21,22
290:22	246:1 255:3 259:2	227:16 243:7	<b>characteristics</b>	71:9,13 334:18
<b>ceramic</b> 161:10	265:4 268:13	245:10 250:17	191:21 196:16	<b>Chinese</b> 25:20
<b>certain</b> 13:14	275:10,12,17	264:15 273:13,17	<b>characterization</b>	<b>choice</b> 137:22
164:15 169:16	279:4 282:2,8	360:7	34:22 141:2	142:17 161:11
214:19 269:15	285:1,4 288:6	<b>challenged</b> 43:5	<b>characterized</b>	255:11 279:14
282:19 289:3	290:8 291:14,22	248:9	296:1	367:11 376:10
<b>certainly</b> 6:1 7:5	293:21 294:5	<b>challenges</b> 77:18	<b>charge</b> 135:22	383:21
147:1 163:15	296:16 297:22	78:18 81:9,19,21	<b>charged</b> 21:18	<b>choices</b> 13:16 14:9
200:13 206:1	300:13,17 303:3	93:14 192:7,10,13	148:6 190:5	15:8 138:1
207:1,13,15	305:21 306:2	196:8 229:2 249:6	240:11	<b>choose</b> 44:2 312:10
210:22 214:10,14	308:11 310:4	<b>chamber</b> 52:16	<b>Charles</b> 2:9,19	380:2
214:14,15 215:10	312:15,17 314:6	225:22 235:10,19	110:1 279:9 282:5	<b>chose</b> 317:1
217:10 219:20	316:15 317:6,8	235:20,21,22	<b>Charlie</b> 344:6	<b>chosen</b> 127:17
220:4 221:8	319:18 320:1	274:2	346:8 349:17	249:13 291:20
267:12 318:12	322:3 324:8,11	<b>chambers</b> 2:15	<b>charter</b> 7:3,8 60:7	374:6
345:17 347:13	327:12 330:15	220:21 235:15	119:4 231:8 287:4	<b>Chris</b> 291:18 294:1
387:10 388:5	333:3 335:10	238:9 271:14	297:17 347:10,10	<b>Christine</b> 288:10
<b>certainty</b> 75:9	337:15 340:3	273:21 326:20	348:5	290:11 291:16,20
196:22	341:7 344:2,4	350:2	<b>chartered</b> 383:6	<b>Chu</b> 64:21 65:5,14
<b>certificate</b> 258:18	346:5,7 349:15	<b>Chambliss</b> 2:1 4:13	<b>chase</b> 161:19	<b>church</b> 175:9
<b>Certification</b> 16:6	350:22 351:5,9,12	97:5,14 101:1	<b>Chastain</b> 2:1 97:6,7	211:16
<b>certified</b> 15:18 40:4	351:16 354:22	<b>chance</b> 226:13	97:9,10 101:5	<b>churches</b> 175:1
79:13 209:15	355:3 357:19	271:6 276:11	<b>Chattahoochee</b>	<b>Chu's</b> 75:15
<b>certify</b> 84:15	360:15 363:10,13	332:5	31:3	<b>cigarette</b> 340:21
<b>cetera</b> 46:1 361:10	366:4,7 368:4	<b>change</b> 38:17 60:7	<b>chattering</b> 5:7	<b>circle</b> 130:21 174:8
361:21	371:1 372:18	76:18 99:2 129:11	<b>cheap</b> 318:6 377:6	191:8 218:21
<b>chain</b> 320:14 338:2	375:21 376:1	129:13,20 131:3	<b>check</b> 349:10	321:10
<b>Chair</b> 1:13 6:8	378:15,18 381:2,8	149:13 152:21,21	<b>chemical</b> 140:3	<b>circled</b> 28:2,2
10:10 24:14 26:5	382:20 383:5	153:1 197:15	241:20 309:14	<b>circumstances</b>
37:19 41:1 47:18	385:14 389:4,7	205:7 237:13	345:13	23:22 34:17 168:2
48:3 51:1 55:17	390:19 393:9	251:19 269:7,8	<b>chemicals</b> 293:1	287:8
55:22 56:8 73:14	<b>chairman</b> 2:13 4:3	272:2,18 278:22	<b>chemistry</b> 136:1	<b>citizen</b> 183:20
73:17 74:3,13,17	10:11,17 24:15	319:13 386:16	318:7 391:9	209:13 277:4,7
77:5 87:2 88:13	25:12 48:2 77:12	<b>changed</b> 38:6 51:21	<b>chemists</b> 227:12	292:5 312:9
89:20 91:9,14	77:13 181:5	74:18 167:1	<b>Chernobyl</b> 341:20	346:18 362:4
97:2,8 101:4	188:21 220:19	364:20	<b>chicken</b> 340:7,10	364:3 376:6
107:10 108:3	221:7,12 226:1	<b>changes</b> 22:11	340:12,12 341:1	390:16
109:13 123:8	246:6 254:22	82:10 86:16 204:2	<b>child</b> 157:1	<b>citizens</b> 2:8,8 73:20
132:10,13 135:9	272:3,20 285:9	272:1,2 305:15	<b>children</b> 171:22	109:20,21 118:14
147:13 157:10	290:14 296:22	<b>changing</b> 74:9	211:12 219:7	134:10 135:15



166:10,14 167:4	117:18 118:1	<b>closure</b> 23:13	107:1	168:22 232:6
181:20 182:1	133:2,4 159:14,15	105:18 106:1	<b>collective</b> 13:9	298:16 299:21
183:9 217:20	215:5,11 245:4	229:22 304:9	256:12	316:3 348:1
222:7 224:22	<b>clean-up</b> 311:12	<b>cloudy</b> 169:1	<b>Collectively</b> 236:2	387:16 388:12
227:18 244:9	<b>clear</b> 15:12 98:9	<b>Club</b> 173:9 174:17	<b>college</b> 2:17 52:2	<b>coming</b> 6:10 43:8
256:8 260:1	148:1 231:21	291:17 292:6	209:19 213:1,21	47:1 49:18 71:4
270:19,19 276:10	239:10 270:21	308:14,19 352:1	221:1 238:6 255:9	71:18 77:4 107:22
309:8 311:3,9,21	272:17 295:2	353:5 359:4 362:5	256:16 257:3,4,20	172:3 178:18
322:22 346:17	361:11 380:10	<b>Cluster</b> 135:18	258:7 273:16	255:1 281:14
374:13 382:1	<b>clearly</b> 86:4 183:15	<b>clusters</b> 236:19	391:22	293:14 324:19
387:1 388:2	223:3 225:4 249:1	<b>Clyburn</b> 211:22	<b>colleges</b> 255:18	336:20 346:11
390:13,14	270:22 274:14	<b>coal</b> 14:2 58:1	256:18,22 258:15	349:9 357:16
<b>city</b> 53:4 54:7,20,22	352:4,5	324:4 372:1	260:21 261:6	373:3 374:10
168:15 226:16	<b>Clements</b> 2:5	<b>coal-fired</b> 57:14	<b>college's</b> 258:1	377:22 386:21
345:10 373:2	109:18 110:4,12	59:10 144:18	<b>collude</b> 350:4	<b>command</b> 283:6
386:1,3 387:15	110:16 123:9	281:14	<b>color</b> 169:1	<b>Commander</b> 350:3
<b>civic</b> 271:15	157:18 158:3	<b>coarse</b> 345:7	<b>Columbia</b> 31:3	<b>commend</b> 109:3
<b>civilian</b> 83:8	159:22 173:5	<b>coastal</b> 121:4 359:3	110:20 122:4	148:11 186:11
108:15 190:11	<b>Clemson</b> 389:12,16	<b>codes</b> 380:7	173:10 229:18	214:9
<b>claiming</b> 183:13,22	391:6,12	<b>cognitive</b> 336:17	235:22 246:21	<b>comment</b> 4:21 5:15
323:2	<b>climate</b> 152:21	<b>coherent</b> 18:18	341:16 351:22	9:13,18 10:3,9
<b>claims</b> 20:11	153:1,1 309:17	19:10 22:2 40:13	360:20	34:14 38:6,14
182:18	<b>climes</b> 207:14	<b>cohesively</b> 157:5	<b>combination</b> 46:2,3	46:6,6 47:19
<b>Clare</b> 3:10 349:18	<b>clinical</b> 333:11	<b>coincidental</b> 127:8	<b>combined</b> 12:11	48:18 49:22 88:15
351:2,4,5	<b>Clint</b> 2:8 109:22	<b>coined</b> 206:16	19:6 39:7 78:13	109:14 176:2
<b>clarifying</b> 26:8	135:13 157:18	<b>COL</b> 12:13 16:1,9	79:7	275:18 281:19
<b>Clark</b> 3:6 327:16	161:16	16:13,14 39:7	<b>combustion</b> 140:2	305:14 334:6
330:17 333:6,8,9	<b>close</b> 23:14 42:14	40:6	140:6,15	<b>commented</b> 9:15
334:1 335:11	44:12 45:16,18	<b>Colatarci</b> 3:16	<b>come</b> 32:20 35:15	49:10 180:6
<b>class</b> 214:4 254:18	63:20 67:5 164:21	371:4 372:21	35:16 67:10 69:18	<b>commenter</b> 282:4
<b>classifications</b> 84:7	244:5 251:8	376:2,4,5	70:13 92:17 102:4	322:4
<b>clean</b> 57:22 63:3	261:17 354:5	<b>Cold</b> 61:13 62:21	107:8 121:16	<b>COMMENTERS</b>
137:14 159:21	377:10	67:3 73:10 222:5	122:12 130:6	2:18
193:22 206:11	<b>closed</b> 116:12	227:22 229:8	172:14 186:6,8	<b>comments</b> 4:2 6:4
242:2 271:6	299:3 362:17	303:20 304:15	195:5 220:2,18	6:14 8:13 10:5
298:14 299:20	367:8	372:13 386:10	231:1 265:20	34:7 89:20 135:10
304:6 305:4,11	<b>closely</b> 183:15	<b>collaboration</b>	276:7 277:11	136:19 147:14
318:6 323:2	260:12 381:22	260:10,19	308:4 309:11	178:17 180:3
329:19 335:6	388:8	<b>collaborations</b>	316:9 325:10	186:16 188:6
339:5,13 350:16	<b>closer</b> 32:9 154:4	208:6	328:9 330:9 336:1	189:7 200:8
358:8 379:15	379:19	<b>collaborative</b>	343:19 355:11	205:12 217:12
380:11	<b>closing</b> 66:15 69:6	260:20	364:2,5 371:19	246:3 265:6,8
<b>cleaned</b> 67:14	230:16 233:17	<b>colleague</b> 294:15	374:14,21 375:7	267:1 275:10,14
114:1	244:16 245:11	<b>colleagues</b> 58:3	390:15 392:7	275:20 279:5
<b>cleaning</b> 66:16	263:15 264:13	95:4 96:17 101:16	<b>comes</b> 13:17 40:15	282:18,20 283:10
<b>cleanup</b> 7:4 66:18	302:22 312:8	248:22 338:6	59:7,15 70:1	288:15 290:7
75:2 95:10 96:3	362:19	<b>collected</b> 106:22	103:2 144:13	294:16 321:18

346:22 387:1 388:9,10 <b>Commerce</b> 2:15 52:16 220:21 225:22 235:10,15 235:21,22 236:1 238:10 326:21 350:2 <b>commercial</b> 11:6 21:19 28:21 29:12 29:15 31:14 39:11 40:10 60:1,6 61:18 62:6,14 65:2 76:7 92:12 98:20 99:11 103:11 113:9 134:16 163:1 190:13 191:1,3,5 196:19 197:19 224:3,10 225:4,7 231:14 242:8,18 244:11 249:11 251:15 253:4 254:4 260:6 263:12 278:13 279:17 280:5 281:4 301:1 305:9 307:2,8 352:16 371:6 <b>commercials</b> 340:22 <b>commission</b> 1:1,9 5:12 6:11,15,17 7:1,7 8:3,7,12,14 8:15,20 9:8,9 10:18 12:5,17 13:7 15:15 21:5 22:14 23:10,18 24:3,10,18 39:1,5 40:5 48:14 55:12 56:12 57:3 60:2 60:18 66:14 68:4 69:2,22 72:4 74:1 78:22 79:11 87:6 92:22 94:1 95:15 96:8 97:16 98:3 99:8 100:6 102:3	105:7 106:17 107:4 108:13 109:4 110:14 115:3 134:6 148:2 170:19 173:19 181:10 188:18 190:4 199:15 221:21 223:15 233:14,18 234:17 240:10 242:16 243:16 244:3 245:13 246:14 250:16 251:6 262:22 265:9 267:20 268:15 274:22 278:10,17 279:13 287:11 293:10 297:15 302:12,22 303:11 306:19 309:21 312:4 328:10 337:1 346:12 351:20 358:18 360:12 361:17 366:11 368:10,14 370:7 374:7,21 381:21 383:2,3 385:10,12 387:19 388:5 <b>Commissioner</b> 25:8 27:16 28:6 33:21 42:12 46:19 <b>Commissioners</b> 5:5 10:2 53:22 74:5 102:8 107:22 157:13 219:15 282:12 355:11 386:20 <b>Commission's</b> 7:2 99:18 135:1 242:19 253:20 <b>commit</b> 37:1,10 43:4 195:6 <b>commitment</b> 68:4 82:3 84:10 86:5 194:5 214:12 228:21 237:22	258:20 339:10 352:18 353:10 <b>commitments</b> 75:22 85:16 278:15 <b>committed</b> 81:19 241:16 258:16 <b>committee</b> 16:5,10 77:14 82:17 86:18 86:22 105:11 195:4 272:3,20 289:18 346:19 349:5,6 376:22 377:14 378:11 385:20 <b>commodos</b> 168:22 <b>common</b> 39:17,18 40:4 130:7 155:5 358:5 361:22 <b>commonsense</b> 332:21 <b>communicate</b> 128:2 <b>communication</b> 171:16 173:1 215:17 <b>communications</b> 129:14 237:2 <b>communities</b> 7:10 30:2 31:6 53:18 61:11 68:7 85:13 126:20 129:8,12 129:19 130:14,22 131:6,13,22 132:19 151:4,5,7 151:20 168:8 169:16,18,20 172:3 174:21 176:3 193:20 198:11 199:20 201:20 202:16 207:4,7,8,9,10,12 207:15 216:5 230:22 234:11 236:8 238:12 239:6 247:17 253:5 270:18	273:1 274:1,1,2,3 274:6 293:6 315:2 316:12 350:14 <b>community</b> 2:14 8:1 32:13,18 48:14,21,22 49:4 49:7,13,14,18,20 50:15,16 51:13,21 53:12 55:10 57:7 75:19 82:21 87:17 92:20 93:15 113:7 115:21 119:3 121:15,22 125:13 126:8,13 128:14 128:18 130:10 167:9,13,17 168:18 169:4 170:2,15 172:1 173:12 176:9,21 184:11 186:14 201:13,17 202:1,5 202:22 204:16 206:2,14,20 207:17,19 208:7 209:13 211:16 213:17 215:4,18 215:20 216:8,12 216:13,13,17 217:4 220:20 226:2,10 228:3 229:4 231:22 232:9 234:3,14 241:15 245:18 254:19 255:13,14 259:4 271:14 272:8 273:2 277:2 286:11 290:2 299:5 314:2,20 326:16 327:6,10 335:19 339:7 357:14 358:21 365:5 370:15 373:4 375:2 386:8 386:19,21 387:8 <b>community's</b> 97:21 169:11 252:16 <b>community-based</b>	206:6 <b>company</b> 1:19 4:4 10:13,21 11:3,18 11:19 12:1 15:20 17:17 25:1,3,10 25:13 37:17 47:10 52:20,21 55:10 81:14 283:1 291:1 328:6 378:2 <b>Company's</b> 20:4 237:21 258:11 <b>compare</b> 166:2 <b>compared</b> 323:13 <b>comparison</b> 275:7 324:1 379:17 <b>compassion</b> 332:7 <b>compelled</b> 373:7,9 <b>compelling</b> 146:6 <b>compensation</b> 283:6 <b>competitive</b> 15:15 37:7 47:6 <b>competitiveness</b> 93:11 288:3 <b>compiled</b> 228:4 <b>complete</b> 86:15 233:21 276:3 <b>completed</b> 16:9 82:19 245:5 251:18,22 <b>completely</b> 75:10 <b>completion</b> 53:6 55:4 85:15 211:7 <b>complex</b> 219:20 223:1 228:6,18 230:16 232:6 241:13 251:2 273:6,9 364:16 370:11 385:4 <b>complexes</b> 62:12 62:12 <b>complexity</b> 105:5 <b>compliance</b> 22:13 370:10 <b>complicated</b> 162:18 <b>component</b> 78:3
---	---	---	--	--

94:6 198:5 199:9 <b>components</b> 17:10 <b>composition</b> 84:8 189:16 <b>comprehension</b> 281:11 <b>comprehensive</b> 6:18 127:12,20 128:6,12 283:12 387:20 <b>comprise</b> 11:16 <b>comprised</b> 82:17 <b>computer</b> 209:16 <b>concentrated</b> 13:22 14:1,6,11 139:20 140:13 <b>concentration</b> 237:5 <b>concept</b> 324:5 <b>concepts</b> 81:22 85:17 <b>concern</b> 46:8 222:16 286:16 298:8 317:14 322:22 <b>concerned</b> 119:8 128:17 134:9 162:16 249:20 263:8 293:17 311:22 318:13 322:14,15 325:1 336:7 362:18 367:17 369:12 <b>concerning</b> 22:12 111:18 231:4 387:2 <b>concerns</b> 66:3 67:9 99:17 124:17 126:3 127:18 128:18 130:7 140:18 145:10 204:17 225:8 230:21 250:4 315:16,16 344:13 358:22 <b>concert</b> 224:17 <b>concise</b> 288:15	<b>concluded</b> 195:20 259:10 393:19 <b>concrete</b> 63:5 <b>condemning</b> 125:5 <b>conditions</b> 236:10 352:22 359:12 <b>conduct</b> 6:18 7:11 121:9 211:7 216:3 <b>conducted</b> 78:21 208:9 218:9 259:7 293:16,16 <b>conducting</b> 144:5 385:8 <b>conferences</b> 211:10 <b>confidence</b> 20:16 24:9 26:4 38:8 74:18 76:11 112:1 264:16 288:20 383:14 <b>confident</b> 35:15 95:20 230:14 249:4 251:7 347:3 <b>confidently</b> 25:17 92:19 <b>configurations</b> 196:15 <b>confirm</b> 250:7 <b>conflicting</b> 362:14 <b>confront</b> 93:13 <b>congratulations</b> 341:15 <b>congregations</b> 175:2 <b>Congress</b> 22:15 63:1 67:21 96:17 98:10 107:3 182:16 269:7 272:1,3,19 368:18 <b>congressional</b> 22:11 98:9 101:17 101:22 272:20 302:1 306:10 308:7 <b>Congressionally</b> 222:18 <b>Congressman</b> 2:4 46:7 101:7,10	107:12 108:6,11 <b>conjunction</b> 22:5 <b>connect</b> 332:12 <b>connected</b> 375:12 <b>connecting</b> 145:2 <b>connection</b> 170:16 <b>cons</b> 320:22 <b>conscience</b> 219:12 <b>consensus</b> 261:16 265:13,14 <b>consequences</b> 60:11 61:5 66:15 67:13 382:2 <b>conservation</b> 149:12,15 308:17 353:6 358:4,14,21 359:2,3 <b>consider</b> 22:14,21 23:11 45:7 120:11 126:21 138:7 139:7 147:19 167:15 178:12 193:9 198:19 227:3 233:19 238:10 274:7,13 278:18 297:16 319:9 347:8 348:6 348:20 357:3 358:20 365:3 377:15 379:1 <b>considerable</b> 222:10 <b>considerably</b> 169:7 <b>consideration</b> 16:11 28:18 43:15 96:21 167:14,18 171:3 302:5 318:18 323:16 345:14 <b>considerations</b> 4:20 145:13 220:16 305:19 <b>considered</b> 88:8 162:9 165:22 168:7 173:1 228:17 318:19 323:8	<b>considering</b> 87:19 274:8 320:5,22 <b>consistent</b> 191:21 266:22 267:21 <b>Consortium</b> 18:4 <b>constantly</b> 15:11 <b>constituencies</b> 169:12 <b>constituency</b> 106:13 123:15 <b>constituents</b> 99:4 222:1 <b>constituted</b> 297:16 <b>constitutes</b> 202:1 <b>construct</b> 16:22 19:7 38:20 79:17 <b>constructed</b> 29:9 111:7 144:12 <b>constructing</b> 15:1 38:21 <b>construction</b> 7:20 12:11,14 17:5 18:11,22 19:5 21:17 25:22 28:7 29:18 32:15 34:11 36:10,15 39:7 40:10 41:6,10,13 41:13 42:6,8 51:20 53:6,8,14 78:9,21 79:4,8,13 81:4,12,16 82:4 83:5,10,16 85:8 86:3,9,12 88:4 90:2,3,11,15,20 126:6 191:3 228:10 247:20,21 318:3,5 323:17 348:14 374:17 <b>constructive</b> 47:21 <b>consultants</b> 327:5 <b>consulting</b> 301:22 <b>consumers</b> 104:8 105:1 <b>contact</b> 216:20 <b>contain</b> 84:7 139:8 315:21 <b>containerized</b>	118:3 <b>containment</b> 85:21 <b>contains</b> 83:22 <b>contaminants</b> 345:3,6 <b>contaminated</b> 303:21 <b>contaminating</b> 299:4 321:9 <b>contamination</b> 124:4,6,11 125:15 126:4 127:15 299:1,7,7 318:20 <b>contaminator</b> 315:11 <b>content</b> 295:15 354:11 <b>contention</b> 219:8 <b>context</b> 189:7 239:3 269:12 270:2 275:8 <b>continual</b> 370:16 <b>continuation</b> 179:9 <b>continue</b> 95:2 100:19 105:4 107:1 162:2 233:20 239:7 240:2 244:13 285:16 325:22 326:8 339:16,20 341:1 350:11 354:19 372:10 387:11 <b>continued</b> 21:7 108:21 114:21 212:5 214:11 374:18 <b>continues</b> 162:13 237:17 249:5 254:9 374:19 <b>continuing</b> 20:12 162:5,10,11 235:2 <b>continuity</b> 194:6 204:14 <b>continuously</b> 181:2 <b>continuum</b> 170:4 <b>contract</b> 20:11 35:4
--	--	---	--	--

35:7 259:9 378:3	230:11	<b>Coulson</b> 3:7 333:6	296:11 301:15	268:14
<b>contractor</b> 118:11	<b>convinced</b> 20:22	335:12,15 337:16	310:2 336:12	<b>co-dependency</b>
209:22 210:13	21:2 65:6 130:12	<b>council</b> 2:11,13	338:1 342:22	350:10
212:16 213:13	130:20 241:15	4:17 168:15	348:19 358:12	<b>co-owners</b> 15:6
<b>contractors</b> 25:4	293:7	188:12,19,22	359:18 372:5,6	27:9 37:17
46:9 81:17 119:2	<b>cookie</b> 156:2,3	189:4,6,8,16	376:19 377:5	<b>co-President</b>
174:6,8 228:10	<b>Cooper</b> 3:13	194:7 196:10	378:6 387:7 388:4	389:11
361:6	351:18 355:5	203:10 204:19,21	388:15,19	<b>co-Presidents</b>
<b>contracts</b> 98:14	357:22 360:16,19	220:19 221:9	<b>country's</b> 199:7	391:11
104:17 269:4,6,10	360:20	228:12 288:3	<b>county</b> 2:13 32:5,6	<b>CPR</b> 209:15
269:14	<b>cooperate</b> 86:6	353:5 386:3	32:6 51:8,10,18	<b>cracked</b> 392:2
<b>contradictory</b>	276:9	387:15 388:7,12	51:20 52:18 53:3	<b>cradle</b> 178:20
347:2	<b>cooperates</b> 348:17	<b>counterproductive</b>	53:12,21,22 54:4	298:19,22
<b>contrary</b> 105:20	<b>cooperation</b> 19:11	240:4	54:20 55:2 111:5	<b>craft</b> 78:2 79:2,12
193:18 223:5	<b>cooperative</b> 19:2	<b>counties</b> 213:6	207:17 220:19	83:19 89:18
302:20	202:21	229:17,18 247:7	221:8,10,10,18	<b>crafting</b> 245:12
<b>contrast</b> 140:11	<b>coordinate</b> 83:4	247:15,22 248:13	223:4,9 235:22	<b>crafts</b> 83:20
<b>contribute</b> 232:20	<b>Coordinator</b> 1:23	248:17 255:20	246:20,21 251:13	<b>craftsmen</b> 256:1
266:1,7 348:18	4:10 77:10 82:16	256:20 285:13	256:16 335:19	<b>craftspeople</b> 46:10
<b>contributed</b> 104:9	110:17 308:18	335:22	336:6 368:20	<b>crane</b> 16:22 17:1
104:13 320:4	<b>Copenhaver</b> 1:19	<b>counting</b> 307:15	373:6,7,12,13,17	<b>crazy</b> 76:18 334:19
<b>contributing</b>	4:5 10:7 48:4,6,7	<b>countless</b> 92:10	373:21 374:7,14	<b>create</b> 23:22 70:5
358:11	<b>copies</b> 17:13 98:2	379:4	375:13 388:7	132:17 134:11
<b>contributions</b>	<b>copy</b> 86:1,8 98:4	<b>countries</b> 44:21	<b>County's</b> 52:9	135:5 156:22
84:21 249:3	123:3,6 286:5	120:14,21 142:16	<b>couple</b> 14:7 25:21	157:1 185:13
358:15 393:12	313:4	196:2 252:11	122:3 136:21	238:13 249:22
<b>contributor</b> 230:1	<b>core</b> 119:16	295:19 299:22	342:9 352:3	264:7 332:13
<b>contributors</b>	<b>cornerstone</b> 145:5	300:2,8	<b>courage</b> 331:13,19	338:22 379:10
234:12	<b>corporation</b> 22:17	<b>country</b> 8:6 15:2	331:20	<b>created</b> 19:14 35:7
<b>control</b> 45:17 46:3	78:22	21:3,5 25:6 34:18	<b>course</b> 8:8 9:21	53:15,17 61:14
153:1 179:12,20	<b>corporations</b>	35:16 41:14 44:7	28:20 38:1 41:18	62:20 64:15 68:3
214:3 274:20	324:17	47:15 49:7 56:13	45:8 93:22 98:3	129:18 189:8
283:7 303:15	<b>corral</b> 186:5	58:4 64:16 69:15	126:17 204:8	206:13 229:5
<b>controversy</b> 112:4	<b>correct</b> 35:17	74:7 75:20 93:4	237:12 268:17	252:8 259:18
<b>convened</b> 1:9	164:14	95:9 100:13 120:7	271:13 294:14	263:11 266:21
<b>conventional</b> 81:22	<b>cost</b> 14:3 114:3	137:17 140:20	362:13 364:17	315:19 376:15
324:4	165:12 309:11	143:18 156:17	386:15	<b>creates</b> 315:12
<b>conversation</b> 76:16	320:8,9 323:18	164:19 165:13	<b>court</b> 182:7	321:3
326:1,3	370:12	169:21 182:9,22	<b>courts</b> 222:21	<b>creating</b> 82:14
<b>conversations</b>	<b>costing</b> 94:15	195:12 218:11	<b>covenant</b> 280:5	134:14 193:1
163:12 171:1	<b>costly</b> 382:9	234:20,22 237:7	<b>cover</b> 88:20 89:18	227:7 249:22
<b>conversion</b> 299:2	<b>costs</b> 36:13 84:7	245:8 250:16	114:7	335:1 361:16
<b>convert</b> 62:13	85:20 105:3,4	251:9 252:8	<b>coverage</b> 229:16	<b>creation</b> 18:20 19:3
160:10 364:21,22	106:5 125:20,22	254:21 261:10,16	<b>covering</b> 79:8	248:22 285:13
<b>converted</b> 62:5	162:17	263:6 267:9	<b>covers</b> 68:1 89:19	309:10 330:13
<b>convertible</b> 85:17	<b>cost-benefit</b> 307:13	271:20 278:7	369:10	<b>creative</b> 20:10
<b>converting</b> 64:4	<b>cost-effective</b> 198:1	283:18 284:13,16	<b>co-chair</b> 1:10	<b>credentials</b> 340:15

<b>credibility</b> 184:8 347:14	<b>curie</b> 354:11	212:7,8,9,21	<b>day</b> 6:12 105:13 125:17,17 132:6 169:15 175:20,20 211:15 219:6 229:2 280:15,17 299:9 324:19 339:18 364:2	106:3 226:22 252:2 280:22 289:13 347:18
<b>credible</b> 83:21	<b>curies</b> 353:16,17	213:8 214:18	169:15 175:20,20	<b>decays</b> 250:11
<b>credit</b> 76:22 200:11	<b>curious</b> 38:5 269:22	219:6 220:2,3 224:11 225:5,7 230:17 243:1,8 244:6 245:11 251:8 253:12,22 254:6 261:17 263:15 264:13 268:16 269:17 287:5 299:3 355:13 356:1 385:9 387:3	211:15 219:6	<b>December</b> 16:4,8
<b>crew</b> 84:8	<b>current</b> 29:6 44:20 80:14 81:1 85:7 88:1 107:4 143:10 144:2,10 145:1 192:1 198:7,19 199:4 226:1 250:16 262:4 263:19 270:2 287:6 307:1 320:6	255:15	229:2 280:15,17	<b>decent</b> 171:20
<b>criminal</b> 350:10	<b>currently</b> 12:13 13:17 22:15 31:12 39:22 44:9 65:16 65:22 79:15 80:22 94:19 98:21 99:10 100:2 103:11 138:10 144:11 165:14 191:18 242:17 248:13 257:11,16 294:11 304:13 339:11 369:18	<b>cycles</b> 268:20 355:15	299:9 324:19	<b>decide</b> 27:13 73:8 165:11 181:12 374:9
<b>crisis</b> 199:11 334:14	<b>Cynthia</b> 101:8	<b>C-O-N-T-E-N-T-S</b> 4:1	339:18 364:2	<b>decided</b> 7:8 28:11 32:3 327:22
<b>criteria</b> 39:10 191:20	<b>C</b>		<b>day-to-day</b> 153:6 182:2	<b>decides</b> 121:2
<b>critical</b> 79:18 96:21 225:3 230:7 232:14 233:9 249:6 253:10 259:17 264:21	<b>curriculum</b> 257:21 258:10		<b>de</b> 95:1 234:6,8 239:20 249:19	<b>decision</b> 31:14,22 35:17 45:16 60:3 60:7,10,13,16,17 70:11 106:8 112:1 162:13 172:7 185:17 191:14 195:12,22 222:17 223:4,10 238:22 239:4,10 240:1,16 252:6 265:16 271:13 286:17 288:18 297:10 314:3 315:1 333:14 375:3
<b>critically</b> 130:16	<b>curve</b> 372:2,3		<b>dead</b> 317:18	<b>decisionmakers</b> 194:14
<b>critics</b> 192:3 193:19 201:1	<b>customer</b> 33:1 252:21		<b>deadly</b> 350:5	<b>decisionmaking</b> 313:10
<b>CRO</b> 229:3 231:2 259:7	<b>customers</b> 15:9,19 18:9 20:3 36:21 37:16 40:17 60:20 290:21		<b>Deaf</b> 368:20	<b>decisions</b> 20:12 50:2 85:14 112:11 127:3 133:4 144:1 156:21,22 163:8 166:13 167:12,17 184:6 185:13 195:20 196:3 199:14 201:4 239:11 304:22 305:4,6,11 313:17 331:14 332:15 379:15
<b>cross</b> 337:6 340:10	<b>cut</b> 330:21		<b>deal</b> 57:12 64:11,12 66:19 67:1,17,22 68:21 69:17 126:15 129:16 131:15 137:21 141:22 164:5,6,20 179:3 239:12,13 239:18 289:1 293:13 304:4 310:1 355:12	<b>declared</b> 369:6
<b>crossed</b> 329:22	<b>cutter</b> 156:2		<b>dealing</b> 72:7 96:10 118:1 125:14 157:21 173:3 177:10 178:22 290:3 292:2 317:17 355:14	<b>decline</b> 127:11
<b>crossroads</b> 93:3 359:19	<b>cutting</b> 161:19 261:5		<b>dealings</b> 25:3	<b>decommissioned</b>
<b>Crow</b> 167:11	<b>Cwalina</b> 3:19 381:5 382:21 383:1,4 386:10		<b>deals</b> 69:4	
<b>crowd</b> 5:7 349:20	<b>cycle</b> 6:19,20 13:13 44:12 45:16 74:19 96:1 100:8 133:20 136:11 137:9 190:6 204:6 208:17 209:18		<b>dealt</b> 57:9 64:22	
<b>crown</b> 230:2			<b>death</b> 140:9	
<b>crucial</b> 13:8 93:21 164:12 284:19			<b>deaths</b> 124:12 299:17	
<b>cry</b> 356:5			<b>debate</b> 20:21 62:22 240:6	
<b>Crystalline</b> 297:5			<b>Debbie</b> 3:12 351:17 355:4 357:21 358:3	
<b>CSRA</b> 2:15 68:8 96:15 100:10 207:12 220:21 236:16 283:14 346:11			<b>debt</b> 73:6	
<b>Cui</b> 342:5			<b>decade</b> 65:9,20 241:5 253:17 259:12 272:13	
<b>culmination</b> 12:20			<b>decades</b> 12:20 49:5 61:17 92:7 94:8	
<b>cultivating</b> 384:17				
<b>cultural</b> 130:15				
<b>culture</b> 41:18,22 42:4 278:2 284:6 284:18 384:18,19 384:20				
<b>cumulative</b> 123:18 127:3 129:16 131:16				

43:19 252:2	<b>defining</b> 145:19	<b>demographics</b>	<b>deplete</b> 186:9	<b>destiny</b> 45:17 46:3
<b>decontaminated</b>	<b>definitely</b> 203:19	80:16 210:2,5	<b>deploy</b> 99:21	<b>destroy</b> 71:5 380:4
252:3	203:20	213:3	<b>deployed</b> 57:20	<b>destruction</b> 329:11
<b>decrease</b> 295:13	<b>degree</b> 195:8	<b>demonstrate</b> 22:10	<b>deploying</b> 243:1	<b>detail</b> 208:4
<b>dedicated</b> 248:7	201:18 213:16	100:10 102:20	<b>deployment</b> 237:4	<b>detailed</b> 86:10
252:3	257:5,18 258:8	<b>demonstrated</b>	<b>depoliticizing</b>	<b>details</b> 7:3 114:16
<b>dedication</b> 384:16	289:4 364:7,11	133:18 195:13	22:18	<b>detergent</b> 327:4
<b>deep</b> 180:1 191:20	<b>degrees</b> 213:21	<b>demonstration</b>	<b>depreciate</b> 154:10	<b>determination</b>
222:3 223:7,13	<b>Deke</b> 1:19 4:5 10:7	138:5,9 143:20	<b>depression</b> 81:2,2,5	222:20
281:2 341:17	48:4	166:1 232:15	85:8 88:2	<b>determine</b> 72:9
<b>deeply</b> 8:6 32:12	<b>delay</b> 106:2 198:21	267:15 269:18	<b>depth</b> 236:17	279:13 307:17
<b>deepwater</b> 54:13	249:15	274:15 287:13	289:19	<b>determined</b> 94:10
<b>default</b> 104:17	<b>delegation</b> 32:20	<b>denial</b> 20:11	<b>derailed</b> 261:21	307:18
105:4 154:15,22	61:20 64:1 101:17	<b>denied</b> 252:7	<b>descendants</b> 317:5	<b>deterrent</b> 61:15
155:10 370:20	<b>deliberates</b> 358:18	<b>Denise</b> 3:18 376:3	<b>describe</b> 189:6	<b>detonated</b> 138:22
<b>defeated</b> 115:22	<b>deliberations</b>	378:19 381:4,9	<b>described</b> 14:9	<b>detritus</b> 336:22
<b>defense</b> 2:10 60:5	120:12 347:6	<b>Denmark</b> 212:22	159:18	<b>devastating</b> 60:11
61:18 94:19 95:2	368:14 370:8	<b>dense</b> 328:21	<b>describing</b> 170:8	<b>develop</b> 86:20
98:17,21 99:9	<b>delighted</b> 206:2,19	<b>deny</b> 67:1 156:7	184:20	95:17 96:6,18
108:15 110:1	207:22 212:8	320:3	<b>description</b> 11:2	99:20 152:18
134:15,18 136:3	213:7,12 306:18	<b>Department</b> 35:4	30:18	155:19 157:1
142:7 144:17	<b>deliver</b> 18:7 86:6	79:6 81:16 86:12	<b>desert</b> 262:15	179:4 224:20
173:14 174:16	92:5	98:7 102:5 103:17	<b>deserts</b> 364:5	260:16 269:2,10
177:22 190:11,12	<b>delivered</b> 91:16	116:18 128:9	<b>deserve</b> 287:7	270:3 300:9
190:14 191:2,11	97:6 323:12	133:5 136:8 176:5	332:8	<b>developed</b> 21:9
196:19 197:21	<b>delivery</b> 323:18	182:21 183:4,10	<b>deserves</b> 13:9	71:12 82:5 129:14
222:6,20,21	<b>DeLOACH</b> 1:21	189:13 203:11	<b>design</b> 16:6 27:13	182:8 192:14
223:12,17 224:1	4:6 51:4,6 55:18	204:12 213:2	27:13 28:18 31:16	259:3 339:6
229:1 234:5	55:21	216:1,8 222:8,17	39:14,17 40:1,4,7	<b>developer</b> 371:6
239:14 244:7,12	<b>Delores</b> 346:9	229:3 237:15	40:9 78:21	<b>developers</b> 254:12
249:11 254:4	349:18 351:7,9	239:17 269:5	<b>designate</b> 306:11	<b>developing</b> 20:1
262:10 278:12	<b>demand</b> 80:10,12	283:2 297:4	369:2	21:18 58:20 91:3
286:14 296:5	81:1 100:12 103:8	303:14 310:14,20	<b>designated</b> 1:18	91:4 99:13 140:4
297:3 307:2,3	146:17 237:10	311:19 312:1,5	5:11 222:19 229:4	144:17 192:19
353:5,14,17 357:2	372:1,2	353:7,8 354:10,11	353:20	204:3 295:19
357:4 358:16	<b>demands</b> 84:3 93:6	357:3,4	<b>designed</b> 62:17,18	296:14
369:17,17,20,20	302:8	<b>Department's</b> 83:6	82:7 163:21	<b>development</b> 2:15
370:3,3 385:3	<b>DeMint</b> 1:25 4:11	<b>depend</b> 9:21 21:20	183:16 197:2	21:7 54:18 65:2
387:7	91:15 92:3	236:4	244:5 257:12	65:12 75:20 80:19
<b>defenses</b> 20:10	<b>demise</b> 360:3	<b>depended</b> 75:6	295:8,11 345:20	84:10 85:12 134:8
<b>defensible</b> 354:2	<b>Demko</b> 2:21 285:7	<b>dependence</b> 58:17	<b>desirable</b> 319:9,11	135:22 138:5,8
<b>deficits</b> 126:21	288:10 290:10,13	<b>dependency</b> 58:8	<b>desire</b> 75:12 114:5	143:20 166:1
<b>defies</b> 376:18	291:15	148:18	282:15 314:19	179:10 220:22
<b>define</b> 137:20	<b>democracy</b> 176:14	<b>dependent</b> 58:21	<b>despite</b> 103:5	229:11 238:2
201:16,22 299:12	177:2 297:11	224:6 324:6	105:19 236:9	242:22 246:18,20
<b>defined</b> 116:1	342:20,21	<b>depends</b> 24:6,6	<b>dessert</b> 328:19	246:21 247:1
174:5 323:12	<b>Democratic</b> 58:3	32:22 299:11	<b>destination</b> 94:12	249:18 250:1

269:17 285:5,11	<b>direction</b> 6:16	118:22 119:2,14	197:18 244:11	198:3 216:2
287:12 294:21	129:12 272:7,10	159:3 231:10	310:16 344:14	218:14 220:6
308:18 324:18	272:11,12,14	240:8 290:15	<b>disposed</b> 191:12	223:1,18 228:6
335:6,18,21 336:2	298:6 304:16	360:5,8,11	197:2	232:6 233:1,2
<b>devil</b> 326:13	<b>directional</b> 305:15	<b>discussions</b> 8:20	<b>disposing</b> 320:17	241:13 242:1
<b>DHEC</b> 203:5 303:7	<b>Directions</b> 2:6	178:11 387:12	<b>disposition</b> 95:13	251:2 253:11
303:15,17 304:9	109:19	<b>disenfranchised</b>	103:12 106:2	257:12 258:5
305:2 344:10	<b>directly</b> 124:9	129:4,8 131:8	118:19 133:13	271:18 288:20
348:16	145:21 195:7	170:3	194:16 206:11	301:1 311:2,7
<b>DHEC's</b> 304:16	200:22 216:5	<b>disgrace</b> 58:9	222:14 223:2,11	<b>DOE's</b> 223:4,10
<b>dialogue</b> 47:21	263:14	<b>disguise</b> 87:21	225:8 230:10	<b>dogma</b> 287:7
235:2	<b>director</b> 135:15,22	<b>disheartening</b>	233:16 244:6	<b>doing</b> 22:17 46:14
<b>Dianne</b> 2:6 109:19	206:5 297:2 358:4	169:14	286:14 304:5	65:22 75:14 99:12
185:18 292:6	366:21	<b>disingenuous</b>	<b>disproportionate</b>	143:11 149:16
<b>Dick</b> 88:13 89:3	<b>dirt</b> 171:20	178:21	245:2	177:12 184:7
122:7 265:10	<b>dirtier</b> 160:16	<b>dismantle</b> 98:8	<b>disrupted</b> 224:4	185:9 218:1 261:4
357:12	161:1	<b>dismiss</b> 192:5	<b>dissonance</b> 336:17	264:17 293:17
<b>dictate</b> 121:12	<b>dirtiest</b> 326:10	<b>dismissed</b> 178:19	<b>distinguished</b> 94:1	361:18 365:11
<b>die</b> 150:15	<b>dirty</b> 309:14	<b>disparity</b> 239:6	294:8	<b>dollar</b> 251:17
<b>died</b> 338:6	325:19 326:9	<b>dispassionate</b>	<b>distinguishes</b> 233:2	<b>dollars</b> 106:4 114:3
<b>difference</b> 44:22	327:22 329:16,19	27:18	<b>distracted</b> 117:16	118:7 154:16,17
130:5 153:20	350:5	<b>dispersed</b> 139:5	117:19	165:13 210:22
<b>differences</b> 45:2	<b>disadvantaged</b>	<b>displaced</b> 52:11	<b>distress</b> 320:6	244:9,19,21 263:8
<b>different</b> 6:3 34:18	83:2	247:18 374:5	<b>District</b> 101:22	263:13 285:22
37:5 38:10 67:11	<b>disagree</b> 347:3	<b>display</b> 334:7,12	<b>distrust</b> 292:18	291:5 320:10
75:13 82:6 89:22	365:7	<b>disposal</b> 19:13	<b>ditto</b> 175:18	321:21 347:18
90:4,9 98:19	<b>disappears</b> 361:14	21:10 23:7 43:13	<b>dive</b> 314:12	356:16 369:3
106:19,20 168:22	<b>disappointed</b> 70:11	43:13 69:19 70:2	<b>divergent</b> 181:6	370:12
183:19 196:14	<b>disarmament</b>	70:13 98:17 99:1	<b>diverse</b> 213:7	<b>domain</b> 247:19
333:15	337:22	99:9,16 100:1	216:11	<b>Domenici</b> 79:1
<b>difficult</b> 21:17	<b>disassembly</b> 160:5	102:11 105:9	<b>diversification</b>	<b>domestic</b> 93:20
38:21 101:2 105:6	<b>discipline</b> 43:7	109:1 133:11	236:12	164:8 190:22
165:2 239:11	393:13	161:6 166:19	<b>diversion</b> 21:21	241:9 318:7
273:6 289:6	<b>disciplined</b> 41:21	189:11 190:17	<b>diversity</b> 256:8	<b>Don</b> 288:11
321:20	<b>disciplines</b> 15:7	191:2,8 195:14	<b>Division</b> 128:11	<b>Donald</b> 2:21 285:6
<b>difficulties</b> 139:4	<b>disconnected</b>	196:16,17 198:20	<b>docket</b> 79:15	288:8
<b>dilemma</b> 233:13	326:22 327:1	199:11 201:11	<b>docketed</b> 79:10	<b>door</b> 152:9
254:11 332:19	<b>discretionary</b>	202:3 203:1 204:4	<b>document</b> 86:4,10	<b>doors</b> 211:17 374:8
<b>dilute</b> 139:11	138:12	222:4,11 243:10	119:13 202:7	<b>doorstep</b> 389:17
<b>diminish</b> 283:18	<b>discuss</b> 158:3 223:9	251:10 252:21	305:3	<b>dormant</b> 252:1
<b>diminished</b> 164:17	<b>discussed</b> 88:16	268:21 295:5,9	<b>documents</b> 329:22	<b>dose</b> 111:15
<b>dinosaur</b> 178:6	114:19 204:8	296:7 301:8,14	<b>DOE</b> 19:2 22:10	<b>Dothan</b> 11:13
<b>direct</b> 85:1 160:18	305:16	318:14 323:19	98:12 103:20	26:18
161:5 193:5	<b>discussing</b> 353:11	369:16,19 370:6	104:14,17 106:14	<b>doubt</b> 20:13 25:6
204:13 301:19	<b>discussion</b> 36:8	383:17	112:6 133:12	<b>downsizing</b> 229:6
<b>directed</b> 301:10	107:14 108:7	<b>dispose</b> 73:9 133:8	161:5 163:7	<b>downstream</b>
368:11	111:16 117:4,9	191:14 192:15	173:19 174:5,9	344:15

<b>downturn</b> 103:5	<b>DWPA</b> 279:20	261:3 285:5,11,22	150:3 156:11	<b>election</b> 74:19
<b>down-winders</b>	<b>DWPF</b> 160:18	286:2 320:3,6	170:6 182:12	137:9
338:3	<b>dying</b> 124:3,5	324:17 335:18,21	190:8 198:9 284:6	<b>elections</b> 106:19
<b>dozens</b> 227:12	<b>D'Arenbourg</b> 3:8	336:2 350:4,11,17	284:17 393:5	<b>electric</b> 13:12
<b>Dr</b> 209:19 221:1	335:14 337:18	371:6	<b>effectively</b> 128:2	14:16 52:22 258:2
255:5,7,7 265:5	340:5,7	<b>economical</b> 224:7	137:22 238:8	276:20
272:21 310:9	<b>D.C</b> 308:5	<b>economically</b> 44:20	<b>effects</b> 127:13	<b>electrical</b> 142:18
319:22,22 333:8		103:19 358:9	130:1 153:10	372:15
334:1	<b>E</b>	<b>economics</b> 45:8	177:15 314:20	<b>electricians</b> 78:15
<b>draconian</b> 275:22	<b>earlier</b> 29:9 40:11	46:2 136:22 154:1	<b>efficiencies</b> 28:13	<b>electricity</b> 13:17
<b>drag-out</b> 68:13	139:21 147:3	154:2,2 193:4	<b>efficiency</b> 28:22	14:4 18:7 44:16
<b>draw</b> 393:5	302:7 325:7	200:20	323:15	55:8 79:5 92:16
<b>drawing</b> 262:19	334:12 346:20	<b>Economic/Other</b>	<b>efficient</b> 13:12 14:3	103:1 104:8
<b>dream</b> 219:19	354:6 388:6	4:20	29:2 71:22 84:8	141:16,20 143:2
<b>drink</b> 125:1	<b>early</b> 12:18 15:22	<b>economy</b> 52:9	150:3 192:20	144:14,16 146:16
<b>drinking</b> 151:13,16	25:12 213:22	58:17 77:21 82:21	193:1 289:3 295:3	149:6 242:10
345:10	223:15 226:11	103:6,7 236:10	375:19	261:13 262:6
<b>drive</b> 154:10	247:16 286:19	237:9 244:18	<b>efficiently</b> 14:5	295:20
330:12	334:15 372:13	<b>Ed</b> 308:15	21:20 365:18	<b>electro-optical</b>
<b>driven</b> 47:3 60:17	373:15	<b>edge</b> 52:17 261:5	<b>effort</b> 8:21 12:20	322:11
301:6	<b>earned</b> 311:20	<b>Edgefield</b> 285:13	27:16 99:13	<b>elements</b> 100:11
<b>driver</b> 193:9 319:3	<b>earnest</b> 15:5	<b>edict</b> 348:1	121:18 215:5	196:13 204:5
<b>driving</b> 117:11	<b>earth</b> 2:5 17:3	<b>editor</b> 200:10	239:6 260:18	267:1 269:10
<b>dropped</b> 347:16	109:18 110:18	<b>editorial</b> 136:20	275:3 366:12,13	388:22
348:4	173:7 174:17	<b>educated</b> 245:3	<b>efforts</b> 13:9 19:2	<b>eligible</b> 80:4 208:21
<b>drops</b> 372:2	243:20 380:3	330:2	95:10 98:13 109:4	212:13 258:4
<b>dry</b> 29:10,16 30:10	<b>Earth's</b> 139:1	<b>educating</b> 206:17	131:12 134:13	<b>eliminate</b> 301:14
43:17 104:20	<b>easier</b> 290:4	264:19	135:5 186:11	<b>eliminated</b> 254:5
105:3 112:3	<b>easiest</b> 192:12	<b>education</b> 52:3	222:11 230:14	301:17
114:21,22 328:22	<b>easily</b> 145:2 159:16	111:3 216:13	243:12 306:10	<b>eliminates</b> 315:18
<b>dual</b> 268:11	<b>East</b> 373:21	217:19 237:11	353:8 360:13	<b>eliminating</b> 382:10
<b>due</b> 195:16 236:11	<b>eastern</b> 53:3	255:16 260:2	366:18	<b>elimination</b> 127:12
241:22 251:18	<b>easy</b> 326:19 387:14	273:14,16,20	<b>eggs</b> 341:2	129:22
309:16	<b>eat</b> 340:17	332:13 359:5	<b>egregious</b> 128:3	<b>Ellen</b> 1:24 3:8
<b>Duke</b> 363:20 364:2	<b>ECKINSON</b> 2:23	<b>educational</b> 5:22	<b>eight</b> 54:19 212:15	91:16 333:6
389:17	<b>ecological</b> 296:3	256:9 273:3 274:4	259:8 356:6	335:13 337:17
<b>duly</b> 297:16	<b>economic</b> 2:15 13:2	378:10,12	<b>either</b> 67:16 72:12	<b>EM</b> 117:7
<b>dump</b> 116:11 141:3	17:21 18:10 44:9	<b>educators</b> 255:22	78:12 158:4 248:4	<b>EMA</b> 54:5 375:12
<b>dumped</b> 116:8	44:11 54:17 85:7	263:20 264:19	252:20	375:18
<b>dumping</b> 140:5	130:15 193:8,21	<b>effect</b> 129:11	<b>either/or</b> 44:2	<b>email</b> 158:4 175:19
<b>duplicate</b> 342:17	197:10 206:18	194:15 221:19	<b>EJ</b> 151:5,6	175:19 343:20
<b>duplicated</b> 261:9	207:14 220:16,22	249:22	<b>EI</b> 363:18	<b>embargo</b> 45:15
<b>DuPont</b> 371:10,11	229:11 236:4,9	<b>effected</b> 92:21	<b>Elaine</b> 3:13 351:18	<b>embarrassment</b>
371:12	238:11 239:5,6	202:15 305:16	355:5 357:22	312:2
<b>DuPonter</b> 371:8	244:21 246:18,22	307:7	360:16,19	<b>embedded</b> 42:5
<b>duty</b> 380:8	249:18 250:1	<b>effective</b> 109:1	<b>elected</b> 68:18	<b>embrace</b> 193:16
<b>DVD</b> 17:11	254:12 260:13	131:12 146:10	271:17 360:3	<b>embraces</b> 48:22



49:8	<b>enclosed</b> 17:7	142:4,14,18	<b>energy-obtaining</b>	108:22 194:14
<b>emerged</b> 15:11	<b>encompass</b> 264:5	143:13,14 145:5,7	323:13	259:5 279:1 332:9
<b>emergency</b> 54:3	<b>encourage</b> 8:11	145:18 146:9,11	<b>enforceable</b> 305:4	<b>ensuring</b> 83:7 92:8
172:15	84:8 137:13	146:18,22 147:2	<b>engage</b> 182:1 273:1	94:18 95:12
<b>emerging</b> 146:8	174:13 192:21	148:22 149:12,14	305:18	260:14
<b>emission</b> 103:4	254:7 313:9,14,21	149:20 150:2,5,22	<b>engaged</b> 65:16	<b>entered</b> 213:20
<b>emissions</b> 299:8	344:21	157:6 176:5 178:8	132:1 181:12	280:5
<b>emits</b> 321:7	<b>encouragement</b>	179:6 180:5,9,12	284:5,14	<b>entering</b> 281:8
<b>emotional</b> 125:16	222:7	180:21 182:21	<b>engendering</b>	<b>entertain</b> 65:10
<b>empaneled</b> 71:21	<b>encouraging</b>	183:4,10 189:13	264:15	217:8
<b>emphasis</b> 334:3	238:14	193:4,11,19	<b>engine</b> 17:21	<b>enthusiastic</b> 32:10
<b>emphasize</b> 17:19	<b>endanger</b> 309:5	203:11 204:12	<b>engineer</b> 276:19	77:22
142:13 147:5	339:21	216:1,9 217:17,17	310:12 322:11	<b>entire</b> 98:1 137:16
<b>employ</b> 138:11	<b>endangering</b> 321:8	217:22 222:8,17	344:9 363:21	214:11 226:21
<b>employed</b> 18:11	<b>endangerment</b>	224:5,12 225:3	<b>engineering</b> 35:19	247:10 248:16
53:8 87:8,11 88:6	350:14	229:1 230:5	180:14 213:16	254:21 277:2
211:1 214:18	<b>endangers</b> 309:7	233:11 238:1	217:21 242:22	329:12 338:2
227:9 248:1,4	<b>endeavor</b> 86:20	239:18 240:12	258:8 364:11,19	385:3
256:13	100:9	252:12 259:13	391:7	<b>entirely</b> 159:20
<b>employee</b> 79:21	<b>endless</b> 94:10	260:17 261:18,19	<b>engineering-deve...</b>	<b>entities</b> 131:4 172:5
283:5 363:20	<b>endorse</b> 286:18	262:2 263:5	99:20	179:19 180:1
364:1 386:5	338:18 388:6	264:10,22 265:1	<b>engineers</b> 20:21	246:18 273:20
<b>employees</b> 53:9	<b>enduring</b> 237:22	269:5 274:10,11	28:20 78:9 185:11	379:21
79:22 80:3 214:4	384:20	275:7 277:5 278:2	189:20 227:11	<b>entity</b> 22:7 170:19
219:11 236:7	<b>energetic</b> 140:15	283:2,11,16 284:3	245:4 263:22	172:12 204:12
248:7	<b>energies</b> 139:14	284:9 294:14,14	350:1 378:4	205:3 278:20
<b>employer</b> 228:5	186:4 332:22	295:3,15,18 296:9	<b>engines</b> 37:13	<b>entrepreneurial</b>
<b>employers</b> 236:13	379:18 380:11	298:12 310:14,20	193:21	238:12
257:6 259:5,9	<b>energizing</b> 37:12	311:19 312:1,5	<b>England</b> 44:8	<b>enviable</b> 241:7
260:3	<b>energy</b> 6:16 13:22	319:14 323:2,3,5	343:14	250:22
<b>employing</b> 79:21	14:1,6,11 19:1	323:5,7,11,12,14	<b>enhance</b> 264:9	<b>environment</b> 19:4
<b>employment</b> 77:17	35:4 36:19 39:3	326:4 328:15,20	<b>enhanced</b> 215:7	37:6,7 52:18
206:19 207:2	44:14 57:4 58:4	334:2,2,4 335:2,7	<b>enhancement</b>	55:13 93:5 127:1
215:7 248:1 258:4	64:22 71:10 77:21	339:13 340:20	133:19	132:3 218:20
261:1	79:6 81:18 93:5	353:7,9 357:3	<b>enhancements</b>	241:17 264:9
<b>empower</b> 219:1	93:10,19 94:7,16	362:20 363:20	83:13	275:5 304:1
<b>empowered</b> 130:10	98:7 100:12,18	368:11 369:16	<b>enjoy</b> 50:17	309:12 327:20
131:3 132:2	103:2,5,8 108:19	372:15 373:5	<b>enjoyable</b> 50:21	338:15 365:4
<b>empowering</b>	115:9 116:2,18,19	377:6 382:1,11	<b>enjoyed</b> 56:7 378:2	371:16 377:18,19
206:18	116:22 117:20	388:16,22 391:17	<b>enormous</b> 138:22	382:4
<b>empowerment</b>	118:10 119:10	393:2	315:13	<b>environmental</b> 2:9
129:6	132:17,21 133:5	<b>Energy's</b> 102:5	<b>enriched</b> 162:8	4:16 57:7 100:19
<b>EM's</b> 132:17	137:5,7,10,12,14	103:17 128:9	242:7	107:15 109:16
<b>enable</b> 100:9	137:21 138:10,13	136:8 229:4	<b>enrolled</b> 257:11	110:1 112:19
141:19 233:4	138:19,22 139:5	237:15 297:4	<b>ensure</b> 45:9 80:19	113:7 115:21
<b>enablers</b> 129:2	139:19 140:1,12	<b>energy-independ...</b>	82:18,20 83:1	116:20 117:1,6,10
<b>enactment</b> 18:22	140:13,19 141:4	199:7	84:12 95:4 108:20	117:16 118:6,21

119:3 121:15	<b>especially</b> 43:18	<b>everyday</b> 139:1	<b>exhibits</b> 14:7	85:3
123:18 126:16	233:10 324:6	170:18	<b>exist</b> 136:14 143:21	<b>expenses</b> 85:1
127:4,13,17 128:4	366:11 382:5	<b>ever-increasing</b>	245:15 280:14	<b>expensive</b> 162:2
128:6,9,11 129:17	<b>essence</b> 233:19	237:10	314:18	307:15 315:10
129:21 130:17	<b>essential</b> 94:18	<b>exacting</b> 83:16	<b>existed</b> 321:4	323:3 328:1
131:1,16 149:1	254:2 261:15	<b>exactly</b> 30:16 42:19	<b>existence</b> 208:1	329:17 389:18
160:14 166:15	263:4 358:12	45:22 161:19	383:13	390:4,5,10,12
167:3 173:14	<b>essentially</b> 345:9	184:16 373:10	<b>existing</b> 12:22	<b>experience</b> 23:19
174:16 176:4,6	360:1	<b>examine</b> 143:18	79:20 83:14 144:7	38:10 78:10 90:5
177:6 178:1	<b>establish</b> 243:18	264:12	238:14 245:5	109:6 116:13
189:19 196:15	<b>established</b> 145:3	<b>examined</b> 45:13	280:11 285:15	126:11 189:21,22
215:19 218:7	182:16 241:7	<b>example</b> 29:10 32:2	338:19 339:4	192:7 234:13
242:1 296:2 297:3	295:6	38:19 45:3 80:17	354:1	279:16 294:19
303:15,16,18	<b>establishes</b> 84:9	90:6 121:20	<b>exists</b> 99:10 192:8	296:4 302:10
305:17 308:22	<b>establishing</b> 145:7	137:15 173:7	198:2 218:7	352:20 384:5,21
315:13 316:5,11	<b>establishment</b>	174:18 196:4	234:14 242:17	<b>experienced</b> 127:16
344:8 352:2 359:5	223:16	256:14 310:15	252:19 254:20	<b>experiences</b> 282:19
359:20 389:12	<b>estate</b> 243:19	356:15	<b>exit</b> 352:18,19	320:20 321:11
391:7,12	<b>esteemed</b> 77:13	<b>examples</b> 182:10	353:1,1	<b>experiencing</b>
<b>environmentally</b>	<b>Estes</b> 1:9	253:14	<b>expand</b> 31:15	248:14
94:11 103:19	<b>estimated</b> 104:3	<b>exceed</b> 21:22	137:4 233:8	<b>experiment</b> 320:20
<b>envisioned</b> 66:19	105:1 112:8 248:2	<b>exceeds</b> 251:1	240:12 242:3	328:17 377:12
234:4	<b>et</b> 46:1 361:10,20	<b>excelled</b> 227:4	264:4	<b>experimenting</b>
<b>envy</b> 262:21	<b>eternal</b> 316:11	<b>excellence</b> 43:4	<b>expanded</b> 31:12	329:17
<b>EPA</b> 151:14 207:5	<b>ethical</b> 380:6	258:20	238:2 252:11	<b>expert</b> 182:4
208:16 211:20	<b>ETSU</b> 333:11	<b>excellent</b> 27:15	288:14	321:13 336:14
214:13,20 215:16	<b>Eunice</b> 351:13	34:20 42:9 377:11	<b>expanding</b> 237:9	<b>expertise</b> 96:6
216:9 217:1	<b>European</b> 120:20	384:1	261:12	180:14 227:14
<b>epidemiology</b>	<b>evaluate</b> 15:7 145:8	<b>exception</b> 301:4	<b>expansion</b> 27:4,5	233:8 243:4 251:4
150:18	342:6 343:9	308:6	37:22 38:3 51:15	251:12 343:8
<b>equal</b> 243:21	<b>evaluation</b> 342:16	<b>exceptional</b> 254:16	78:3 259:13	381:18 382:14
<b>equally</b> 98:19	<b>evaluations</b> 41:22	<b>excess</b> 20:5 191:1	339:21	<b>experts</b> 102:13
336:22	<b>Evans</b> 279:11	230:10 252:17	<b>expect</b> 18:7 30:10	183:8 186:4
<b>equipment</b> 84:17	<b>event</b> 21:8,8 23:21	<b>excited</b> 50:13,16	68:22 145:19	250:22 320:11
334:17	37:11 172:20	<b>exciting</b> 75:22	146:17,20 194:17	<b>expires</b> 143:3
<b>equity</b> 305:19	223:6	217:14 218:1	<b>expectation</b> 197:10	<b>explain</b> 51:17
<b>equivalent</b> 104:5	<b>events</b> 15:21 22:9	<b>excluded</b> 174:9	219:9 244:10	<b>explained</b> 208:4
<b>era</b> 167:11	40:12 381:16	<b>exclusively</b> 360:6	370:17	<b>explanation</b> 239:10
<b>eraser</b> 141:14	<b>eventual</b> 370:10	<b>excuse</b> 277:20	<b>expectations</b>	<b>exploited</b> 232:12
<b>erected</b> 52:16	<b>eventually</b> 58:19	<b>execution</b> 194:18	197:14 286:10	380:1
<b>Ernest</b> 2:20 282:5	263:16	<b>executive</b> 22:11	<b>expected</b> 78:16	<b>explore</b> 96:9
285:5,10	<b>everybody</b> 159:9	86:8 135:14 206:5	103:7 137:19	<b>exploring</b> 80:12
<b>erodes</b> 272:8	168:2,3 170:10	366:21	220:2 222:2	191:15 240:11
<b>EROEI</b> 323:4,11	171:16 180:7	<b>exemplify</b> 227:13	261:10	<b>explosives</b> 329:9
324:5	207:2 272:10	<b>exercise</b> 43:1	<b>expecting</b> 88:4	<b>export</b> 264:7
<b>errors</b> 310:22	341:13 366:19	<b>exercises</b> 211:11,12	<b>expel</b> 329:1	<b>expose</b> 330:13
311:1	380:21	<b>exhibit</b> 11:1,2	<b>expenditure</b> 22:4	<b>exposed</b> 153:16

292:19	<b>facility</b> 23:14 29:19	359:22 367:4	<b>fast-forward</b>	<b>fees</b> 20:5 21:21
<b>express</b> 12:2 102:2	41:5 53:10 54:3,5	<b>fair</b> 3:21 30:17	155:21	22:3 60:20
231:2 276:11	65:13 67:13 75:17	45:19 131:14	<b>fast-tracked</b>	<b>feet</b> 281:2
<b>expressed</b> 140:18	76:15,22 85:15	178:11 196:8	213:22	<b>fellow</b> 14:20 276:10
<b>extend</b> 54:8 66:18	94:12 114:13	304:14 382:22	<b>father</b> 110:22	<b>fellows</b> 246:10
<b>extended</b> 9:13	116:9 133:22	385:17 389:8,10	111:5 371:7	<b>felt</b> 129:10
<b>extending</b> 91:21	134:1,19 142:8	389:11 390:20	<b>fault</b> 184:18	<b>female</b> 210:9
<b>extends</b> 247:9	144:4,6 159:12,13	<b>fairness</b> 302:20	<b>favor</b> 167:22	<b>fence</b> 227:2
<b>extensive</b> 259:8	159:21 160:3,9	<b>faith</b> 68:9 69:5	252:14 343:5	<b>fertile</b> 238:13
296:2,3	162:17 163:2,18	137:18 216:12	<b>favorable</b> 296:9	<b>Fibers</b> 371:12
<b>extent</b> 164:15	164:1,19 165:5,10	<b>fall</b> 75:9 121:4	<b>favorite</b> 226:15	<b>field</b> 281:2 341:3
176:22 300:15	181:13 190:20	258:9	<b>fear</b> 94:13 292:11	391:18
<b>extracting</b> 143:14	191:5 196:19	<b>falling</b> 64:6 145:12	292:12 328:13	<b>fields</b> 90:20 146:9
<b>extraction</b> 323:16	197:2 208:15	<b>false</b> 298:10	353:19	227:10
<b>extraordinary</b>	218:15 232:6,10	<b>familial</b> 125:3	<b>fears</b> 193:12	<b>Fifth</b> 198:8
84:10	251:2,17 252:1,22	<b>familiar</b> 90:21	<b>feasible</b> 44:20	<b>Fifty</b> 51:22
<b>extremely</b> 31:17	258:5 277:15,22	113:11 165:1,7	135:7 323:7	<b>fight</b> 69:10,11
50:13 236:18	290:20 291:6	167:2 274:12	<b>featured</b> 212:1	122:16 315:7
315:9 345:1	296:1,6 314:18	367:9 371:9	<b>features</b> 224:11	316:13 325:12
<b>eyes</b> 329:22 337:7	346:3 353:21	<b>families</b> 32:17	225:5	<b>fighting</b> 60:13,15
	362:10	108:17 124:7	<b>fed</b> 125:7 219:7	<b>fight</b> 182:7
<b>F</b>	<b>facing</b> 73:5	125:6,13 219:6	362:10	<b>figure</b> 80:2 272:16
<b>F</b> 114:8 123:4	<b>fact</b> 46:11 58:7,10	236:7 247:18	<b>federal</b> 1:18 5:11	337:11 393:2
<b>fabrication</b> 17:9	70:9 73:4 78:14	<b>family</b> 52:4,6 124:5	7:6 20:6 54:10	<b>figures</b> 79:22 80:6
191:5	95:16 112:18	124:9,12,13,13,16	63:11,22 66:20	248:19
<b>face</b> 74:14 81:1	122:19 164:4	124:17 125:21	67:5 68:3,9,22	<b>figuring</b> 181:10
125:17 126:4	184:17 190:3	126:5 371:8	72:7,11,22 100:15	<b>file</b> 370:9
129:22 211:9,9	194:10 247:12	<b>family's</b> 126:8	106:3 132:18	<b>fill</b> 63:14 104:22
244:13 252:9	269:1 344:12	<b>fanciful</b> 70:17	159:1 168:11	260:4,16
318:14	368:16 370:18	<b>fancy</b> 328:16	194:6,14,17	<b>filled</b> 83:19 158:13
<b>faced</b> 115:8	<b>facto</b> 95:1 234:6,8	<b>far</b> 14:10 66:18	203:12 208:8,15	259:19
<b>faces</b> 93:4	239:20 249:19	172:18 177:3	218:15 228:22	<b>final</b> 63:6 94:12
<b>facets</b> 146:6	<b>factor</b> 295:14	201:17 305:5	234:1 238:21	95:17 102:16
<b>facilitate</b> 229:11	352:15	321:10 339:1	244:14 249:8	186:12 198:17
358:5 360:13	<b>factories</b> 210:21	367:17	270:17 278:14	222:14 223:2,11
<b>facilities</b> 7:14 20:17	<b>factors</b> 28:5,14	<b>Farley</b> 11:14 26:18	288:20 295:8	255:5 257:22
78:11 79:9 81:13	80:7 102:20	29:11,14 31:2,11	304:18 356:2,8	281:19 302:15
84:12 85:11	<b>factory</b> 90:7	<b>farm</b> 247:18	<b>Federation</b> 359:8	347:6 348:21,22
108:17,19 127:15	<b>facts</b> 35:2 240:21	<b>farms</b> 279:20 336:3	<b>fee</b> 204:14	349:1 352:22
191:2 193:20	321:6 364:18	<b>farm-related</b> 52:11	<b>feed</b> 160:11 356:8	370:9 389:8
221:17 224:19	388:11,13,14	<b>farsighted</b> 73:19	<b>feedback</b> 326:13	390:21
253:11,14,17,21	<b>failed</b> 113:17	<b>fashion</b> 67:10	<b>feel</b> 86:22 112:11	<b>finally</b> 22:21 86:17
262:11 266:4	120:13 133:12	<b>fashionable</b> 384:19	120:2 126:5 130:5	100:4 104:8
271:4 278:18	<b>failing</b> 249:10	<b>fast</b> 111:14 119:15	148:2 219:2 373:7	134:22 166:14
287:14 289:20,22	<b>failure</b> 19:17 34:10	119:20 144:9	373:8	191:18 327:8
301:1 334:19	195:10,15 233:20	331:18 375:7	<b>feeling</b> 74:7	331:20 352:16
345:17 348:13	261:22 352:21	<b>faster</b> 100:12	<b>feels</b> 196:10 327:7	367:12,14

<b>financed</b> 120:10	119:15 122:10	<b>flexible</b> 159:17	351:3,13 355:4	284:4
<b>financial</b> 125:20	132:16 157:20	<b>floating</b> 76:9	357:22 360:17	<b>Fort</b> 238:8
170:17 209:11	161:10 163:5	<b>flooded</b> 171:21	363:14 366:8	<b>forth</b> 266:5 293:1
278:21 307:8	189:6 191:10	<b>floor</b> 10:1,14 18:2	368:7 369:3,9	319:15
333:16	192:11 196:14	56:4 188:14	371:4 372:21	<b>fortunately</b> 48:16
<b>financially</b> 125:19	208:14,17 209:17	<b>Florida</b> 103:15	376:2 378:19	<b>Forty-two</b> 212:13
334:15	211:14 213:10,11	<b>flow</b> 212:20 345:5	381:5 382:22	<b>forum</b> 122:2
<b>find</b> 48:20 50:14	218:14 226:4,11	<b>Flowers</b> 211:4	385:17	374:12
58:16,18 71:14	229:6 233:19	<b>fluid</b> 212:20	<b>following</b> 177:20	<b>forums</b> 332:13
86:19 92:19 102:8	246:11 247:4	<b>flush</b> 180:9	229:7 324:4	374:22,22 375:1
117:20 125:19	251:14 271:1	<b>flushing</b> 168:19,20	338:18 341:19	<b>forward</b> 6:13 8:9
127:8 138:15	276:12,14 291:6	<b>focus</b> 136:8 158:14	<b>follows</b> 108:12	8:10 9:1 19:7
140:12 148:19	318:17 338:19	192:21 231:9	145:15	24:4 37:13 64:13
153:8 163:10	352:4 357:12	<b>focused</b> 166:17,18	<b>football</b> 281:2	66:12 70:1 71:15
168:5,9 169:9,14	361:1,7 366:10	260:14	341:3	72:12,14,16 96:16
178:21 179:1,3	369:14 371:14,15	<b>focusing</b> 177:21	<b>footprint</b> 57:6 66:2	111:19 112:12
180:4,18 213:18	391:16	<b>FOIA</b> 119:13	66:21 323:9 324:3	115:10 117:20
215:12 228:22	<b>firsthand</b> 7:14	<b>folks</b> 152:6 170:7	<b>force</b> 61:15 135:17	120:20 121:18
246:15 264:17	78:10 240:18	209:7 221:9	184:15 185:8	128:12 149:9
284:19 291:6	276:22 384:14	271:18 281:3	239:13 282:22	155:18 178:5
309:22 364:13	<b>first-of-a-kind</b>	326:21 332:21	366:22	181:1 185:19
367:22 378:5	90:10	347:4 350:12	<b>forced</b> 104:20	194:8,15 201:5
382:1 392:20	<b>fish</b> 125:2 340:17	373:3 376:20	355:20	204:3 225:2 235:2
<b>finding</b> 162:22	340:18	378:1,7 385:22	<b>forecast</b> 27:8	255:1 270:2 271:4
179:6 234:17	<b>fission</b> 364:13	386:12	<b>forecasts</b> 27:11	285:16 302:11
263:3 308:8 357:7	<b>fissionable</b> 145:11	<b>follow</b> 9:6 17:16	<b>forefront</b> 92:12	317:19 342:19
<b>fine</b> 42:8 255:14	<b>fissioning</b> 140:14	40:10 91:20	<b>foreign</b> 58:17,22	360:10 361:12
291:22	<b>fit</b> 149:21 196:18	174:18 196:4	164:7 175:21	362:16 371:10
<b>finer</b> 68:2	202:3,4 281:1	208:11 211:8	179:19 180:1	387:11
<b>finger</b> 40:16	<b>fitting</b> 12:5	272:7 283:12	190:21 241:10	<b>forward-thinking</b>
<b>fingers</b> 360:2	<b>five</b> 49:11 54:1	342:4	<b>foremost</b> 95:18	259:3
<b>finish</b> 23:22	56:15 63:1 141:15	<b>followed</b> 183:14	<b>foresight</b> 332:6	<b>fossil</b> 45:5 138:13
<b>finished</b> 52:2	141:19 185:1	276:15 279:8	<b>forever</b> 22:10	139:22 144:3
121:14	209:2,5 212:11	282:5 285:6	317:5 354:16	147:2 180:5
<b>finite</b> 140:10	226:14 251:21	288:10 290:11	359:7 371:16	280:16 339:9
298:15	<b>five-county</b> 229:15	291:17 294:2	<b>forged</b> 82:1	372:1
<b>fire</b> 375:15	<b>flag</b> 393:1	296:19 298:2	<b>forget</b> 40:17	<b>found</b> 138:15
<b>fired</b> 325:18	<b>Flanagan</b> 150:5	300:19 303:7	<b>form</b> 13:22 65:6	153:13 185:4
<b>firmly</b> 190:6	<b>flashing</b> 155:20	306:4 308:14	158:16 191:19	320:16 344:21
234:19	<b>flawed</b> 196:20	310:7 312:19	230:9 263:15	367:12
<b>first</b> 7:17 10:4,6	198:20	314:9 317:9	<b>formal</b> 8:17	<b>foundation</b> 16:17
12:15 14:22 15:1	<b>flaws</b> 223:21	319:20 322:5	<b>formation</b> 140:3	16:22 314:9 359:7
15:6 23:8 25:1,5	<b>fleet</b> 20:4 26:11	324:12 327:15	<b>formed</b> 6:15 60:2	<b>founded</b> 297:3
29:3,11,14 35:14	144:10	330:17 333:6	<b>former</b> 79:1 122:7	<b>founder</b> 328:5
38:1 42:2 48:8,12	<b>Fletcher</b> 288:2	335:13 337:18	142:22	<b>four</b> 32:16 39:22
78:6 92:14 95:18	<b>flexibility</b> 196:14	340:5 341:9 344:5	<b>forms</b> 14:6	53:16 55:7 62:22
97:15 98:5 102:22	204:15	346:8 349:18	<b>formula</b> 283:13	102:19 141:15,19

142:1 152:12	<b>friends</b> 2:5 59:13	237:19 240:22	<b>full-term</b> 206:16	148:4 178:9 190:4
190:13 192:10	60:14 109:17	241:9 242:4,7,18	<b>full-time</b> 210:16	190:8 192:5,19
205:6 235:15	110:18 173:7	243:1,8 244:6	<b>fun</b> 328:16	194:9 215:1
238:9 245:7 247:6	174:16 365:2,3	245:11 249:11	<b>function</b> 293:9	217:17 234:20,21
247:22 280:21	<b>frighten</b> 344:20	250:20 251:8,15	<b>functional</b> 204:5	250:1 256:3 259:5
288:16 330:5	<b>frightened</b> 330:1	252:8,15 253:12	<b>functioning</b> 167:9	260:9 262:7
349:4	<b>fringe</b> 88:8 347:9	253:22 254:5	<b>fund</b> 60:20 104:10	263:19 265:1
<b>fourth</b> 194:20,21	<b>front</b> 61:13 64:17	261:17 262:9	104:16 244:4,12	278:3,5 293:10
197:22 282:10	297:13 355:18	263:2,13,15	263:9,11,14	295:2 328:9
290:1	<b>fronts</b> 71:15	264:13 268:16,20	287:20	329:11 331:4,5,12
<b>four-county</b> 248:3	<b>fruit</b> 43:2	269:17 278:13,19	<b>fundamental</b> 13:11	331:21 332:9,10
<b>four-lane</b> 54:11	<b>fruition</b> 195:5	279:15 280:8	<b>fundamentally</b>	332:22 337:2
<b>four-loop</b> 26:15	269:3	284:3 287:5	177:1	339:22 348:19
<b>four-point-somet...</b>	<b>frustrates</b> 205:11	289:15 290:18,19	<b>funded</b> 218:5,6	354:20 369:22
356:16	<b>frustrating</b> 272:4	291:3,7 295:16,18	254:15 356:2	377:7 379:6,7,17
<b>fractions</b> 354:14,15	<b>fuel</b> 6:19,20 7:16	295:22 305:10	<b>funding</b> 21:14 22:6	380:8,9 387:11,13
<b>framework</b> 18:18	13:14,15,21 14:9	307:12 309:3,13	22:18 94:9 118:9	389:14 392:17
83:11 269:11	14:12 15:8 19:14	315:19,22 318:13	128:5 198:14	<b>futuristic</b> 179:2
<b>France</b> 44:8 45:11	20:14,19 21:11	320:14 321:2	244:4 252:19	
46:1 59:15 120:22	23:4,6 28:22 29:1	352:7,10 355:13	253:18 377:1,19	<b>G</b>
198:4 378:1	35:6,9,12,18 38:4	356:18 359:14	382:10	<b>Gabriel</b> 3:21
<b>Frank</b> 122:3	44:10,12,13,15	362:7,11 372:1,4	<b>funds</b> 98:14 104:13	382:22 385:17
<b>frankly</b> 57:18 66:4	45:10,16 58:20	372:16 385:9	106:22 244:10	389:8,11
334:4	60:1,6 61:18 62:6	387:3	269:13,16 382:12	<b>gain</b> 350:4
<b>frankness</b> 73:18	62:15 64:4 76:7	<b>fuels</b> 45:5 99:11	382:15	<b>gained</b> 5:20 23:20
<b>Frazier</b> 1:18 5:3,10	94:4 96:1 98:20	138:13 139:22	<b>funerals</b> 150:13	209:16 228:20
107:21 110:5	99:14 100:7	140:2 147:2	211:13	<b>gains</b> 67:4
188:3	102:11,16 103:11	230:11 280:16	<b>Furman</b> 391:8	<b>gallon</b> 143:9
<b>Fred</b> 3:20 382:22	103:21 104:7,18	339:9	<b>further</b> 86:21	<b>gallons</b> 62:19 94:19
385:16	104:22 105:9	<b>fuel-cycle</b> 99:21	125:19 129:20	143:8 190:16
<b>free</b> 86:22 103:5	106:2,21 109:2	<b>fuel-handling</b>	146:3 181:8 208:4	304:11 308:20
137:18 148:21	114:10,19 115:1	254:15	243:17 249:15	<b>Gamble</b> 327:2
282:15	116:1 117:8,12,17	<b>fulfill</b> 234:2	289:19 291:10	<b>game</b> 145:20
<b>freedom</b> 372:12,14	118:18,19 119:15	<b>full</b> 8:15 11:2 16:10	318:2 319:12	<b>garbage</b> 336:3
<b>French</b> 59:13,16	121:9 133:16,20	72:21 94:14	320:7 326:8	<b>Garrett</b> 3:22
65:7,16 66:4	136:2,11 141:8,10	210:17 218:21	382:10	385:18 389:9
75:13 120:19	143:1,11,15 144:3	250:13 311:9	<b>Furthermore</b> 324:1	390:22 391:2,4
179:16 214:10	162:8 163:1 164:3	391:20	<b>fusion</b> 364:13	<b>Garry</b> 211:4
307:14 320:20	164:3,7,8,11	<b>fuller</b> 228:20	<b>future</b> 1:1 5:12	<b>gas</b> 13:14 14:2 45:6
321:6 378:6	165:8 180:5 190:6	<b>fullest</b> 157:2	6:11 37:22 42:19	258:2 372:1
<b>frequent</b> 271:16	190:12,14,22	<b>fully</b> 17:7 39:20	45:21 49:14 54:9	<b>gasoline</b> 143:9
<b>frequently</b> 204:8	191:5 192:22	51:14 66:22 72:4	73:8 76:1 80:14	<b>gather</b> 332:21
<b>FRIDAY</b> 1:6	193:2 197:9,13,19	73:18 96:9 128:4	93:3 94:16 96:19	<b>gathered</b> 303:12
<b>Friedland</b> 216:22	198:9 204:6	195:21 238:1	102:11 107:5	<b>gathering</b> 237:3
<b>friend</b> 264:9	224:13 225:4,7	249:2 251:22	119:6,8,11 120:10	273:4
<b>friendly</b> 59:11	230:17 231:15	261:14 264:22	137:5,12 139:18	<b>GE</b> 11:12 27:1
226:20 290:2	232:4,7,16 233:15	<b>full-circle</b> 206:16	143:22 146:5	<b>general</b> 5:21 6:7

24:20 58:6 62:2 74:22 97:15 108:1 113:16 167:13 188:9,15,17 200:10 251:16 275:2 282:12 303:10 342:18 348:10 <b>generally</b> 65:1 <b>generate</b> 103:4 131:3 <b>generated</b> 28:16 92:16 143:2 190:15 195:21 281:1 315:20 353:1,17 362:11 <b>generates</b> 192:2 <b>generating</b> 53:1 79:5 144:19 269:21 276:20 318:6 <b>generation</b> 11:18 14:13,17,17 15:13 27:10 28:12 29:3 29:18 37:22 103:1 145:2 178:20 189:21 190:1 243:1 278:5,9 318:2 319:12 379:12 <b>generational</b> 125:3 <b>generations</b> 328:9 330:9 331:12 339:22 380:9 <b>generators</b> 13:18 36:4 <b>generous</b> 257:7 <b>genetically</b> 71:1 375:6 <b>gentleman</b> 177:19 334:8 <b>gentlemen</b> 71:8 206:1 <b>geographic</b> 132:6 256:7 <b>geography</b> 80:16 284:5,8	<b>geologic</b> 43:13 99:1 99:16 100:1 190:18 191:12,15 191:20 222:3 223:13 240:10 243:10,16 286:13 286:19,21 367:11 <b>geological</b> 20:1 21:1 222:11 223:7 223:16 224:17 <b>geologically</b> 184:17 309:15 <b>geology</b> 121:1,13 284:5,12 344:17 344:18 <b>George</b> 1:21 4:6 51:3 288:2 298:2 <b>Georgia</b> 1:10,20,21 2:2,4,5,6 4:5,7 7:21 10:8 11:11 11:19 12:1,2 15:14,19 18:8 19:6 26:22 27:6,7 27:8 30:21 33:6,7 34:17 36:5,5 37:16,16 49:17 51:8 52:20 54:6 54:14 55:9 59:4 59:12 60:14 61:10 61:20 68:17,18 69:13,15 72:10,21 78:6 81:14 92:1 95:3 97:6,18 101:7,17,19 102:4 102:22 103:12,13 104:9,12 105:1 107:8 109:18 110:22 111:8 123:13,16 124:12 126:18 127:21 128:7,10 136:17 226:5 229:19 238:6 246:22 256:19 279:12 298:5 301:16 355:22 363:4 373:6,13 375:17	381:11 <b>Georgia's</b> 97:13 101:22 103:6 <b>geothermal</b> 339:8 <b>getting</b> 14:21 73:7 158:14,15 167:18 175:2,14 203:13 371:18 386:14 391:6 <b>girls</b> 329:5 <b>give</b> 7:12,13 15:4 24:10 35:2 75:9 98:2 154:6,8,20 157:4 173:6 185:16 194:4 205:19 209:7 219:10 258:17 268:6 270:16 272:17 277:3 280:19 312:7,12 313:4,18 323:6 329:4 336:3 346:11 349:14 373:9 387:1 <b>given</b> 86:12 113:5 134:22 148:7 155:17 156:18 168:4 172:15 177:18 262:22 385:7 386:13 <b>gives</b> 11:2 38:7 <b>giving</b> 17:12 107:6 152:11 155:7,9 167:18 298:10 311:8 372:15 <b>glad</b> 50:1 87:1 123:1,5 <b>glass</b> 158:1 161:8 230:9 231:19 <b>classified</b> 354:15 <b>Glenn</b> 343:2,4 <b>global</b> 93:11 115:9 136:4 337:21 <b>globe</b> 99:12 <b>GNEP</b> 115:15 <b>go</b> 10:22 17:15 19:7 28:7 37:13 38:22	39:10 40:9 42:18 44:3,13 63:15 66:11 72:12,13,14 110:9 111:14 112:12 114:11,15 132:15 134:19 149:9 154:5,22 155:22 159:6 160:7,22 167:10 170:22 171:22 172:17 181:16 183:7 185:19 188:3,8 201:5 202:16,17 253:7 260:2 269:8 271:15 289:18 291:20 292:14 293:10 299:22 304:7 316:8 317:19 322:17 325:21 326:11,19 327:4 340:8 341:17 342:11,20 343:14 347:22 370:14 374:7 <b>goal</b> 13:8 65:22 129:20 133:21 193:1 243:8 <b>goals</b> 49:11 242:2 <b>God</b> 157:9 <b>godsend</b> 76:8 <b>goes</b> 5:17 48:11 158:16 166:16 168:8 <b>going</b> 6:2,6 8:10 13:4 16:18 27:14 33:6 34:4 40:20 40:22 44:18 45:7 45:8,16,17 46:20 50:14 57:14 59:4 60:22 63:12 64:8 64:14 66:10,18,22 67:16 68:10 69:3 69:8 70:21 71:8,9 72:10,12,13,18 75:9,21 76:22 97:22 111:12,13	111:14 112:16 113:1,4 116:5 119:10,20 120:20 121:2,17 122:16 152:17,22 162:6 162:12,14,18 164:18 165:12,12 168:20 171:1 172:8,16 173:18 175:8,9 177:12 181:9,15 186:9 188:3,6,7 193:15 194:4 195:18 203:7 214:2 218:22 246:10 266:13,14,15 267:6 272:7,9 275:21 280:17 296:11 314:11 316:8 317:3 322:17 325:11 326:1,2,14 327:4 327:6 334:9,17 339:12 340:8 341:3,17 342:9,16 343:10 346:18 347:8,22 366:15 366:19 390:22 <b>going-forward</b> 18:15 36:19 <b>good</b> 6:9 11:4 32:17 32:17,18 37:18 42:15 48:7 51:6 56:6,22 59:5,13 62:7,16 64:3,10 64:19 65:2 68:9 69:5 91:18 97:7 101:14 108:10,18 109:3 110:13 135:12 141:13 147:17 149:11 152:15 164:10 174:18 205:22 209:13 225:20 227:3 232:12 235:8 246:11 254:21 280:1,3
---	--	--	---	---

282:16 285:17	291:1	298:19,22 358:21	<b>groups</b> 8:10 32:8	241:22 289:20
292:17 306:6	<b>governor</b> 122:7	<b>gravity</b> 12:7	115:22 118:21	<b>Haley</b> 60:13 203:16
312:21 314:3	189:9 203:16,18	<b>great</b> 5:16 6:12	122:5 174:12	203:16
322:7 335:15	267:11	21:5 24:5 36:21	246:19 284:5,14	<b>half</b> 92:16 222:12
341:16 342:2,13	<b>Governor's</b> 2:10	47:2,12 53:11	343:12 353:6	224:1 232:2 241:2
342:16 345:21	4:17 188:12,18	54:17 105:12	367:19	250:18 324:19
346:10 351:19	203:10	137:18 149:22	<b>grow</b> 59:2,19 103:7	<b>hall</b> 18:1 291:18
363:16 365:16	<b>Governor-elect</b>	177:18 221:14	157:1 238:16	294:1
368:8 375:4 376:4	60:12 203:16	227:21 261:17	262:4 331:18	<b>Hallman</b> 3:2 310:7
377:12 378:1	<b>go-to</b> 232:5	266:3 284:7	372:7	312:18,21 313:2
<b>goodness</b> 113:20	<b>grade</b> 62:11,14	293:13 298:8	<b>growing</b> 27:6,7	<b>halt</b> 98:7,13 231:6
<b>goods</b> 53:17 264:8	76:7 288:17	304:4 318:20	100:12 146:17	240:1
<b>Gordon</b> 238:8	<b>graduated</b> 51:22	320:3 330:8,8,8	260:18 391:17	<b>halted</b> 94:8
<b>gospel</b> 173:13,17	210:11 213:15	334:15,21 341:18	<b>grown</b> 257:9	<b>Hamilton</b> 77:12
<b>gotten</b> 118:3	257:17	381:11	<b>grownups</b> 329:13	259:10
121:10 365:16	<b>graduates</b> 210:14	<b>greater</b> 203:14	<b>growth</b> 52:19 53:13	<b>Hampton</b> 247:9
<b>government</b> 7:22	214:18 258:3,17	204:13 216:10	54:9 55:1 236:17	<b>hand</b> 65:9 141:7
12:21 18:17 19:11	260:21	225:21 235:21	239:7 261:3 279:2	158:4 192:6
20:6 36:18 38:16	<b>graduating</b> 49:16	364:21	283:19 296:10	<b>handed</b> 42:20,21
54:11 63:11,22	<b>graduation</b> 211:11	<b>greatly</b> 10:17 286:7	<b>guarantee</b> 95:10	101:2
66:20 67:5 68:3	<b>Graham</b> 1:22 2:19	295:13	<b>guarantees</b> 36:9,11	<b>handle</b> 177:12
68:10 69:1 72:7	4:8 56:3,4,6,9	<b>green</b> 110:7 149:17	36:14,17 37:2,7	262:1 268:2
72:11 73:1 74:8	73:16 74:2,11,16	276:1	65:4	<b>handled</b> 265:21
100:14 106:3	74:22 194:3,7	<b>greenpalmetto@...</b>	<b>guard</b> 89:16 374:13	<b>handlers</b> 210:15
159:1 168:11	205:5 271:10	343:21	<b>guarded</b> 141:1	214:8
172:4,12 179:16	276:16 279:7,10	<b>greens</b> 125:2	<b>guess</b> 270:6 274:3	<b>handling</b> 189:10
194:6,10 199:13	279:10 282:3	<b>Greenville</b> 363:19	313:13 330:21	190:8 232:7
201:18 202:20	308:6	<b>greenwashing</b>	<b>guidance</b> 24:11	240:21 296:4
203:2,12 228:22	<b>grand</b> 121:17	329:15	<b>guide</b> 106:8 305:3	323:19
234:2 239:14	<b>grandchild</b> 381:14	<b>greetings</b> 51:7	<b>guided</b> 19:21 40:14	<b>hands</b> 64:7 89:18
247:16 249:9	<b>grandchildren</b>	303:11	360:8	113:22 145:12
262:10 270:17	282:16 330:7,8,9	<b>grew</b> 49:3 277:8	<b>guiding</b> 252:17	308:7 332:9
271:15 280:1,6	384:6	<b>grid</b> 57:21 138:13	<b>Guild</b> 3:11 351:14	<b>Hanford</b> 113:2
283:4 284:6,17	<b>grandmother</b>	139:18 145:3	351:19,21 355:1	368:20
288:20 292:19	328:7	178:7	<b>Gulf</b> 11:20 274:16	<b>Hanrahan</b> 3:10
295:6 324:18	<b>grandparent</b>	<b>grossly</b> 308:7	<b>guns</b> 329:3	349:19,20 350:8
326:18,22 329:21	381:20	<b>ground</b> 124:4	<b>guy</b> 34:3 299:21	351:2
336:1 356:2,10	<b>grant</b> 207:6 257:8	143:10 147:19,21	<b>guys</b> 158:20 174:13	<b>happen</b> 38:15
370:17	<b>granted</b> 12:16	151:3 238:13	246:8 325:13	70:22 72:5 116:15
<b>governmental</b>	171:15,16	299:6 345:5	331:4 355:19	119:11 121:2
216:16	<b>grapple</b> 176:16	<b>group</b> 81:15 82:13	365:3,10,13 373:9	122:14 151:19
<b>governments</b>	<b>grassroots</b> 129:15	171:10,11 206:5	392:16	201:10 215:13
260:14	175:15	209:18 212:22	<hr/>	274:16 313:14
<b>government's</b>	<b>grateful</b> 24:22	213:8 229:5,20	<b>H</b>	318:19 335:18
194:18 231:5	358:14 393:15	230:21 261:5	<b>H</b> 10:19 66:21	339:18
238:22 240:1	<b>gratitude</b> 102:2	285:12 325:17	114:8 159:16	<b>happened</b> 40:6
252:6 278:15	<b>grave</b> 178:21	388:6	164:15 165:9	331:11 371:21,21

382:6	<b>headed</b> 27:19 155:8	349:22 376:12	<b>Hernandez</b> 3:13	311:16 312:13
<b>happening</b> 112:5	155:10	382:15 383:10	358:1 360:17	352:6,14 382:8
116:17 169:19,20	<b>headquarters</b>	<b>hearing</b> 7:18 8:9	363:14,16,17	<b>HILL</b> 2:23
325:2	217:1 279:14	9:1 114:12 162:21	<b>hesitate</b> 50:21	<b>Hill-Eckinson</b>
<b>happens</b> 121:13	<b>health</b> 123:18	168:10 170:20	<b>hi</b> 298:4 333:8	298:4,5,21
161:3 195:17	125:14,16,16	171:4 274:18	355:6	<b>Himber</b> 2:24 298:3
281:17	126:9,16,22	293:12 356:5	<b>hidden</b> 301:18	300:18,21,22
<b>happy</b> 24:12 33:16	127:18 128:21	<b>heart</b> 169:11 328:8	<b>high</b> 52:1,12 98:17	303:4
33:20 55:15	129:17 130:2	328:13 330:6	111:1,2,2 121:7	<b>hind</b> 336:11
225:14,18 313:4	131:2,16 132:3	<b>hearts</b> 328:12	133:8 154:15	<b>hindrance</b> 36:1
376:10	150:19 153:3,4,9	332:3	236:17 237:4	<b>Hippel</b> 122:3
<b>harassed</b> 111:5	169:8 193:12	<b>heat</b> 28:12 212:19	288:16 309:16	<b>hire</b> 210:1
<b>hard</b> 42:11,13 61:2	227:11 263:22	<b>heavily</b> 207:9	358:18	<b>hired</b> 214:6
66:14 328:22	277:16 283:8	<b>heck</b> 62:22	<b>higher</b> 237:10	<b>historical</b> 13:10
<b>hardened</b> 241:20	292:21 293:5	<b>heed</b> 149:18	255:16 262:10	<b>history</b> 96:2 126:10
338:22 353:22	303:15 309:8,11	<b>heel</b> 63:3 66:20	280:18,18	167:10 169:4
<b>harder</b> 315:21	315:13 316:5,11	67:7	<b>highest</b> 210:21	241:12 247:10
<b>Hardhats</b> 83:6	350:14 382:3	<b>held</b> 15:15	227:13 248:14	365:15 386:16
<b>hardworking</b>	<b>healthcare</b> 236:19	<b>Helen</b> 314:9	304:8 324:2 385:7	<b>hit</b> 98:1
328:18	381:19	<b>hell</b> 69:10 327:9	<b>highlights</b> 98:2	<b>Hog</b> 336:3
<b>harm</b> 193:15	<b>healthy</b> 332:8	<b>hello</b> 5:8 308:16	<b>highly</b> 46:12 47:7	<b>hold</b> 274:13 360:4
329:12	358:8	344:7 360:19	50:9 78:1 81:11	390:6
<b>harmed</b> 181:3	<b>health-related</b>	378:21 389:10	81:11 162:8	<b>holder</b> 12:16
<b>harness</b> 180:16	125:9	390:5	195:14 253:6	<b>holding</b> 11:19 69:9
<b>Hartsville</b> 92:15	<b>hear</b> 6:2 7:9,22 8:8	<b>Helmets</b> 83:6	336:8	102:6 141:7 175:6
<b>Harvard</b> 150:19	9:11 10:3 48:4	<b>help</b> 52:14 54:10	<b>highly-trained</b>	227:5 304:11
185:15	50:5 51:3 97:20	74:20 82:18,20,22	245:3	<b>holds</b> 304:13
<b>harvest</b> 44:14	102:12 131:4	96:12 146:21	<b>highways</b> 319:5	<b>hole</b> 60:21 61:1
125:2	173:16 217:14	156:20,21 166:10	338:9	<b>Holly</b> 3:22 385:17
<b>harvesting</b> 139:5	225:18 270:9	181:20 185:12	<b>high-cumulative</b>	389:8 390:21
<b>hat</b> 5:17	302:2 334:5 356:5	214:21 234:16	130:17	391:4
<b>Hatch</b> 11:10 26:21	362:13 366:13,17	271:3 279:12	<b>high-enriched</b>	<b>home</b> 52:3 95:1
29:9,11 30:19	373:4 375:10	294:22 300:1,7	142:21	231:20 234:5
32:20,21 103:3	<b>heard</b> 34:21 36:8	314:2 347:14	<b>high-level</b> 7:16	235:13 236:8,18
<b>hate</b> 355:9	39:21 46:8 111:22	355:11 360:13	23:4 99:9 102:16	237:14,21 251:13
<b>hats</b> 327:18	118:2 122:6 130:8	375:10 376:22	103:20 104:3	251:14 282:13
<b>Hayes</b> 3:14 363:15	139:21 166:7	<b>helped</b> 5:18 62:20	111:18 112:14	331:21 379:2
366:9 368:6,8	167:20 190:21	365:14	113:22 118:2	<b>homeland</b> 238:4
371:2	241:19 253:15	<b>helpful</b> 163:10	133:3,10,12 142:7	<b>homes</b> 215:10
<b>hazard</b> 315:13	270:21 289:20	274:5 275:8	157:21 161:4,12	242:10 292:14
<b>hazardous</b> 319:3	294:18 299:10	<b>helping</b> 146:22	190:12,16 222:4	<b>homeschoolers</b>
321:22 345:13	302:2 307:11	180:4 228:22	222:10,19 224:2	327:20
<b>HAZWOPER</b>	313:7 334:16	242:3,14 243:7	225:9 239:14	<b>homework</b> 138:4
209:14	336:18 340:16	250:15 251:7	240:22 249:11	<b>honest</b> 323:22
<b>head</b> 202:13 330:4	341:12 342:7	309:22	250:5 278:12	<b>honor</b> 68:4 69:1
349:10	344:18 346:22	<b>helps</b> 170:13	289:2 304:9	75:8,21 77:14
<b>headaches</b> 213:11	347:11 348:16	<b>heritage</b> 232:22	307:21 308:20	91:19,20 124:16



124:20 125:11 211:11 278:14 <b>hope</b> 56:7 69:22 72:3,14 86:19 95:15 96:15 102:8 107:4 199:16 200:17 219:18 222:15 228:19 233:18 246:15 286:15 302:16 331:4 361:18 375:9 <b>Hopefully</b> 216:2 <b>hoping</b> 296:11 <b>horizon</b> 65:20 230:13 <b>horizons</b> 264:5 <b>horrible</b> 124:14 125:8 <b>hospital</b> 54:2 169:6 <b>hospitalization</b> 125:22 <b>hot</b> 253:13 <b>hotel</b> 56:22 <b>hour</b> 7:17 107:16 <b>hours</b> 209:14 330:2 363:22 366:1,1,2 <b>house</b> 105:11 189:17 325:10 338:10 375:1 <b>housed</b> 94:20 <b>household</b> 141:16 <b>Howard</b> 124:16 <b>Howarth</b> 3:4 317:10 319:20 322:5,7,8 324:9 <b>hub</b> 100:13 <b>huge</b> 40:12,12,12 308:22 361:6 <b>human</b> 127:18 128:21 326:11 331:5 332:4 <b>humanly</b> 302:15 313:16 <b>humor</b> 306:14 <b>hundred</b> 212:10,12 251:21	<b>hundreds</b> 140:1 142:19 144:18 227:2 236:6 250:9 333:19 <b>hurricane</b> 138:20 <b>hustling</b> 361:9 <b>hybrid</b> 58:20 <b>hydro</b> 13:13 45:5 <b>Hydroelectric</b> 138:14 <b>hypothetical</b> 17:20 <b>hypothetically</b> 36:3 <b>H-Canyon</b> 66:17 67:9 72:17 75:6 95:12,14 96:4 114:13,14 115:4 133:22 134:3,6 144:6 159:3,10 160:12,17,21 161:13,18 162:7 163:15,21 164:12 164:13 165:22 232:9,13 241:19 253:13 287:16 <b>H-Canyons</b> 123:4 <b>H-Canyon's</b> 161:3 161:7 242:5	<b>IEER</b> 149:1 <b>ignored</b> 106:12 <b>II</b> 192:14 338:6 <b>illustrate</b> 14:8 17:22 18:16 353:3 <b>illustrates</b> 323:7 <b>image</b> 249:20 <b>imagine</b> 53:11 169:2 179:18 289:6 <b>Imani</b> 206:5 209:18 212:22 <b>immediate</b> 207:10 239:19 250:3 346:2 <b>immediately</b> 98:7 344:22 349:3 <b>immense</b> 81:9 <b>immensely</b> 232:20 <b>imminent</b> 247:19 <b>impact</b> 18:10 32:15 51:17 112:19 127:13 153:6,22 154:2 176:6 239:5 244:21 249:21 305:10 315:3 <b>impacted</b> 124:10 131:1 152:13,14 153:4 172:2 175:16 179:9 202:15 207:8,16 216:5 <b>impacts</b> 126:16 <b>impediment</b> 69:20 240:3 249:17 <b>impediments</b> 59:21 <b>impeding</b> 190:7 <b>imperative</b> 99:7 142:14 <b>imperatives</b> 283:10 <b>imperiled</b> 140:7 <b>implement</b> 19:18 137:19,22 <b>implementation</b> 18:20 22:7 24:7 <b>implemented</b> 19:17 23:8	<b>implementing</b> 80:13 198:21 253:6 260:8 <b>implications</b> 38:3 193:6,7 <b>implore</b> 332:2 <b>importance</b> 7:6 36:14 43:21 77:19 108:15 148:8 244:17 362:22 <b>important</b> 12:3,9 13:15 36:17 37:8 37:12 43:22 68:6 69:14 73:5,21 83:13 95:7,16,22 96:13 98:19 103:18 138:14 145:12 165:17 173:22 184:4 199:9 201:3 203:20 204:2 215:12 226:6 229:21 237:18 263:3 269:5 285:19 295:2 309:10,21 333:12 333:14 336:9 380:8 389:2 393:3 <b>importantly</b> 384:15 <b>importing</b> 334:17 359:12 378:6 <b>impossible</b> 93:8 <b>impressed</b> 348:11 <b>impression</b> 361:4 <b>impressions</b> 361:3 <b>impressive</b> 228:4 232:10 250:15 <b>improve</b> 12:21 54:8 100:18 146:20 194:3 198:15 216:7 <b>improved</b> 21:14 146:21 197:17 198:6 378:12 <b>improvement</b> 311:12 <b>improvements</b>	54:16 <b>improving</b> 57:5 <b>inability</b> 128:1 309:18 <b>inaccessible</b> 23:9 <b>inaccurate</b> 193:10 <b>inadequacies</b> 195:16 <b>inadequate</b> 253:18 <b>inappropriate</b> 141:3 <b>incentives</b> 18:22 <b>incident</b> 277:20 <b>include</b> 7:3 22:3 80:1 89:5,12,15 99:19 100:8 238:21 242:20 246:19 283:22 284:1 <b>included</b> 80:5 85:3 <b>includes</b> 83:17 206:17 229:16 236:22 255:17 260:4 290:22 323:15 <b>including</b> 96:10 136:1 191:16 201:1 236:20 243:5 245:10 256:3 293:4 296:5 301:15 302:17 305:16 309:3,6 311:5 359:13 <b>inconsistency</b> 266:11,21 267:3 268:11 <b>incorporate</b> 136:18 296:15 <b>increase</b> 18:12 93:19 153:8 264:7 336:20 <b>increased</b> 93:10 100:16 126:7 140:7 215:4,15,16 <b>increases</b> 154:21 305:7 338:13 352:13
---	--	--	---	---

<b>increasing</b> 20:11 40:19 263:4	85:19 86:15 90:16 90:17 92:13 94:14	<b>infrastructure</b> 54:8 54:16 109:7 145:3	<b>intelligent</b> 378:7 <b>intend</b> 346:14	<b>introduced</b> 177:22 224:5
<b>increasingly</b> 20:10	179:11,16,22	240:19 253:11	<b>intended</b> 20:18 107:2	<b>introducing</b> 227:6
<b>incredibly</b> 141:3 273:5	180:2,10 186:1	300:3,5	<b>intense</b> 167:5	<b>invaluable</b> 92:10
<b>incur</b> 376:20	193:17 197:8	<b>ingrained</b> 277:15	<b>intent</b> 98:9	<b>inventories</b> 354:12
<b>Indefinite</b> 305:8	201:1 237:5	<b>inherently</b> 383:20	<b>intention</b> 150:21	<b>inventory</b> 184:5 191:6 222:10
<b>indefinitely</b> 390:9 392:8	249:21 263:20	<b>initially</b> 106:11	<b>intentions</b> 86:5	<b>invest</b> 154:13 380:10
<b>independence</b> 58:4 204:13 240:13	273:13 274:9,19 277:11 279:2,17	<b>initiated</b> 208:13	<b>interaction</b> 56:17	<b>invested</b> 165:18,19 321:22 323:5 361:21
<b>independent</b> 32:8 183:1,17 184:14	279:22 280:5	<b>initiative</b> 2:12 4:19 136:5 205:19	<b>interactions</b> 16:2	<b>investigate</b> 224:20
259:8 268:18	285:20 289:9	206:9,13,21 207:1	<b>interagency</b> 216:10	<b>investigations</b> 74:6
278:20 307:19	292:21 319:9	208:3 215:3,22 259:2	<b>interest</b> 8:11 15:19 109:9 115:21	<b>investment</b> 20:9 55:10 99:2 146:4 147:8 154:8 269:2 285:12 287:21
<b>indicate</b> 182:13 220:4	320:16 335:6	<b>initiatives</b> 216:4	133:17 167:5	<b>investments</b> 139:13
<b>indicated</b> 46:7	336:1 344:14	<b>injustice</b> 129:21 156:13	169:11 174:12	<b>investor</b> 40:8
<b>indicates</b> 307:15	350:1,6 356:3 365:14	<b>innovations</b> 82:11	188:4 201:22	<b>investors</b> 37:9,9
<b>indicating</b> 167:1	<b>industry's</b> 77:16 259:16 264:3	<b>innovative</b> 82:5,15 85:17 86:14 227:6	203:14 221:19,22	<b>invite</b> 365:1
<b>indifference</b> 128:21	<b>inefficiencies</b> 198:7	230:4 242:13	235:11 239:5	<b>invited</b> 8:16 235:14 246:17 311:2 374:14
<b>indigenous</b> 45:4	<b>inefficient</b> 315:11	<b>innovatively</b> 82:1	241:18 307:8	<b>invoked</b> 254:18
<b>indirect</b> 193:5,7	<b>infinitely</b> 239:11 379:19	<b>input</b> 8:12 117:4 166:12 167:18	324:21 360:10	<b>involve</b> 19:12
<b>indiscriminate</b> 140:5	<b>influence</b> 154:17 196:17 302:14 348:6	203:13 233:19	364:10 390:2,3	<b>involved</b> 7:14,19 25:11 63:7 118:22 132:19 189:18 195:22 196:3 200:22 211:10 216:12,14,18 255:22 257:1 285:12 294:20 361:20 387:12
<b>individual</b> 288:12	<b>influenced</b> 175:8	<b>insane</b> 333:20 350:19	<b>interested</b> 41:17 180:8,11 203:17 240:8 301:2 302:17 313:11 335:17 349:9	<b>involve</b> 19:12
<b>individuals</b> 8:5 92:10 218:2 245:6	<b>influencing</b> 28:5	<b>inside</b> 30:4 104:21 221:15 372:6	<b>interesting</b> 74:4 169:3 223:17 274:17 306:8	<b>involved</b> 7:14,19 25:11 63:7 118:22 132:19 189:18 195:22 196:3 200:22 211:10 216:12,14,18 255:22 257:1 285:12 294:20 361:20 387:12
<b>individual's</b> 141:21	<b>influential</b> 28:14	<b>insight</b> 43:21 334:6	<b>interests</b> 108:22 120:9 223:9 271:19 388:2	<b>involved</b> 7:14,19 25:11 63:7 118:22 132:19 189:18 195:22 196:3 200:22 211:10 216:12,14,18 255:22 257:1 285:12 294:20 361:20 387:12
<b>industrial</b> 14:14 228:7 241:14	<b>inform</b> 105:21 106:8 130:21 143:22	<b>inspections</b> 39:9	<b>Interestingly</b> 31:11	<b>involved</b> 7:14,19 25:11 63:7 118:22 132:19 189:18 195:22 196:3 200:22 211:10 216:12,14,18 255:22 257:1 285:12 294:20 361:20 387:12
252:4 285:15	<b>information</b> 5:20 50:3,11 86:19 126:21 129:6	<b>inspectors</b> 214:3	<b>interests</b> 108:22 120:9 223:9 271:19 388:2	<b>involved</b> 7:14,19 25:11 63:7 118:22 132:19 189:18 195:22 196:3 200:22 211:10 216:12,14,18 255:22 257:1 285:12 294:20 361:20 387:12
286:1,3 297:20 344:10	130:13 131:11,19 166:11 175:15	<b>inspires</b> 381:13	<b>interim</b> 43:16 44:6 122:12 181:12 198:8,10,16 201:12 278:18 309:3 352:6 354:3 357:10,10 359:13	<b>involved</b> 7:14,19 25:11 63:7 118:22 132:19 189:18 195:22 196:3 200:22 211:10 216:12,14,18 255:22 257:1 285:12 294:20 361:20 387:12
<b>industries</b> 81:8 90:16,17 108:16	181:21,22 216:20 217:4 221:15	<b>installation</b> 84:16 237:1	<b>internally</b> 183:9	<b>involved</b> 7:14,19 25:11 63:7 118:22 132:19 189:18 195:22 196:3 200:22 211:10 216:12,14,18 255:22 257:1 285:12 294:20 361:20 387:12
194:1 218:10	293:14 298:11	<b>instance</b> 207:17	<b>international</b> 177:21	<b>involved</b> 7:14,19 25:11 63:7 118:22 132:19 189:18 195:22 196:3 200:22 211:10 216:12,14,18 255:22 257:1 285:12 294:20 361:20 387:12
248:4 274:21	311:10 342:11,12 343:8,13 348:7 373:9 386:22	<b>Institute</b> 41:19 81:18 148:22	<b>internet</b> 170:16	<b>involved</b> 7:14,19 25:11 63:7 118:22 132:19 189:18 195:22 196:3 200:22 211:10 216:12,14,18 255:22 257:1 285:12 294:20 361:20 387:12
293:4	<b>informative</b> 102:9 200:14	<b>institution</b> 256:15	<b>Interstate</b> 325:4	<b>involved</b> 7:14,19 25:11 63:7 118:22 132:19 189:18 195:22 196:3 200:22 211:10 216:12,14,18 255:22 257:1 285:12 294:20 361:20 387:12
<b>industry</b> 12:21 18:17 19:3,11	<b>informed</b> 6:14 127:3 132:1 229:14 374:18	<b>institutions</b> 255:16 256:21 260:11 273:21 274:5	<b>intimately</b> 25:11	<b>involved</b> 7:14,19 25:11 63:7 118:22 132:19 189:18 195:22 196:3 200:22 211:10 216:12,14,18 255:22 257:1 285:12 294:20 361:20 387:12
24:6,6,22 25:11		<b>instruct</b> 257:12		<b>involved</b> 7:14,19 25:11 63:7 118:22 132:19 189:18 195:22 196:3 200:22 211:10 216:12,14,18 255:22 257:1 285:12 294:20 361:20 387:12
38:16 46:17 49:1		<b>instructed</b> 112:2		<b>involved</b> 7:14,19 25:11 63:7 118:22 132:19 189:18 195:22 196:3 200:22 211:10 216:12,14,18 255:22 257:1 285:12 294:20 361:20 387:12
49:8,15,19 52:15		<b>integrate</b> 111:4		<b>involved</b> 7:14,19 25:11 63:7 118:22 132:19 189:18 195:22 196:3 200:22 211:10 216:12,14,18 255:22 257:1 285:12 294:20 361:20 387:12
54:18 59:11,15		<b>intellectually-ho...</b> 360:5		<b>involved</b> 7:14,19 25:11 63:7 118:22 132:19 189:18 195:22 196:3 200:22 211:10 216:12,14,18 255:22 257:1 285:12 294:20 361:20 387:12
76:2 78:4 81:4,10		<b>intelligence</b> 237:3		<b>involved</b> 7:14,19 25:11 63:7 118:22 132:19 189:18 195:22 196:3 200:22 211:10 216:12,14,18 255:22 257:1 285:12 294:20 361:20 387:12
82:13 83:17 85:8				<b>involved</b> 7:14,19 25:11 63:7 118:22 132:19 189:18 195:22 196:3 200:22 211:10 216:12,14,18 255:22 257:1 285:12 294:20 361:20 387:12

244:22	<b>item</b> 369:14 370:1	<b>jobs</b> 32:13 53:16	<b>K</b> 160:3	<b>know</b> 7:12 30:6
<b>irresponsible</b>	<b>items</b> 28:12	70:6 80:1 94:16	<b>Karen</b> 2:10 188:12	36:10 40:13 41:17
379:15	<b>IV</b> 214:13,21	108:18 119:6,9	189:3 217:2	42:1,19,20,21
<b>Isakson</b> 2:1 4:12		126:6 156:22	<b>Karpen</b> 3:3 312:20	44:19 46:10 50:14
97:5,11,13 100:22	<b>J</b>	162:1 227:8	314:10 317:9,11	51:10 58:6 60:6
<b>island</b> 16:18 17:10	<b>Jackson</b> 211:20	237:11 249:22	317:12	62:2 67:8,12
<b>isolated</b> 30:18 31:2	<b>James</b> 1:18 3:5 4:3	251:22 259:18,22	<b>keep</b> 6:6 8:17 60:12	73:22 92:2 98:20
80:15 314:15	10:13,19 319:21	260:17 263:19	60:14 63:20 75:3	105:12 110:10
<b>isolation</b> 161:6	322:5 324:12,14	264:7 267:15	95:16 106:17	115:15 116:8
224:15	<b>Jameson</b> 2:14	277:6 285:17,17	120:10 161:22	123:22 124:1
<b>issuance</b> 16:13	220:20 225:19,20	285:21 309:10	178:6 186:7 205:9	131:10,13 140:19
<b>issue</b> 34:19 35:1,20	225:21 235:5	350:13	270:22 293:12	148:14 150:13
35:20,22 36:2,6	270:6 271:8	<b>job-readiness</b>	325:13 330:3	156:15 161:19
38:4 39:5 48:10	<b>January</b> 1:6 16:12	207:1	338:19 342:3	170:3,21 171:4
73:21 93:21	208:19	<b>Joe</b> 3:10 341:9	382:17	173:6,13 183:14
102:13 105:6,10	<b>Japan</b> 44:8 45:2	344:5 346:8,13	<b>keeping</b> 7:7 55:12	183:18 191:14
119:10 141:22	46:1 120:14	<b>John</b> 2:5,21 4:15	393:13	199:4 203:15
161:21 162:2	334:18	101:7 108:6 285:7	<b>keeps</b> 33:6 74:9	217:15 219:2,14
176:3,8 177:10	<b>Japanese</b> 65:8	288:10 290:10	<b>Keith</b> 2:19 276:16	219:15,16 239:8
195:18 217:18	75:14 179:17	<b>Johnny</b> 2:1 4:12	279:7,10	246:7 262:2,3,3,8
233:15 259:17	<b>Jenkins</b> 2:12 3:9	97:13	<b>Keowee-Toxaway</b>	263:3,11 267:19
267:9 301:6	205:20,21,22	<b>join</b> 101:15 311:3	391:18	270:8 271:2 272:6
307:21 309:21	206:4 217:10,15	<b>joint</b> 97:4 349:4	<b>Kerry</b> 2:22 290:12	273:16 280:4,15
317:15,18 336:14	218:6,13,18 219:5	<b>joke</b> 334:3 340:8	291:18 292:3	280:21 281:13
376:14 378:11	219:18 220:8,10	<b>Joseph</b> 11:14	<b>key</b> 95:14 102:20	292:17 293:12
387:16 388:12,14	220:12 337:19	<b>journeymen</b> 84:14	227:19 234:19,21	325:13,15 326:6
388:14	340:5 341:8,10	<b>judgements</b> 385:1	243:6,8 253:6	326:13 327:3,4,6
<b>issued</b> 16:14 20:16	343:7	<b>judgment</b> 19:19	254:10 287:17	332:11 336:15,21
<b>issues</b> 8:7 16:3	<b>jeopardy</b> 69:6	<b>Judy</b> 3:14 360:17	383:15,19 387:6	343:16 348:5
19:12 28:17,17	377:8	363:14 366:8	<b>keys</b> 175:22	355:10,18,19
36:8 41:6 80:15	<b>Jersey</b> 376:8	<b>July</b> 209:4	<b>kids</b> 392:16	356:9 361:19
93:4,7 96:22	<b>jewels</b> 230:3	<b>jump</b> 70:18 71:6	<b>killed</b> 141:1 299:10	362:20 365:7
106:9 125:10,15	<b>Jim</b> 1:24 4:11	<b>jumped</b> 226:12	<b>kilowatts</b> 149:5	375:2,16 379:5,8
125:17 130:18	10:19 26:7 91:15	<b>jumping</b> 11:4	<b>kind</b> 25:9 31:20	380:1,13 382:2,7
131:2 141:5 159:5	167:11 214:10	<b>June</b> 115:16 116:11	89:17 159:8	387:4,14 388:7,16
166:7 169:8	<b>job</b> 2:12 4:18 47:4	209:3	163:16,19 166:12	389:17,19 390:13
172:22 178:20	53:15 70:21 105:6	<b>junk</b> 155:8	166:19 170:11,12	390:22 392:7,13
181:7 182:2	205:19 206:9,12	<b>jurisdiction</b> 325:15	174:9 183:22	392:15,20 393:5
200:20 203:17	206:20,22 208:2	<b>justice</b> 156:13	242:12 243:13	<b>knowing</b> 126:2
215:19 230:16	208:16 209:8,10	177:7 218:20	274:1,2 325:5,15	171:1
231:2 232:21	213:18 215:2,14	365:5	328:16 336:10	<b>knowledge</b> 21:9
233:10 242:15	215:22 216:4	<b>justifiably</b> 137:17	<b>kinds</b> 183:16 184:2	23:19 96:5 106:16
253:8 268:22	218:9 226:6	<b>justification</b> 163:3	<b>king</b> 118:8	109:6 202:14
273:5,11 274:9	248:22 261:1	<b>justify</b> 105:18	<b>Kingdom</b> 321:13	232:3 251:11
292:21,21 333:15	262:21,21 285:12	320:7	<b>knew</b> 167:11 277:9	384:14
378:13 387:17	386:18 389:1		340:8	<b>known</b> 113:8 125:4
<b>ITAAC</b> 40:11	<b>joblessness</b> 207:16	<b>K</b>	<b>knock-down</b> 68:12	152:8 251:16

318:8 323:11	256:11 296:4	209:1	132:18,21 154:19	<b>lies</b> 247:14
<b>knows</b> 42:12 64:14	321:7 362:10	<b>leading</b> 177:20	269:6,8	<b>life</b> 83:8 93:10
140:21	386:20	193:11 238:17	<b>legislative</b> 129:7	112:8 124:19
<b>know-how</b> 339:7	<b>larger</b> 262:5	<b>leads</b> 49:13 145:14	238:20 306:15	142:2 146:22
<b>Korea</b> 36:4 66:8	315:20	<b>leafy</b> 125:2	358:4	170:22 211:2
<b>L</b>	<b>largest</b> 17:1 193:16	<b>League</b> 2:10 110:1	<b>legislature</b> 115:19	277:2 282:16
<b>lab</b> 96:12 228:18	228:5 236:19	173:14 174:16	116:4	283:20 309:7
243:6	257:10 373:13	297:3 306:7,9	<b>legitimate</b> 165:5	376:9 391:11
<b>labor</b> 1:23 4:9 77:9	383:6	359:4,8	<b>legitimately</b> 182:18	<b>lifestyle</b> 331:14
82:4,6,7 83:11,18	<b>lastly</b> 284:4,21	<b>Leah</b> 3:3 312:20	<b>Leslie</b> 3:12 351:17	<b>lifetime</b> 141:21
84:21 85:9 86:3,9	332:17 354:5	314:10 316:17	355:4,6	<b>lifetime's</b> 197:12
86:14,16 215:15	<b>lasts</b> 333:19	317:9,11	<b>lesson</b> 19:9	<b>life-long</b> 51:9
228:14 277:19	<b>late</b> 136:6 372:13	<b>leak</b> 150:9 304:11	<b>lessons</b> 198:2 199:1	<b>light</b> 9:14 78:17
378:7	<b>latest</b> 17:12	<b>leakage</b> 318:15	<b>letter</b> 97:12 98:12	110:7 155:20
<b>laboratories</b> 233:3	<b>Laughter</b> 270:5,10	345:3	<b>letters</b> 52:18	223:10 276:2
<b>Laboratory</b> 135:20	300:16 343:6	<b>leaking</b> 309:19	<b>letting</b> 331:8	287:8 356:19
228:17 232:19	375:8 380:19	<b>leaks</b> 184:19	<b>let's</b> 10:11 132:15	<b>Lightfoot</b> 3:2 310:8
238:5 253:4	<b>laundry</b> 327:3	<b>learn</b> 43:3 273:7	141:5 142:11	312:20 314:8,11
254:17	<b>Laura</b> 3:5 322:6	277:12	165:16 317:19	316:18
<b>labor-relations</b>	324:12 327:14	<b>learned</b> 13:20 19:9	329:14 341:2	<b>lighting</b> 110:7
82:15,16	328:4 331:15	150:5 198:2 199:1	342:5 361:11	<b>lights</b> 276:2
<b>lab's</b> 233:7	<b>law</b> 20:7 98:13	342:4 372:7	<b>level</b> 83:15 88:11	<b>liked</b> 32:16
<b>lack</b> 195:11 261:20	122:8 133:7	<b>learning</b> 43:7	96:5 98:18 100:15	<b>Likewise</b> 142:6
306:11	191:13 197:8	185:22 364:18	116:11 133:9	232:18
<b>ladies</b> 71:7 206:1	239:13 287:2	<b>leasing</b> 116:21	208:7 262:10	<b>limbo</b> 124:12
210:19	347:22 352:2	<b>leave</b> 17:13 106:3	273:14 288:17	<b>limit</b> 276:13
<b>lake</b> 339:2	355:19 368:16	179:7 199:19	297:17 318:10	<b>limitations</b> 269:12
<b>Lam</b> 3:17 372:21	369:1,8,8,13,15	233:17 265:20	358:19 360:3	<b>limited</b> 12:16 45:6
376:2 378:19,21	370:8,11	283:9 286:5	<b>levels</b> 88:10 248:15	132:18 269:14
<b>Lamar</b> 349:8,12	<b>Lawless</b> 3:1 306:5	317:22 330:11	250:12	<b>Lindsay</b> 308:6
<b>land</b> 53:2 116:21	308:15 310:6,9	377:21 379:11	<b>leverage</b> 245:16	<b>Lindsey</b> 1:22 4:8
124:4 125:7	<b>laws</b> 368:17 369:9	384:9	<b>leveraged</b> 254:21	56:3 124:16
149:14 154:6,7	<b>Le</b> 3:17 372:21	<b>Leaving</b> 359:19	<b>Lew</b> 3:4 314:10	<b>line</b> 68:21 121:4
155:15 247:15	376:2 378:19,21	<b>led</b> 27:16 140:8	317:10 319:19,22	159:14 184:19
252:3 287:3	378:21 380:20	178:3 311:11	<b>liabilities</b> 303:18	205:2 361:6 380:6
344:16 347:22	<b>lead</b> 13:5 66:20	<b>left</b> 42:21 63:4 69:9	303:19	<b>lined</b> 361:7
373:19 374:1	72:18 79:1 96:12	110:9,10 142:5	<b>liability</b> 106:4	<b>lines</b> 61:13
<b>landscape</b> 238:20	179:12 230:14	151:13 174:21	<b>license</b> 12:11 23:13	<b>linked</b> 311:22
<b>language</b> 83:18,22	233:5	226:11 370:13,16	38:19 39:1,8 79:8	377:17
<b>languishing</b> 213:17	<b>leader</b> 15:12 25:10	<b>leg</b> 40:18	<b>licensed</b> 11:5 29:21	<b>linking</b> 54:12
<b>large</b> 9:14 31:8	25:16 100:2	<b>legacy</b> 73:9 179:7	158:9	<b>links</b> 17:17 175:13
52:18 87:16 126:8	<b>leaders</b> 100:14	303:20 304:5,15	<b>licensing</b> 16:3	<b>liquid</b> 158:16
127:6 130:4 131:8	143:5 271:15	332:6 353:10	18:21 21:6,16	190:16 191:10
134:1 161:21	302:1 327:1 360:3	358:13 384:20	23:1,12 38:18	230:8 304:12
174:6 190:2 193:8	<b>leadership</b> 24:5	<b>legal</b> 20:10,12	133:14 223:20	<b>Lisa</b> 211:20
213:9 236:4	31:19 55:1 145:18	<b>legislation</b> 22:15	228:14 295:7	<b>list</b> 183:6,8 322:16
	146:8 204:15	63:19 115:22	<b>lie</b> 249:5	<b>listen</b> 48:17 169:10

235:12 361:18 373:4 374:14 <b>listened</b> 20:21 381:17 <b>listening</b> 225:13 282:13 284:22 343:15 381:12 <b>lists</b> 185:13 <b>literally</b> 49:4 <b>literature</b> 17:14 <b>litigation</b> 353:6 354:9 <b>little</b> 20:8 29:17 31:19 38:6 41:12 45:4 48:9 49:6 56:15,17 57:1 61:7 119:12 154:4 205:1 218:4 246:9 277:9 281:20 289:8,9 295:20 321:5 326:5 327:18 329:4,5,10 330:22 331:3 332:12 334:6 336:16 340:13 344:9 349:2 381:14 <b>live</b> 42:3 58:6 110:19,22 124:5 124:18 147:20 151:4,5,21 167:6 172:21 180:20 205:10 226:17 295:20 325:3 335:18 352:21 363:18 376:5 384:8 <b>lived</b> 321:16 378:22 391:10 <b>livelihood</b> 52:4 <b>lives</b> 42:3 47:4 129:11 153:6 157:3 328:17 375:13 386:13 <b>living</b> 123:20 124:21 126:12,14 127:5 169:14,18	171:11,18 175:3 226:9 317:5 <b>load</b> 32:22 40:19 104:20 283:17 <b>loan</b> 36:9,10,14,16 37:2,7 65:4 <b>local</b> 51:14,21 52:16 53:21 54:15 55:12 78:16 82:20 83:1 87:9,12,16 87:19 93:15 100:15 108:21 166:11 173:9,13 182:7 183:20 186:14 193:20 204:16 208:7 209:17 210:20 211:16 212:21 215:16 216:12 236:8 251:11 256:9 257:6,18 258:21 260:13,20 260:21 261:6 270:18 273:20,20 283:1 286:1,11 324:18 326:22 367:8 384:2 <b>locale</b> 153:17 <b>locally</b> 256:13,14 259:21 260:2,3 <b>locate</b> 33:16 <b>located</b> 30:1,2,3 53:1 54:20 140:22 206:7 235:16 363:22 369:18 <b>location</b> 94:22 267:5 295:22 296:13 383:21 <b>locations</b> 9:6 301:15 <b>logic</b> 376:18 <b>logical</b> 71:22 142:17 302:11 <b>logs</b> 158:12 231:19 <b>long</b> 21:9 22:21 24:8 38:20 50:1 61:2 66:14 68:1	96:2 98:6 103:6 116:13 152:18 218:15 230:13 240:5 241:12 253:8 262:12 268:11 287:5 314:16,17 326:9 343:17 355:15 384:18 393:6 <b>longer</b> 122:18 280:9 304:19 305:6 379:22 <b>longtime</b> 313:12 <b>long-standing</b> 353:9 <b>long-term</b> 23:2 43:16 96:18 106:20 181:13 252:15 263:1 304:2,17 305:8 357:11 359:15 360:6 380:15 389:22 <b>look</b> 8:9 9:1 24:4 40:2 57:9,16 61:2 66:14 67:12 68:5 68:16 69:2 75:16 96:11,16 112:2 116:20 117:17 141:5 148:5,17 149:3,14,20 151:7 153:3,5,21 154:3 154:3,12 155:17 155:18 156:1 165:8 177:8 185:13 204:9 235:2 255:1 269:3 289:18 300:8 306:14 327:21 360:10 377:15 381:22 382:10 387:11 388:11,13 <b>looked</b> 114:8 148:9 153:9 161:9 269:16 361:8 <b>looking</b> 6:13 112:8 115:2 117:3	148:10 152:20 153:14 156:8 159:9 160:20 161:5 162:3 163:2 170:9 181:2 185:7 201:10 267:8 268:17 274:19,22 285:16 306:19 313:17 323:20 364:22 373:16 386:15 <b>looks</b> 114:21 194:8 197:3 342:10 <b>looming</b> 79:18 <b>loop</b> 299:3 <b>loosely</b> 11:8 <b>lose</b> 311:19 <b>losing</b> 81:6 <b>loss</b> 80:4 129:11 <b>lost</b> 253:17 311:7 <b>lot</b> 5:20 32:12 49:1 61:17 73:1 75:5 146:20 148:15 149:22 151:10 154:11 159:3,5,14 162:18 169:4 171:14 180:18 185:11,12 188:5 203:6 221:15 281:16 289:19 290:15 292:11,20 298:10 307:11 308:3 321:3 325:18 326:7,16 330:21 342:15 343:18 346:22 347:12 348:18 361:9,10 374:1 376:12 377:22 381:18 <b>lots</b> 6:2 272:5 329:2 <b>Lou</b> 297:1 <b>loud</b> 56:21 270:21 <b>Louis</b> 2:23 294:2 296:18 <b>Louisiana</b> 292:22 <b>love</b> 68:15 217:8	332:3 334:2 343:21 345:19 365:9,9 366:1 <b>low</b> 14:3 116:10 242:7 288:17 <b>lower</b> 158:17 <b>lowers</b> 168:21 <b>lowest-cost</b> 13:20 <b>low-cost</b> 15:8 <b>low-income</b> 129:7 <b>low-level</b> 116:8 191:2 <b>Luckily</b> 114:10 <b>lucky</b> 32:4 36:20,20 226:16,17 <b>lunch</b> 187:1 194:21 <b>LWVSC</b> 306:4 <b>Lynthia</b> 2:4 108:8 109:14 <hr/> <b>M</b> <b>M</b> 11:14 150:18 <b>MacFARLANE</b> 1:14 157:15 158:18 163:9 <b>Madison</b> 335:19,22 336:5 <b>magic</b> 283:13 284:4 <b>magnitude</b> 305:12 <b>main</b> 111:17 118:11 140:18 305:14 <b>maintain</b> 85:15 307:8 <b>maintained</b> 23:21 84:20 <b>maintaining</b> 95:14 106:16 275:4 <b>maintenance</b> 46:14 79:19 85:14 214:6 253:18 <b>major</b> 17:21 40:7 56:13 129:1 228:7 237:16 251:7 255:19 315:11 324:16 361:4 362:2,13
--	--	---	--	--

<b>majority</b> 51:13 87:12 153:10 221:17 224:22 325:9	138:12 273:11 289:3,11,12 370:4	95:8,11 98:22 100:3 136:4 145:11,15 164:20 189:12 191:7 192:16 194:12 195:15 199:2,6 252:18 262:1,15 266:14,16 267:17 294:20 309:19 349:5 369:18,21 370:4,18 383:17	370:2 372:4 <b>meant</b> 94:22 <b>measure</b> 240:3 354:3 <b>mechanically</b> 17:3 <b>mechanics</b> 214:6 <b>mechanisms</b> 133:1 305:3 <b>medical</b> 125:21 236:21 237:3 238:6 255:20 258:5 <b>medium</b> 111:19,19 236:3 <b>meet</b> 12:6 39:10 80:9,12 81:19 82:7 84:3 144:16 169:3,5 197:5 211:9 225:2 227:15 233:1 234:17 243:7 245:9 249:6 250:16 262:6 264:2 332:14 <b>meeting</b> 1:4 5:13 6:10 9:3,5,14 18:2 41:12 102:7 108:14 109:11 128:17 168:10 173:12 187:2 199:18 226:19 251:5 302:18 349:3,5 371:21 384:10 387:16 392:3 393:16,19 <b>meetings</b> 9:4,8,16 34:9 51:12 102:9 175:7 268:18 343:15 355:8 <b>meets</b> 140:13 191:19 <b>megawatt</b> 27:18 <b>megawatts</b> 11:17 26:17,20 27:2 79:5 103:4 144:20 <b>Mel</b> 2:22 3:9 294:2 294:4,8 337:19	340:5 341:8 <b>Melissa</b> 216:21 <b>member</b> 9:11 24:19 26:6 27:3,12 28:9 28:15 29:5,13,22 30:6,9 31:7,18 33:9,18,22 34:6 36:7 37:18,20 41:2 43:10 44:17 46:5 87:7,14,20 88:14 89:2,3,9,21 91:7 105:11 124:13,13 157:15 158:18 163:9 166:6 170:1,5,14 181:4 189:3,16,20 190:1 200:12 202:10,19 204:1 217:13 218:12,17 219:4,13 220:7 265:11 268:14 270:11,13 288:12 292:5 322:11,13 346:19 362:4 <b>members</b> 1:12 24:9 56:11 61:19 64:1 77:13 97:15 98:3 125:21 168:18 188:17 189:18 200:15 209:20 215:18 235:18,20 239:2 303:10 312:11,22 351:20 383:2 385:20 388:7 <b>membership</b> 123:15 236:2 383:8 384:22 <b>memory</b> 45:13 124:18 <b>Mems</b> 214:10 <b>men</b> 47:1 <b>mentally</b> 174:9 <b>mention</b> 17:18 258:13 377:5 <b>mentioned</b> 28:5 40:11 197:1 204:1
<b>Makihijani</b> 148:21 185:15 <b>making</b> 50:2 167:12,16 172:6 177:17 186:7 196:3 215:13,17 239:20 257:13 282:17 302:15 317:4 340:21 358:12 366:12 <b>male</b> 210:9 <b>Mali</b> 3:2 310:8 312:19 314:8 <b>man</b> 69:7 213:14 213:15 361:22 <b>manage</b> 38:4 190:5 197:6,11 270:20 288:21 358:18 <b>managed</b> 217:3 262:12 352:14 <b>management</b> 19:13 35:1 36:2 54:3 78:9 84:21 89:12 117:6,10,16 118:6 127:17 128:4,10 141:5 145:16 160:14 189:10 199:6 200:21 241:16 249:12 254:11 263:1 278:19,21 299:16 305:8 307:16 346:17 349:6 354:3 382:8 387:2 <b>Manager</b> 216:22 <b>managerial</b> 41:7 <b>managing</b> 6:19 14:5 95:22 100:7 192:11 231:14 275:1 279:15 <b>mandate</b> 135:1 <b>mandates</b> 223:5 <b>manner</b> 57:13	<b>manpower</b> 79:14 <b>Manuel</b> 2:7 109:21 173:6 346:20 <b>manufacture</b> 192:15 <b>manufactured</b> 291:8 <b>Manufacturers</b> 228:13 <b>manufacturing</b> 53:15 237:5 277:22 345:4 <b>march</b> 58:3 162:12 212:10 <b>marginalized</b> 129:8 130:3,14 131:8 170:2 176:3,8 239:9 <b>Mark</b> 1:13 87:6 <b>marketable</b> 215:6 <b>marketing</b> 327:3 <b>marketplace</b> 93:11 <b>markets</b> 78:17 85:9 137:18 296:9 <b>Marriott</b> 1:10 <b>Martin</b> 217:2 <b>massive</b> 113:21 334:22 <b>master's</b> 391:7 <b>master-servant</b> 172:7 <b>match</b> 191:6 <b>material</b> 23:15 62:6 63:15 64:6 67:2,6 71:19 75:3 161:1 163:16 164:6 210:15 214:7 241:3 242:10 265:21 290:22 291:2 305:13 321:7 325:8,10 342:14 <b>materialized</b> 251:22 <b>materials</b> 61:12	<b>math</b> 35:10 209:16 212:18 217:22 364:19 <b>matrix</b> 164:1 <b>matter</b> 66:9 107:19 126:17 131:9,10 142:15 171:10 187:4 240:6 289:13 329:6 344:12 368:16 <b>matters</b> 8:2 238:18 331:22 <b>mature</b> 138:10 179:2 <b>maturity</b> 138:6 <b>maximize</b> 188:7 <b>maximizing</b> 239:7 <b>maximum</b> 143:14 <b>mayor</b> 1:19,21 4:5 4:5,6,6 10:7 30:13 48:4,7 49:10 51:2 51:4,6 55:18,19 55:21 168:14 374:9 386:1,2 389:5 <b>MBA</b> 324:16 <b>mean</b> 62:1 201:2,16 201:20 202:21 205:3 209:11,12 252:14 266:19 274:14 347:16 362:6 380:9 <b>means</b> 59:19 78:8 138:3 181:14 209:9 269:9 312:8 312:9,11 342:2		

260:11 322:21	375:14	<b>minimize</b> 98:22	<b>mitigated</b> 304:8	233:21
<b>merely</b> 339:10	<b>military</b> 83:7 113:8	99:22 232:16	<b>mixed</b> 230:11	<b>morals</b> 380:6
<b>merits</b> 240:9	237:1	243:9 251:8	<b>mock-up</b> 141:7,9	<b>morning</b> 5:22 6:3,9
<b>Merrick</b> 1:23 4:9	<b>mill</b> 299:1	<b>minimized</b> 308:7	<b>model</b> 13:2 25:7	7:18 12:6 48:7
77:9,12 87:3,7,10	<b>millennia</b> 289:13	<b>minimum</b> 23:17	82:15 275:1	51:6 56:6 57:1
87:15 88:3,22	<b>Miller</b> 1:18 4:3	196:12	<b>models</b> 197:10	91:18 97:7 101:14
89:7,11 90:13	10:13,14,16,19,20	<b>mining</b> 298:17	<b>modern</b> 86:13	108:10 110:13
91:11,13	24:15 25:8 26:12	299:1,17	<b>modular</b> 90:14,20	135:12 147:17
<b>MESERVE</b> 1:15	27:5,15 28:10,19	<b>minorities</b> 83:1	118:16 144:8	148:1 155:11
34:6 36:7 37:18	29:8,14 30:3,8,12	<b>minority</b> 126:12	<b>modularization</b>	157:16 203:5
88:14 89:2 265:11	31:10 32:1 33:13	129:3 131:7	90:7	248:19 271:10
<b>mess</b> 350:17	33:20 34:2,6,20	173:12	<b>modulars</b> 90:22	284:19 334:16
<b>message</b> 175:10	36:16 38:13 41:3	<b>minuscule</b> 290:18	<b>module</b> 17:6	340:16 346:21
239:1	41:15 44:1,17	<b>minute</b> 110:10	<b>modules</b> 17:9	359:7 373:11
<b>messed</b> 375:6	45:1 46:19 47:20	201:7	<b>moist</b> 309:16	<b>mornings</b> 212:4,6
<b>met</b> 16:7 81:21	48:1 51:11 139:21	<b>minutes</b> 56:16	<b>moment</b> 87:10	<b>Moss</b> 150:18
139:22 194:11	284:18	110:6,9 276:13,14	154:10 181:9	<b>mother</b> 328:6
259:6 338:3	<b>Miller's</b> 48:18	<b>misinformation</b>	240:20 262:8	<b>motivated</b> 47:7
377:22	290:22	112:14	335:21	<b>motivation</b> 120:4
<b>metals</b> 139:8	<b>million</b> 53:20 84:22	<b>misled</b> 323:1	<b>mommy</b> 329:7	282:14
<b>metaphor</b> 341:2	94:19 104:11	<b>mismanagement</b>	<b>monetary</b> 161:21	<b>mount</b> 105:4
<b>method</b> 198:12	105:2 111:9	310:14	<b>money</b> 54:1 56:9	<b>mountain</b> 20:2,20
290:17 320:17	161:20 174:13	<b>missing</b> 175:14,17	61:1 63:21 73:2	21:3,7 22:22 23:1
<b>methods</b> 90:3,8	190:16 244:20	175:22	75:5 104:10 120:8	23:20 35:19 50:8
171:15	251:17 281:7	<b>mission</b> 13:9 96:3	154:7,9,14 155:7	60:4 61:3 63:14
<b>metric</b> 62:4 103:10	304:11 335:3	99:6 115:7 117:18	178:7 180:9 185:6	66:15 69:7 70:12
104:6 280:22	353:16,16	118:1 119:18	218:3 244:10	71:5 72:8 74:10
281:8	<b>millions</b> 108:18	132:17 159:10	270:4 326:5	75:4 94:6,6 95:19
<b>metro</b> 54:12 122:1	140:9,14	161:18 162:4,22	328:13 329:19	98:6,9,11,15
235:20	<b>millwrights</b> 78:14	164:4,12 176:17	339:11 342:5	102:15 104:15
<b>Mets</b> 296:20 298:2	<b>mind</b> 95:16 246:9	176:17,21 227:5	356:11,12 357:2,7	105:16,19 106:1
<b>Michael</b> 3:16 371:4	333:15 364:20	229:10 238:10	357:8 361:5,13	106:10,18 112:17
372:21 376:2,5	<b>minds</b> 149:22	242:5 369:7	390:3	112:20,22 113:5
<b>Michelle</b> 2:25	334:21	383:19	<b>monies</b> 361:20	118:17 122:16
214:10 300:19	<b>mindset</b> 42:14	<b>missionaries</b>	<b>monitored</b> 140:22	133:14 151:10
303:6	<b>Mindy</b> 296:19	175:10	284:13	158:8 183:20
<b>mid</b> 90:19	298:2	<b>missions</b> 100:16	<b>monitoring</b> 127:12	184:16 191:22
<b>Mideast</b> 58:8	<b>mine</b> 280:2	119:6 120:10	127:20 128:7	195:10,15 197:3
<b>midst</b> 152:7	<b>mined</b> 139:9	136:4 164:15,17	130:1 166:15	231:6,7 233:21,22
<b>mid-1950s</b> 241:4	151:12	229:13 245:5	167:3	239:1,16 240:2
<b>mid-1980s</b> 222:1	<b>minerals</b> 139:9	248:5 267:5	<b>month</b> 16:4	243:14,18 262:14
<b>migration</b> 309:18	<b>Minerd</b> 3:12	<b>Mississippi</b> 11:20	<b>monthly</b> 211:9	265:16 286:9,21
<b>miles</b> 11:8 30:20,21	351:17 355:4,6,7	<b>mistake</b> 233:22	<b>months</b> 16:19	288:19 289:6,7,11
53:4 227:3 247:13	356:15 357:6	262:19 265:16	20:17 136:21	297:6 301:20
284:10 324:20,22	<b>miners</b> 338:4	318:4 367:3	292:20 347:21	302:4 304:19
325:3 335:3 338:9	<b>minimization</b>	<b>MIT</b> 364:6	<b>monument</b> 113:17	306:11 311:16
373:14,18 375:13	243:12	<b>mitigate</b> 304:17	<b>monumental</b>	312:3 317:18

347:11,12,16,17	276:18 294:8	248:19 249:6	256:17 257:18	343:8 356:22
348:2,4 359:21	297:1 298:4	251:5 253:4 254:9	<b>near-site</b> 84:11	357:6,8 360:4
362:17,19 367:3	300:21 308:16	254:17 258:15	<b>near-term</b> 233:7	366:22 367:20
367:10,11 368:12	317:11 330:20	264:10 279:14	<b>necessarily</b> 87:17	376:13,15 377:9
369:2,4 376:13	344:7 346:13	281:22 300:6	116:5 160:1 174:2	380:10,15 388:11
<b>mounting</b> 125:22	351:21 363:17	316:20 319:13	273:15 274:12	388:13,16 393:1
<b>move</b> 14:2 88:6	376:5 378:21	329:14 358:11,16	275:6	<b>needed</b> 53:9 80:19
107:15 116:5	383:4 389:10	359:16 368:15,22	<b>necessary</b> 15:7	81:12 90:10 138:9
128:12 129:12	391:4	370:21 374:13	18:5 19:12 45:10	142:7 149:10
178:5,7 179:5	<b>named</b> 14:12 196:7	<b>Nationally</b> 104:11	80:18 83:14 85:14	150:2 157:8
181:1 203:12	368:19	<b>nations</b> 144:17	105:8 106:15	163:18 197:18
204:3 239:15	<b>names</b> 276:6	198:3 203:19	161:14 223:7	204:5 234:1
270:2 272:11,12	<b>narrow</b> 74:8	297:20	249:14 254:1	243:14 245:7
292:14 314:14	202:15 319:4	<b>nation's</b> 20:15	263:18 346:1	250:7 253:21
315:9 319:11	383:21	77:20 93:5 94:13	377:2,20	259:11 260:4,22
343:9 361:12	<b>nation</b> 55:8 59:9	95:1 116:10	<b>necessity</b> 22:12	264:2 269:21
370:18 376:14,19	65:13 92:20 93:15	138:12 191:1	102:15 144:13	283:16,19,21
386:17	94:3 102:19	194:9 222:18	<b>need</b> 22:2 27:9 33:3	284:9
<b>moved</b> 43:19 78:12	103:13 137:6,11	224:5 230:1	42:17 43:12 44:12	<b>needing</b> 269:20
184:22 386:3	141:22 144:4	245:18 261:12	45:9 57:15 58:16	<b>needs</b> 24:11 57:8
<b>moves</b> 39:11	145:14 223:10	278:3,4 301:12,21	58:18 59:2,19,20	70:4 71:20 77:21
<b>moving</b> 376:16	226:7 227:20	304:15 320:6	63:15 69:11 75:10	79:14 82:8,9 94:3
<b>MOX</b> 41:5 61:21	231:11 232:12	362:7 371:22	79:16,18 88:11,21	98:17,20 117:13
62:14 76:15,20	233:2,5 248:16	<b>native</b> 51:9 210:8	99:22 100:17	118:2 121:10
90:6 95:12 119:17	249:4 266:8	256:12	102:20 105:16	128:17 132:20
119:18 120:1	282:15 283:10,17	<b>natural</b> 14:2,14	117:22 119:15	141:17 142:4
159:12,13 160:7	287:19 289:17	45:6 130:2 300:9	134:21 138:8	144:17 180:12
160:11,22 163:16	320:8,9	309:6 353:4	142:11 148:3,17	205:10 233:1
163:17 290:20	<b>national</b> 58:9,13	<b>nature</b> 139:11	149:13,13 155:21	238:19 251:5
291:7 356:16,18	61:9,16 73:6 82:9	164:20 268:20	155:22 156:1,1,4	259:5,6 260:10
<b>MOXed</b> 67:16	92:9 96:12 98:11	286:16 360:1	156:8 158:1,6	262:7 264:3
<b>Mueller</b> 308:15	99:2 100:18	379:22,22	165:5,9 172:11	283:11 295:7
<b>multi</b> 196:11	108:21 133:17,21	<b>Navajo</b> 151:14	177:8 179:2 181:1	342:20 388:15,19
<b>multiple</b> 167:4	134:2,3 135:20	<b>naval</b> 377:17	181:12 183:12	<b>negate</b> 105:15
199:12	142:15 143:5	<b>Navy</b> 282:21 350:3	184:16 185:8,9,16	<b>negated</b> 286:9
<b>multi-craft</b> 84:11	145:21 146:7	<b>NA-YGN</b> 276:15	185:18 186:8	<b>negative</b> 131:1
<b>Munns</b> 2:19 279:9	147:6 177:22	<b>near</b> 11:11,13	197:11,20 199:7	249:20
282:5,10	179:8,21 183:5	26:18,22 31:3,6	207:13 225:3	<b>negatives</b> 303:22
<b>Mush</b> 335:19	186:13 194:4	123:21 124:6	231:12,20 234:15	<b>NEI</b> 33:14 257:12
<b>mutual</b> 25:19	195:19 196:5,11	126:14 127:5	243:9 245:10	257:20 258:10,13
	225:3 227:5,15	129:9 230:6	260:16 269:1	258:17
<b>N</b>	228:12,17,18	265:14 266:11	272:15,16 283:11	<b>neighbor</b> 156:12
<b>nailed</b> 75:1	230:3,14 232:18	308:3 325:4	293:8,12 313:18	227:4
<b>name</b> 5:10 10:19	233:3,9,10,13	338:22	313:19 330:10	<b>neighborhoods</b>
54:19 97:10	237:16 238:5,7	<b>nearing</b> 259:16	331:18,19 334:1	30:11 175:4
110:16 135:12	240:13,14 241:18	<b>nearly</b> 104:13	334:19,21 338:18	<b>neighboring</b>
228:14 246:12	243:6 245:10	146:15 227:17	339:10 341:20	103:14 207:10



256:20	264:5 271:5	354:8	82:13 83:10,16	218:15 219:5
<b>neighbors</b> 226:22	296:14 298:6	<b>notice</b> 363:5	85:19,21 86:2,8	223:5 224:3,7,11
384:6	309:10 327:3	<b>noticed</b> 335:17	86:13 90:5,15	224:13,14 225:4,7
<b>NEPA</b> 202:6	339:3 343:14	356:10	92:9,13,17,21	227:12 230:1,12
<b>nervous</b> 380:18	376:8	<b>novel</b> 393:4	93:2,20,21 94:13	230:15,17 232:4,7
<b>net</b> 323:11	<b>news</b> 175:2 274:18	<b>November</b> 35:3	94:14,17 95:8	232:8,20 233:16
<b>network</b> 255:22	<b>newsletters</b> 212:1	114:20	96:1,2,7,10,19	234:18,20,21
256:18 273:22	<b>newspaper</b> 136:21	<b>NRC</b> 16:2,4,7	99:11,17 100:7	236:14 237:18,21
<b>networks</b> 129:14	<b>next-generation</b>	18:21 20:15 29:20	102:11 103:2,11	238:1 241:9,20
<b>neutralize</b> 337:12	99:21	41:10 51:12 79:15	103:22 104:6,10	242:2 244:3,6
339:17	<b>nice</b> 355:10	112:2 156:4 244:1	104:16,19 105:9	245:11 250:5
<b>neutralizing</b> 337:4	<b>niche</b> 139:15	257:8	106:21 108:15	251:16 252:11
<b>Nevada</b> 183:18	<b>Nicolas</b> 3:13	<b>NRC's</b> 111:22	109:2,2,21 110:17	254:20 256:3
262:14 301:20	357:22 360:17	<b>NRC-type</b> 274:19	113:16 114:10	257:2,6,21 258:3
302:1 366:22	363:14,17	<b>nuclear</b> 1:1,18 2:8	115:9 116:1,14	258:4,8,22 259:2
367:5 376:14	<b>night</b> 56:22 284:15	2:10 4:4,17 5:12	117:8 118:12,19	259:9,13,16 260:3
<b>never</b> 40:17 42:10	<b>Nikki</b> 60:13	6:11,20 7:20	123:19,21 124:6	260:6,17 261:1,11
62:17 64:4 70:17	<b>NIMBY</b> 334:7	10:12,20 11:5,7	124:22 126:3,15	261:11,18,19
94:14,22 120:2	<b>nine</b> 210:22	11:10 12:8,10,15	127:6,10,15	262:2 263:2,5,9
141:1 150:21	<b>ninety-eight</b> 212:11	12:17,22 13:2,5	128:15,22 129:10	263:11,20 264:5,6
170:20 234:4	<b>ninth</b> 103:13	14:13,22 15:2,11	129:18,22 132:5	264:22 274:22
251:18,22 267:13	<b>nobody's</b> 43:5	16:18 17:10,17	133:16 135:15,18	275:5 277:5,5,14
272:6 337:3	<b>nominally</b> 349:3	19:3,14,15 20:4,6	138:13 140:12,12	277:21 278:2,5,9
341:11 360:22	<b>nonpolitical</b> 271:11	20:14,15,19 21:10	140:19,21 141:2,6	278:13,15 279:15
379:10 391:19	<b>nonprofit</b> 206:6	21:13 22:2,8 23:4	141:8,10 142:19	279:17,18,22
<b>new</b> 2:6 6:20 7:19	229:9	24:8 25:2,14	143:2,11,14	280:7,8,20 281:1
12:18 13:2 18:21	<b>nonproliferation</b>	26:10 27:20 28:22	144:11,14 145:15	281:15,18,21
19:1,5 23:15 25:5	99:17 145:20	29:1 32:10 33:2	145:18 146:2,5,8	282:22 283:7,11
34:11 36:9,15	146:10 230:15	35:5,6,9,9,12,18	148:20 150:5,7	283:16 284:6,17
38:2,9 52:10,15	237:19 242:2	36:19 37:12,22	152:22 153:13,18	285:20 287:2,20
53:14,16 54:1,2	<b>nonstop</b> 337:21	38:22 39:4 40:5	154:13,14 165:8	288:21 289:9,15
54:18,19 70:5	<b>non-American</b>	40:20 41:19 42:10	176:13,18 177:10	290:2,16,17,21
79:4,9,17 80:13	148:3	42:14 43:6 44:10	177:13 178:13,20	291:11 292:12
82:15 86:20 90:15	<b>non-retirement</b>	44:13,15 46:13	179:10,10,15,21	293:4 294:13,14
90:22 91:1,5	80:5	48:22 49:8,15,18	180:10 182:2,17	294:19 295:1,3,4
93:20 109:19	<b>normal</b> 89:14	52:22 53:16 55:3	188:12,19,20	295:13,16,17,22
122:15 142:19	<b>north</b> 30:17 66:8	55:6,11 57:4,4	189:12,14,21,22	296:7,9,10 297:19
144:9 152:11,11	81:17 103:15	58:14 59:7,8,11	190:4,7,8,12	298:13,15,18
154:9 155:8 158:7	136:16 235:9,18	59:15,18 61:12,15	191:7,8 192:5,11	299:8,11,12,13,18
159:9,13,20 162:9	278:8 315:5 316:9	62:6 64:17 65:3	192:16,18 193:2,4	300:1,3,4 301:1,5
162:14 170:1	317:12 319:2,7	66:8 69:16,20	193:11,14,19,20	301:8,12,21 305:9
171:6 191:3 197:5	320:1 322:9,12	70:2,7,10 71:6,9	194:9,11 195:1	308:21 309:2,13
197:6 204:12	324:15 333:9	71:11,16 73:7,8	196:11 198:20	310:1,15,21 317:2
216:22 218:16,18	335:20 338:10	76:1,6 77:16,19	199:2,6,8,11,21	318:3,11 320:4,8
227:6 230:4	349:21 364:1	78:4,6,11 79:4,10	203:10 208:15	320:9,14,14,16
238:15 249:22	<b>notable</b> 236:17	79:13,17,20 81:13	209:22 210:13,14	321:6 322:1 323:1
252:4 259:18	<b>note</b> 223:17 285:19	81:15,18,20 82:4	214:7 217:18	323:2,8,10 324:2

325:19 326:17 327:10,21 328:21 329:16 331:4 333:14,15,20 334:18 335:2,5 336:4,5,20 337:2 337:4,10,22 338:2 338:4,5,11 339:1 339:3,5,9,12,12 339:21 340:20 341:19 342:12 349:5,22 350:3,8 350:9 352:17 355:13,14,21 356:1 357:13 358:19,20 359:1 359:18 360:7 362:15,19 363:21 363:21 364:11 365:14,21 366:22 368:19 369:11 370:18 372:15 373:5,17 374:2,20 376:14 377:9,13 377:15 379:6,10 379:16,19 380:13 382:11 383:17 385:3,9 387:3 389:1,14,18,20,21 389:22 390:5,6,8 390:15 391:20 392:1,4,6,10,11 392:18 <b>Nuclear's</b> 276:20 <b>nuclear-free</b> 148:3 <b>nuclear-friendly</b> 226:20 <b>nuclear-related</b> 127:14 <b>number</b> 5:4 9:14 9:21 17:13 26:10 31:15 32:8 38:17 53:9 59:19 100:10 122:4 124:1 133:5 146:2 204:2 224:12,13 245:2 289:4,5 292:2	373:12 382:7 <b>numbers</b> 321:8 330:3 <b>numerous</b> 16:1 228:11 309:17 347:19 383:10 <hr/> <b>O</b> <hr/> <b>Oak</b> 338:12 <b>Obama</b> 60:3 64:20 70:8 71:13 75:11 76:21 115:16 148:7 280:1 361:17 <b>objection</b> 60:9 <b>objective</b> 223:8 233:7 234:17 <b>objectively</b> 264:12 <b>objectives</b> 224:16 <b>obligation</b> 60:8 133:6 155:12,17 234:2 <b>obligations</b> 164:9 194:11 <b>observation</b> 13:11 <b>observations</b> 371:17 <b>obvious</b> 165:9 200:18 <b>obviously</b> 34:12 43:11 48:9 167:5 170:6 183:18 201:20 267:11 291:19 <b>occasions</b> 382:7 <b>occur</b> 70:3 296:11 345:3 382:6 <b>occurred</b> 15:22 170:4 302:7 321:12 <b>occurs</b> 159:2 <b>ocean</b> 321:9 339:2 <b>oceans</b> 139:7 140:8 315:12 <b>Oconee</b> 363:21 365:21 <b>odd</b> 178:17	<b>offer</b> 172:8 196:9 198:9 291:1 309:22 332:18 336:2,5 385:11 <b>offered</b> 89:9 207:5 209:6 239:19 <b>offering</b> 258:7 356:20 <b>offerings</b> 237:11 <b>office</b> 50:20 68:15 117:15 128:8,10 361:22 <b>Officer</b> 5:11 <b>official</b> 1:18 98:3 <b>officially</b> 367:12 <b>officials</b> 8:1 158:21 158:22 271:17 <b>off-load</b> 35:6 <b>Off-mic</b> 10:9 <b>oft-time</b> 207:19 <b>oh</b> 30:8 89:7 276:12 282:8 299:21 329:2 <b>oil</b> 14:2,16 41:20 45:15 58:8,11,18 58:22 90:17,20 148:18 274:18 372:1 <b>okay</b> 5:3 26:5 29:5 31:7 33:18 48:10 56:16 107:21 158:18 196:7 218:12 282:8 291:22 294:5 341:21 381:8 392:22 <b>old</b> 115:12 181:2 210:6,7 378:22 379:1 <b>older</b> 217:20 246:9 391:22 <b>olds</b> 153:16 <b>old-timer</b> 367:9 <b>old-timey</b> 325:20 <b>Ole</b> 3:6 324:13 327:15 330:16,17 330:20 333:13	<b>OMB</b> 162:16 <b>once</b> 33:4 50:10 61:3 165:1 271:12 391:19 <b>ones</b> 52:5 182:11 307:17 <b>one-half</b> 107:16 <b>one-of-a-kind</b> 232:10 253:16 <b>one-third</b> 146:15 <b>one-year-old</b> 391:13 <b>ongoing</b> 7:19 24:1 43:1 96:3 214:17 <b>on-line</b> 92:14 <b>on-site</b> 7:4 29:10,16 29:19 35:11 69:21 84:11 111:20 112:3 114:9 164:6 338:22 353:22 <b>on-the-job</b> 85:2 <b>open</b> 10:1 16:12 95:20 106:3 135:1 332:13 387:22 <b>opened</b> 211:17 <b>opening</b> 4:2 94:17 295:7 <b>openness</b> 292:18 293:13 347:14 <b>operability</b> 95:14 <b>operate</b> 11:7 18:14 28:14 39:1 52:6 52:22 53:10 84:19 85:14 113:21 <b>operated</b> 183:13 251:18 345:19 <b>operates</b> 28:21 <b>operating</b> 1:18 4:4 10:13,21 12:22 39:7 41:16,17 42:5 79:7,20 92:18 190:19 348:12 365:18 <b>operation</b> 12:11 96:4 114:2 163:19 241:21 323:18 345:13 346:2	<b>operational</b> 134:1 <b>operations</b> 7:19 41:19 53:15 79:19 85:13 89:6 98:8 224:3 228:10 241:14 <b>operator</b> 11:6 39:18 88:19 364:8 <b>operators</b> 28:13 42:1 104:19 210:15 214:7 227:11 <b>opinion</b> 117:15 136:20 161:14 182:5 268:1,9 323:22 331:1,8 <b>opinions</b> 343:10 <b>opponents</b> 140:18 <b>opportunities</b> 77:17 83:3,8 88:1 88:7 93:18 143:21 207:3 215:14 229:11 256:10 261:2 386:22 387:12 <b>opportunity</b> 7:13 10:18 23:22 24:2 38:14 48:13 86:18 88:12 92:5 102:2 107:7 123:12,14 132:8 147:11,18 149:8,8,17 157:4 178:4 188:20 204:9 215:21 216:6 260:15 266:7 268:6 273:7 273:12 294:7 313:1 335:16 346:12 349:14 377:12 383:3 <b>oppose</b> 359:11 362:3 <b>opposed</b> 50:12 306:10 309:1 <b>opposition</b> 231:5 <b>optimistic</b> 345:18 <b>option</b> 15:12 23:21
---	---	--	--	--

105:17 205:4	<b>outcome</b> 388:1	<b>painful</b> 125:8	217:15 232:1	258:1
223:22 231:18	<b>outdated</b> 75:18	<b>panel</b> 4:16,20	236:14 237:6	<b>partnering</b> 273:19
232:13 249:12	280:9	107:14 108:7	242:5 263:17	<b>partners</b> 72:6,11
260:1 286:22	<b>output</b> 33:1	109:16 136:7	264:11 271:20	126:19 209:17
297:16 333:21	<b>outrage</b> 302:6	181:7 186:17	272:22 278:3,4	212:21 216:15
<b>options</b> 98:22	<b>outrageous</b> 302:3	220:16,18 265:9	279:19 285:15	227:21 253:5
138:7 143:19	<b>outreach</b> 173:20	270:15 275:13	286:1,10 287:9	260:12 263:21
147:7 166:19	<b>outset</b> 218:21	286:18 288:22	290:18 293:9	<b>partnership</b> 115:9
191:16 196:17	<b>outside</b> 183:3	294:8 312:22	306:22 329:18	214:12 215:21
223:11 224:9,20	347:10 366:2	324:20	354:8 383:19	216:10 247:1
240:11 380:12	372:5 388:18	<b>panelists</b> 109:17	384:17	258:11 285:6,11
<b>orange</b> 276:1	<b>outstanding</b> 5:20	157:16 219:15	<b>PARTICIPANT</b>	387:10
<b>order</b> 80:14 84:2,7	32:1 47:4 228:8	265:7	282:6 294:4 351:4	<b>partnerships</b> 85:16
106:12 110:3	243:4 250:19	<b>panels</b> 326:18	351:7	208:6 216:11
127:2 139:19	<b>outweigh</b> 350:13	347:20	<b>participants</b>	<b>parts</b> 34:18 39:19
221:4 261:14	<b>out-of-state</b> 252:21	<b>panic</b> 172:9	108:14 163:12	100:13 248:12
276:10 307:9	<b>overall</b> 323:14	<b>panning</b> 43:1	208:11	<b>Paso</b> 363:18
377:17	<b>overcome</b> 34:13	<b>paper</b> 5:22 70:18	<b>participate</b> 135:4	<b>pass</b> 154:19 270:16
<b>organization</b> 2:14	<b>overcooked</b> 328:22	114:20 122:1,19	<b>participated</b> 210:9	<b>passed</b> 76:12
110:19 131:11	<b>overdue</b> 287:6	123:4 158:4	210:19	124:18 159:11
206:6 209:21	<b>overhead</b> 122:21	170:18 323:6	<b>participating</b> 221:4	214:19 368:18
220:20 226:2	<b>overlap</b> 39:15	336:16 340:16	360:11	<b>passionately</b> 365:8
229:5,10 247:2,5	<b>overlook</b> 46:11	<b>papers</b> 173:10,10	<b>participation</b> 47:22	<b>path</b> 95:13 111:18
259:4 278:8	<b>overlooked</b> 122:9	<b>paperwork</b> 42:17	56:1 91:12 117:14	118:19 158:11
310:20 383:7	<b>overly</b> 21:16	<b>parallel</b> 119:13	135:2 166:15	209:10 217:19
<b>organizational</b>	<b>overriding</b> 322:22	<b>parameters</b> 100:8	186:18 195:11	284:1 299:19
126:19 170:12	<b>overseas</b> 58:11	<b>paraphrase</b> 226:15	201:4 211:6	302:11 329:20
<b>organizations</b> 2:16	<b>overseen</b> 303:17	<b>parent</b> 164:15	220:11 265:2	<b>paths</b> 199:12
8:1,5 174:20	<b>overstated</b> 66:4	381:20	275:13	<b>pathway</b> 62:15
175:1 208:8	77:21	<b>park</b> 116:19,22	<b>participatory</b>	64:13 67:20 70:1
216:17 220:22	<b>overwhelmed</b>	117:21 118:10	176:14 177:2	72:16 99:8 223:2
235:18 358:7	366:16	145:7 328:16	342:19,21	252:19 278:11
<b>organized</b> 33:11	<b>owe</b> 14:20 330:7	332:1 334:2,4	<b>particular</b> 27:22	<b>patience</b> 225:13
200:1 326:20	331:15	<b>Parker</b> 3:12 351:17	89:12 90:22 91:4	<b>patient</b> 69:7 70:14
<b>orientations</b> 208:20	<b>owner</b> 18:9 81:13	355:4 357:21	143:17 147:4	71:2
212:12	84:2 85:13 91:2	358:2,3	178:6 180:1	<b>patriarchal</b> 172:6
<b>originally</b> 164:5	<b>oxide</b> 160:10	<b>parking</b> 48:10	221:22 274:10	<b>Patrie</b> 3:4 314:10
321:4 363:17	230:11	<b>parks</b> 119:10	388:14	317:10 319:19,22
<b>orphaned</b> 113:4	<b>o'clock</b> 349:4	132:18,21 150:2	<b>particularly</b> 90:6	319:22
223:1	<b>O-F</b> 4:1	<b>part</b> 15:9 37:8,12	144:22 184:3	<b>patterns</b> 149:14
<b>Ortaldo</b> 3:10 341:9		39:6,12 55:2	232:9 270:1 319:2	<b>Patterson</b> 2:10
344:6 346:8,10,13	<b>P</b>	57:16 63:17 90:14	365:2 367:1	188:13,15 189:3
<b>ought</b> 60:18 181:11	<b>packaging</b> 7:15	95:9 107:3 115:6	<b>parties</b> 302:17	200:1,3,9 202:2
183:1 281:19	<b>page</b> 114:7	117:2 118:16	<b>partly</b> 310:19	202:12 203:4
325:21	<b>paid</b> 20:5 53:19	119:4 139:17	<b>partner</b> 25:5 49:4	204:21 205:15,16
<b>outage</b> 84:2	134:10 263:9	161:21 175:2	72:3 206:20	<b>Paul</b> 2:3 4:14
<b>outages</b> 84:1,4	287:19 386:14	192:18 211:18	211:16 217:4	101:11,21 296:19

298:1,7	182:11,19 183:6,9	23:15 32:16 38:21	277:4	<b>place</b> 35:8 57:22
<b>pay</b> 70:6 154:20	184:14 185:12,15	68:1 70:16 208:19	<b>pertain</b> 282:20	59:5,18 63:14
263:12 329:8	188:5 193:10,13	212:9 228:2	<b>pertaining</b> 189:14	66:21 67:11 121:8
355:20	198:19 199:20	275:18 393:14	<b>pertinent</b> 185:21	125:12 127:18
<b>paygrade</b> 270:7	200:18,22 205:10	<b>periods</b> 250:8	<b>perverted</b> 182:20	147:9 166:10
<b>paying</b> 94:15 227:8	208:20,21 212:13	<b>permanent</b> 20:18	<b>PETERSON</b> 1:15	172:14,17,18,21
<b>payroll</b> 244:20	217:20 219:1	94:3,5,16 95:1	37:20 89:21 91:7	181:15,20 183:1
<b>PCBs</b> 340:17	227:8 248:6	102:17,21 105:8	204:1 268:14	184:21,21 211:18
<b>peace</b> 132:8 178:1	259:21 260:15	210:16 222:4,19	270:11	255:10,10 262:14
228:2	269:22 275:20	228:22 230:9	<b>petroleum</b> 388:18	273:4 275:6
<b>peaceful</b> 13:5 14:12	285:17 287:14	231:12,15,20	<b>phase</b> 195:22 339:4	277:13 290:5
<b>peak</b> 18:13 79:3	292:2,13 293:17	233:22 234:5,6,8	<b>phasing</b> 297:18	296:12 305:3
88:4	295:20 297:12	239:16,20 240:10	<b>PhD</b> 150:5	318:1 325:6
<b>peaked</b> 248:1	298:9 304:1	243:13 249:10,16	<b>Phil</b> 1:16 41:1	345:13 352:7
<b>peaking</b> 13:14	309:12 317:13	249:19 250:10	166:5	361:6 363:6
<b>peer</b> 347:19	320:21 321:9,14	251:21 254:3	<b>phone</b> 211:10	370:13 373:16
<b>pellet</b> 141:9,10	321:15 328:18	263:12 278:14	340:8	374:6 375:17
<b>pellets</b> 141:15,19	330:2 332:16	306:19 308:1,8	<b>photo</b> 211:19	377:11
142:1	336:19 341:14	314:14	<b>photos</b> 211:13	<b>placed</b> 336:8
<b>pencil</b> 141:14	343:15,18 358:15	<b>permanently</b> 94:21	<b>physical</b> 125:14	<b>placement</b> 23:5
<b>pending</b> 22:15	361:7,19 362:15	262:16 291:9	212:3 383:12	<b>places</b> 104:12
156:7	363:4 366:13,17	353:12	384:14	166:8 180:21
<b>Penix</b> 3:15 366:9	367:15 373:18	<b>permeable</b> 345:8	<b>physician</b> 333:10	283:15 299:6
368:7 371:3,5,5	374:4 375:2,11,11	<b>permit</b> 12:18 16:1	<b>physicians</b> 320:1	326:20
372:19	378:2 381:14,18	269:16	322:12 340:21	<b>plagued</b> 379:12
<b>Penn</b> 56:20	383:15	<b>permits</b> 156:6	<b>physicists</b> 227:11	<b>plain</b> 121:4
<b>people</b> 6:3 8:10 9:5	<b>perceive</b> 266:22	<b>permitted</b> 344:13	264:1	<b>plan</b> 6:20 21:20
9:15,21 32:11	<b>percent</b> 11:17 52:9	<b>permitting</b> 69:18	<b>physics</b> 122:9	63:6,8 69:19
47:13 49:16 51:11	57:21 59:14,17	344:10	212:19	70:13 86:20 95:15
51:14 56:19 58:12	70:4 80:2 81:3	<b>perpetration</b> 350:5	<b>Ph.D</b> 310:18 311:2	109:1 133:7,11,13
61:9 66:7 68:17	84:1 118:7 143:1	<b>persists</b> 320:15	<b>pick</b> 62:1 171:22	157:21 160:2
74:18 75:9 87:8,9	149:4 151:12	<b>person</b> 92:4 126:12	181:15 216:3	307:1 369:16
87:11,12,13 88:5	155:1 207:18	142:1 151:1	<b>picked</b> 25:4	387:13
88:8,9,9 89:6,15	248:18 256:15,17	167:21,22 345:18	<b>picking</b> 181:17	<b>planet</b> 140:7
90:2 115:2 116:14	259:15 262:5	<b>personal</b> 126:11	202:4	329:12 331:15
119:5,19 123:20	277:19,21 281:6	<b>personalities</b> 128:1	<b>picks</b> 155:1	350:15
124:1 126:14	284:3 295:15	<b>personally</b> 124:7	<b>picture</b> 113:14	<b>planned</b> 27:7 191:4
129:4,10 130:3	300:4 310:16	158:7 159:4 195:9	213:15 298:17	368:13
131:3 140:9	321:1 388:17	204:22 325:20	323:21	<b>planning</b> 54:9
146:19 167:6,12	<b>percentage</b> 256:11	<b>personnel</b> 78:10	<b>piece</b> 57:17 154:6	142:20 171:7
167:16 168:6	<b>perfect</b> 198:18	237:2 241:6	243:19 271:1	224:2 286:10
169:2,10,18	<b>perfectly</b> 183:14	<b>persons</b> 212:11	<b>pile</b> 341:4	373:8
171:11,11,18	<b>performance</b> 228:9	<b>person's</b> 142:2	<b>pilot</b> 161:6 208:13	<b>plans</b> 66:10 128:12
172:6 173:16	251:1	<b>perspective</b> 177:11	216:3	194:18,19 280:8
174:2 177:15	<b>performed</b> 82:12	190:11 300:10	<b>piloted</b> 219:21	<b>plant</b> 1:23 4:9 7:20
178:11,18 179:13	<b>perimeters</b> 31:8,9	<b>perspectives</b> 4:16	<b>pipefitters</b> 78:15	11:7,11,14 12:19
180:4,8,11,15,20	<b>period</b> 4:21 9:13,18	107:15 109:16	<b>pit</b> 76:7 160:4	15:2 18:14 26:13

26:21 28:8,21	40:15 95:21 215:8	<b>podium</b> 101:13	287:2 301:5,7,10	<b>populated</b> 80:21
29:2 30:4,7,15,16	232:13 243:6	<b>point</b> 7:2 8:13 11:4	301:19 350:19	373:20 374:2
30:19 31:2,11,14	251:7 254:10	34:20 42:18 44:7	360:9 368:19	<b>population</b> 146:16
32:1,9,11,20 33:3	268:20 329:3,6,9	45:20,21 57:10	377:1 378:10	151:15 152:12
37:13 38:2,21	<b>played</b> 92:8 227:19	61:8 69:8 74:4	<b>policymaker</b> 45:7	237:1,12 245:4
39:11 40:2,20,21	237:16 268:12	111:17 117:5	<b>policymakers</b>	338:13 374:3
41:13 42:10 43:19	<b>player</b> 387:6	158:11 192:1,3	379:14	<b>porous</b> 345:2
51:14,17,20 53:1	<b>players</b> 253:6	193:18 194:20	<b>polishing</b> 163:18	<b>port</b> 54:13
53:8,18,20 55:4,5	<b>playground</b> 328:17	195:18 198:17	<b>political</b> 19:19	<b>portability</b> 84:1
55:6 61:21 77:9	<b>playing</b> 230:6	199:3 202:11,13	35:20 49:22	<b>portable</b> 258:18
78:5,18 79:4,19	383:15	241:11 243:20	106:13 122:9	<b>portion</b> 292:9
81:13 88:20 90:6	<b>plays</b> 49:19 244:18	269:5 289:4,5,14	177:20 179:18	<b>pose</b> 316:10
104:19 113:12,16	<b>pleasant</b> 199:17	342:18 352:11	194:2 278:22	<b>poses</b> 390:11,12
114:1 119:17,19	<b>please</b> 5:6,7 50:17	362:13 365:17	301:13 302:14	<b>position</b> 31:19
120:1,14,17,18	50:21 61:2 71:18	368:15,16 387:20	305:18 308:4	82:22 83:4 170:17
151:18 152:9,10	71:20 86:22	<b>pointed</b> 317:18	360:1	231:5 233:4
160:8,11 161:6	107:11 108:4	<b>pointing</b> 360:2	<b>politically</b> 60:17	267:13 269:19
236:15 237:22	147:10 184:9	<b>points</b> 111:8 167:4	135:7 164:17	302:6 331:9
241:21 251:15,17	329:14 348:5	191:9 192:9 208:4	307:5	383:22
258:3,11 276:20	358:20 382:10	288:16 353:4	<b>politicians</b> 280:21	<b>positioned</b> 385:1
277:21 281:15,15	392:3,10,17	362:2 365:15	<b>politicized</b> 21:16	<b>positions</b> 89:16,17
281:18 299:2,13	<b>pleased</b> 240:16	<b>poison</b> 333:18	<b>politics</b> 19:22 40:14	210:16 214:5
309:7 321:12	257:15	334:10	50:3,12 121:13	260:5
323:18 338:4	<b>pleases</b> 198:18	<b>polar</b> 57:10	127:18 194:15	<b>positive</b> 168:4
339:1 356:17	<b>pleasure</b> 77:14	<b>policies</b> 6:18 81:22	205:5,6 272:15,17	388:10
362:8,9 373:15,17	226:9 255:12	92:22 100:6 287:6	297:7 301:7 302:3	<b>positively</b> 172:2
374:3,10 375:10	<b>pledge</b> 120:1	319:13 338:19	303:2 313:9,15	<b>possessed</b> 250:19
390:8	<b>plenty</b> 47:13	339:20 387:2,21	360:9	<b>possesses</b> 14:10
<b>plants</b> 13:1,3 19:1	<b>plowshare</b> 62:9	387:21	<b>polluted</b> 151:13	<b>possibilities</b> 96:9
19:5 20:15 21:19	<b>ploy</b> 356:7	<b>policy</b> 18:19 19:1	<b>polluters</b> 124:22	<b>possible</b> 18:17 19:6
26:10 29:3,9 31:6	<b>plug</b> 76:14 349:2	19:10,14,15,16,18	127:7 129:1,19	58:5 130:13
35:9 38:9 39:15	<b>plugged</b> 46:16	19:21 20:7 21:13	131:9	259:21 265:17
46:13 53:16 54:19	<b>plus</b> 330:4	22:8 24:8 35:5	<b>polluting</b> 131:4	295:12,16 302:15
57:14 59:10,20,21	<b>plutonium</b> 62:5,11	39:3 44:12 45:15	<b>pollution</b> 57:8,11	313:16 317:20
70:7 78:7 79:18	64:2,9 67:17 76:7	46:4 105:22	127:14 129:17	319:13 361:12
90:5 111:7 142:19	120:16,18 133:9	106:21 135:17	130:18 131:17	<b>possibly</b> 172:10
150:7,15 151:6	136:2,8 159:15,21	137:7,13,15,19,20	281:8	332:4
153:13,18 154:13	160:4,6,17,22	137:21 141:4	<b>pool</b> 35:12 81:10	<b>post</b> 354:11
154:14 155:9	161:9 163:20,22	142:4,15 143:11	215:16 254:18	<b>posted</b> 8:14 9:9
166:18 260:7	191:1 203:12	143:13 145:5	332:21	<b>posture</b> 92:9
262:9 279:18	230:10 288:17	146:11 147:6	<b>pools</b> 104:22	<b>post-graduation</b>
281:5 283:1 299:8	291:9 316:3 329:4	155:7 194:5	<b>poor</b> 126:12 129:3	208:10
318:4,11 337:10	369:17,18,20,20	196:11 198:5	130:4 131:7	<b>post-Yucca</b> 72:8
339:4,5 355:21	370:3,3	223:6 238:18	170:15 180:4,8,11	<b>potential</b> 14:18
358:20	<b>plutonium-laced</b>	251:19 264:10	180:15,20 299:22	38:3 94:15 118:16
<b>plate</b> 332:5	133:8	278:16 280:7	300:2,8 335:22	143:19 149:3
<b>play</b> 37:8,11 38:11	<b>pocketbook</b> 328:12	283:12,21,22	<b>Pope</b> 214:13	152:1 157:2

196:16 198:10	355:21 377:9,13	118:13 122:21	280:7 361:16,17	<b>private</b> 38:15
215:7 249:17	377:16 379:7	200:2 205:18	369:5	181:20 182:1
268:19 304:2	380:14 389:17,20	265:12 374:15	<b>presidential</b> 336:10	205:3 270:19
305:15 332:4	389:21 390:5,8	<b>presentations</b> 8:18	<b>President's</b> 105:21	292:5 376:6
368:21 387:21	391:20 392:1	8:22 336:18 342:6	<b>presiding</b> 1:10	<b>privilege</b> 136:10
<b>pour</b> 143:9 219:8	<b>powered</b> 140:4	349:14 383:11	<b>pressing</b> 229:1	<b>privileged</b> 56:2
<b>poured</b> 63:5 361:5	<b>powering</b> 138:12	<b>presented</b> 112:16	233:15 242:15	221:11
<b>power</b> 7:20 11:6,7	139:18	114:13 117:7	245:9	<b>privy</b> 135:5
11:10,19,20,20,21	<b>powers</b> 377:16	118:15 119:1	<b>pressure</b> 117:2	<b>proactive</b> 234:12
12:1 13:2,6,12,14	<b>practical</b> 233:6	178:16 186:20	301:13	<b>proactively</b> 80:18
14:17 15:2,19	<b>practice</b> 155:7	224:10	<b>presume</b> 202:20	<b>probably</b> 54:19
18:8 19:3 20:15	352:2 354:19	<b>presenter</b> 235:6	<b>pretend</b> 329:13	185:4 197:9 202:4
21:19 27:8 28:21	<b>practices</b> 311:13	246:4 255:5	<b>pretext</b> 359:13	248:15 266:15
32:11 33:3 37:13	<b>preamble</b> 86:2	276:12,14 279:7	<b>pretty</b> 31:8 46:16	268:3 271:9 290:5
37:16 40:20 41:19	<b>precarious</b> 93:7	288:8 291:16	111:14 171:12	299:14 391:2
42:10 43:19 44:4	<b>precious</b> 139:8	294:1 296:18	292:10,19	392:21
45:5,10 52:20,22	<b>precise</b> 42:16,17	298:1 300:18	<b>prevent</b> 145:11	<b>problem</b> 7:11
53:16 55:6,9 57:4	<b>precisely</b> 354:14	303:5 306:3	309:18	52:15 56:14 57:8
58:14 59:1,3,6,7,8	<b>preclude</b> 281:7	308:13 312:18	<b>prevented</b> 318:22	58:13 60:19 66:5
59:14,18 65:3	<b>predict</b> 43:8	314:8 317:9	<b>previous</b> 38:10	66:6 71:22 72:8
69:20 70:7 71:16	<b>predicting</b> 38:8	319:19 324:12	134:13 135:5	90:9 157:6 176:12
73:9 76:1 77:20	<b>preemployment</b>	327:14 330:16	270:15 286:16	176:12,13,15
78:4,7,22 79:4,17	212:18	333:5 335:12	304:21	177:1,2 182:3
81:14,15,20 82:4	<b>prefabrication</b>	337:17 340:4	<b>previously</b> 23:18	186:13,14 241:1
83:10 86:2,9,13	90:7	341:8 344:5 346:8	90:4,12 145:6	268:21 275:19
93:20 103:2	<b>preliminary</b> 183:6	355:3	<b>pre-employment</b>	295:1 297:18
138:14,18 144:11	<b>premature</b> 140:9	<b>presenters</b> 128:16	209:6	307:10 317:3
144:14 150:7	<b>premise</b> 57:3	180:19 276:6	<b>price</b> 111:9 356:20	337:3 339:14
154:13,14 155:9	<b>preparation</b> 160:18	393:12	<b>pride</b> 55:2	355:12 359:17
166:17 179:10	<b>prepare</b> 163:16	<b>presenting</b> 97:12	<b>prides</b> 25:10	<b>problems</b> 74:14
189:21 190:1	214:22 260:21	<b>presently</b> 290:20	<b>primarily</b> 113:1	80:22 158:9 192:8
195:1 224:8	261:10 347:6	307:22 346:16	131:7 163:18	252:9 293:5 308:4
230:12 237:22	369:16	<b>preserve</b> 100:17	<b>primary</b> 176:17,17	320:14 335:1
242:8 261:11	<b>prepared</b> 51:16	106:15	179:14,15 229:10	337:6
263:5 268:3	92:6 194:13	<b>preserved</b> 21:11	238:10 286:21	<b>problem-solving</b>
277:21 279:17,18	259:22 330:21	23:20 232:11	336:10	242:13
279:22 280:20	<b>preparing</b> 222:9	254:1,16	<b>principal</b> 111:1	<b>procedure</b> 170:11
281:5,7,14,18	257:1	<b>preserving</b> 240:13	<b>principle</b> 106:12	<b>procedures</b> 166:9
282:22 297:19	<b>prescribed</b> 269:14	<b>President</b> 4:3 6:17	<b>principles</b> 252:17	166:11 181:11,19
298:13,15,18	<b>prescribes</b> 189:15	10:12,20 27:20	<b>prior</b> 9:15 39:14	277:13
299:8,11,12,13,18	<b>presence</b> 236:14	68:15 71:13 106:6	108:7 166:13	<b>proceed</b> 51:5 77:11
300:2 312:12	<b>present</b> 1:12,17	148:7 155:4	190:17	88:21 114:6 255:6
318:3,6,11 325:19	54:9 130:18 260:9	156:18 183:6	<b>priorities</b> 106:19	271:4 275:18
326:10,17 327:22	290:18 302:6	186:3 225:21	304:8	<b>proceedings</b> 9:7
329:16 333:21	305:13	235:9 242:20	<b>priority</b> 158:17	133:15 136:19
338:4 339:1,4,5	<b>presentation</b> 24:16	245:13 246:12	277:17 385:7	<b>process</b> 8:13 15:15
339:12 350:8	48:18 117:7	254:14 255:8	<b>prisoners</b> 336:3	18:21 21:15 22:6

22:19 23:12 29:20	210:15 214:7	136:3 162:3	<b>proportions</b> 334:5	288:1,4,14 290:6
38:18 39:2 106:7	230:7 350:16	189:13 192:21	<b>proposal</b> 63:2	372:6 377:18
113:5 115:16	<b>productive</b> 67:19	198:3 216:1	75:15 309:1	<b>provided</b> 54:22
117:14 130:6	78:2 80:20 85:20	253:13,21 254:6	<b>proposals</b> 115:10	83:8 86:1,7
135:4 160:4 176:7	96:16 109:10	260:20 261:8	358:22 359:14,15	105:18 130:13
176:8 181:18	199:17	370:12	<b>propose</b> 165:21	140:2 142:21
182:21 192:20	<b>products</b> 100:1	<b>progress</b> 42:7	267:17,20 287:12	215:6,14 243:17
195:12 196:1	243:10	48:11 94:8 106:15	<b>proposed</b> 116:18	244:9 254:3
197:5 202:18	<b>profession</b> 211:1	194:16 304:5	144:12 267:18	<b>provides</b> 84:5
204:2 205:8	376:18	<b>progresses</b> 235:3	389:20	137:11 277:6
216:14 247:17	<b>professional</b> 85:21	<b>progression</b> 14:1	<b>propositions</b>	377:11
258:9,14,16	209:10 381:19	14:14	265:15 266:12	<b>providing</b> 56:12
301:17 309:14	<b>professionalism</b>	<b>progressives</b> 343:3	<b>pros</b> 320:22	242:10 295:18
313:10 321:3	227:14	343:11	<b>prosper</b> 59:2	386:21
338:3 341:19	<b>professionals</b> 79:3	<b>prohibiting</b> 251:19	<b>prosperity</b> 228:2	<b>proximity</b> 151:6
343:13 358:6	178:19 256:2	<b>project</b> 15:5,18	<b>protect</b> 277:14	<b>proxy</b> 384:2,2
374:17 383:20	278:7	17:20 18:2,6	339:2	<b>PSC</b> 154:20
388:1	<b>professions</b> 78:13	21:17,18,20 37:1	<b>protected</b> 31:13	<b>PSR</b> 317:9
<b>processed</b> 95:11	260:22	37:2 82:11,19	140:22	<b>psychiatrist</b> 333:10
160:13,16 222:13	<b>professor</b> 150:18	83:9 86:6 87:8,21	<b>protecting</b> 241:16	<b>psychiatry</b> 333:11
223:12 291:9	294:11 333:11	114:5 162:9,14	<b>protection</b> 128:11	<b>psychological</b>
325:8	<b>program</b> 22:1,2,4	193:16 297:5	176:5 189:19	125:16 126:1
<b>processes</b> 99:14	76:20 83:7 99:20	310:12 379:9	215:9 218:8 257:4	<b>public</b> 2:18 4:21
163:13	99:21,22 120:19	<b>projects</b> 79:15	257:13	6:4 9:13,17 15:14
<b>processing</b> 134:18	127:20 128:7	82:22 296:4 324:6	<b>protocol</b> 141:18	18:19 22:17 31:20
250:20 252:20	143:20,22 144:5	<b>project-specific</b>	142:13 143:17	38:15 44:11 45:15
294:19,21 296:5	165:9 166:1 177:6	82:8	146:10 147:4	46:4 102:6 115:21
323:17 345:18	177:7 198:15	<b>proliferation</b> 66:2	<b>protocols</b> 145:9	117:4,9,14 133:7
354:13 362:9	207:2,22 208:16	66:6,7 72:19	166:2	135:3,17 150:19
383:16	208:16,22 209:2	130:1 295:12,17	<b>proud</b> 54:5 228:3	168:10,10 170:18
<b>Proctor</b> 327:2	210:10,12,19	316:4	237:14 238:3	170:20 174:12
<b>produce</b> 37:14,15	211:18 212:6,9,14	<b>promise</b> 105:21	245:1 358:10	176:7 190:2
149:5 262:5 281:6	212:15 213:4,20	<b>promised</b> 72:16	361:17 386:7,8,12	194:22 195:8,11
<b>produced</b> 13:21	214:16 216:18,22	<b>promises</b> 302:2	<b>proudly</b> 227:20	195:21 196:3
47:8 59:14 103:22	217:3,15 218:7,9	<b>promote</b> 230:20	<b>proved</b> 120:5	197:8 201:4
113:1 123:5 132:5	218:16,16 219:21	358:8	<b>proven</b> 133:19	224:15 238:18
143:1 338:21	220:5 225:2	<b>Promoting</b> 129:5	232:5 243:3 251:3	241:17 264:16
390:7,8	242:22 243:2,9	<b>promotion</b> 238:11	278:1 377:15	275:2,18 277:16
<b>producers</b> 123:21	244:5 253:7 257:5	<b>prompt</b> 289:3	<b>provide</b> 53:17	280:20 281:10,12
127:6 129:1,18	257:9,11,14,22	<b>pronged</b> 196:12	77:15 84:13 85:11	311:7,14,20 312:5
<b>producing</b> 55:7	259:3 287:13,14	<b>prop</b> 141:13	85:20 93:9 137:10	312:7,12 316:5
61:14 144:13	294:13	<b>proper</b> 280:19	141:16,20 142:4	318:17,21 330:22
149:6 388:22	<b>programmatically</b>	<b>properly</b> 93:9	144:15 165:6	347:16 348:7
<b>production</b> 13:12	256:7	<b>property</b> 53:19	189:1,8 197:12	354:14 355:9
14:4 59:1 69:20	<b>programming</b>	<b>proponents</b> 323:1	199:5 216:21	361:19 367:5,13
137:14 144:16	258:21	<b>proportionate</b>	249:10 256:14	369:13 374:18,22
179:6 192:22	<b>programs</b> 104:1	304:14	261:7 285:16	374:22 375:1

377:1 383:14 384:3 <b>publication</b> 176:7 196:6 <b>publicly</b> 374:11,12 <b>published</b> 313:4 <b>pucks</b> 161:9,10 <b>pull</b> 76:14 182:10 <b>pulled</b> 120:21 213:22 <b>pulse</b> 384:10 <b>purchase</b> 104:20 <b>pure</b> 163:20 301:6 313:11 <b>purely</b> 301:9 <b>purifies</b> 316:3 <b>purpose</b> 6:17 72:3 107:2 221:21 270:4 <b>purposes</b> 108:19 120:2 392:2 <b>pursing</b> 224:16 257:20 <b>pursuant</b> 15:17 35:5 <b>pursue</b> 144:1 146:5 181:8 306:20 333:20 <b>pursued</b> 161:12 249:14 <b>pursuing</b> 181:10 258:10,16 291:3 <b>pursuit</b> 133:19 <b>push</b> 121:18 <b>pushed</b> 63:18 <b>pushing</b> 120:4 <b>put</b> 8:22 14:6 32:3 33:10 40:15 42:19 44:15 65:3 68:20 122:10 143:9 149:22 155:21 156:2 157:22 161:12 166:10 173:18 189:7 232:21 251:9 252:10 267:13 275:3 316:6 326:5	334:20 335:1 337:1 341:2 345:13 349:2 357:13 361:22 367:1 373:16 375:12 <b>puts</b> 137:17 269:19 <b>putting</b> 81:6 196:18 275:7 <b>puzzle</b> 57:17 149:21 150:1 <b>puzzled</b> 135:2 <b>PWR</b> 11:9,15 <b>PWRs</b> 26:16,19 <b>P-R-O-C-E-E-D-...</b> 5:1 <b>p.m</b> 187:5 188:2 393:19 <hr/> <b>Q</b> <hr/> <b>qualified</b> 46:9,12 78:14 80:20 81:12 215:15 261:20 289:7 332:15 387:5,6 <b>quality</b> 93:9 146:21 258:20,21 283:19 285:17 <b>qualms</b> 341:18 <b>quantities</b> 262:6 321:7 <b>quantity</b> 224:14 295:13 <b>quarter</b> 103:1 <b>quest</b> 230:3 <b>question</b> 27:15 37:21 46:6 56:17 80:8,10 88:18 89:4,22 90:14 91:6 123:17 124:3 128:13,20 145:21 157:19,20 158:19 161:2 164:18 165:4 173:18 194:21 201:8,15 261:18 268:10 270:1,14 273:1	304:21 326:12 334:8 348:4 354:6 362:21 <b>questioners</b> 365:16 <b>questioning</b> 124:12 <b>questions</b> 8:19 24:13,17 26:8 55:14,15,19 73:12 87:1,5 91:10 123:1 157:12,17 183:11 186:16 200:8,21 217:8,12 225:10,14 245:22 265:8 292:15 321:19 <b>quick</b> 342:10 361:13 <b>quickly</b> 257:9 339:14 342:4 <b>quiet</b> 126:13 <b>quit</b> 356:22 357:6 <b>quite</b> 30:20 45:20 57:18 66:3 88:10 88:15 160:6 304:7 334:4 <b>quote</b> 122:6 337:6 <b>quoted</b> 5:21 <hr/> <b>R</b> <hr/> <b>rabbi's</b> 337:7 <b>race</b> 71:9 <b>racial</b> 130:15 <b>radiation</b> 257:4,13 281:14,16 292:12 318:10,15 330:13 339:17 <b>radio</b> 172:15 <b>radioactive</b> 23:4 50:10 98:18 102:17 103:21 104:4,5 121:8 124:3,10,22 126:15 127:5 128:22 129:9 132:5 150:9,22 195:14 222:5 241:3 295:5	298:22 304:12 309:19 310:17 314:12,17 317:21 318:14,21 319:8 319:12 320:18,21 321:7 338:1,16,20 362:7 <b>radioactivity</b> 250:11 317:15 318:8 <b>radiological</b> 214:3 <b>radius</b> 202:8 <b>rain</b> 171:21 <b>raised</b> 41:7 125:7 201:8 219:7 276:21 321:19 <b>raises</b> 74:3 <b>raising</b> 384:5 <b>ran</b> 173:11,14,15 208:19 282:21 283:2 <b>range</b> 106:9 210:4 210:6 213:4,5 <b>ranks</b> 103:13 <b>rapidly</b> 237:9 <b>rate</b> 28:12 154:15 277:20 <b>ratepayer</b> 328:5 329:18 <b>ratepayers</b> 244:8 287:18 329:8 355:20 <b>rational</b> 63:12,18 71:15 <b>rationale</b> 105:17 <b>rationalizations</b> 321:21 <b>ravages</b> 125:8 <b>Ray</b> 155:4 <b>reach</b> 94:14 174:2 176:20 261:16 <b>reached</b> 176:9 332:20 <b>reaching</b> 176:21 <b>reaction</b> 23:3 31:21 31:21 <b>reactor</b> 11:12 16:5	18:21 25:22 26:1 28:19 79:9 92:14 99:11 104:18 114:19,22 119:15 119:17 136:11 143:6 144:9 160:3 162:8 164:7,8 190:22 192:22 242:18 268:16 314:21 316:1,20 354:1 364:8,8 <b>reactors</b> 11:6 25:18 26:12 27:1,1 44:16 45:11 55:7 92:17 100:3 118:16 119:20,21 119:21 144:8,9 152:11,11 168:1 171:6,9 190:13 191:4 230:12 241:10 242:8,9 264:6 317:2 318:12 364:14 <b>reactor's</b> 104:22 197:12 <b>read</b> 41:20 98:1 101:8,11,21 108:12 329:21 330:5 336:15,16 340:16 <b>readily</b> 233:13 <b>readiness</b> 253:19 <b>reading</b> 24:4 <b>reads</b> 108:12 <b>ready</b> 47:14 101:3 134:19 156:20 222:13 227:15 245:8 262:20 263:19 314:2 371:18 <b>Reagan</b> 2:2 101:12 <b>real</b> 12:7 17:21 147:22 176:15 193:12 243:19 329:15 335:6 <b>realistic</b> 139:10,19 <b>reality</b> 65:14 78:13
--	--	---	---	---



111:15 169:17	<b>received</b> 53:13	<b>recommended</b>	346:2	273:14,18
<b>realize</b> 144:13	95:10 209:14	352:10	<b>red</b> 276:2,2	<b>regards</b> 48:19 98:5
149:4,12,13	212:17 228:11	<b>recommending</b>	<b>Redirect</b> 382:15	<b>region</b> 8:5 73:20
150:11 151:11	277:7 352:17	21:6 181:16 190:5	<b>redirected</b> 251:5	100:4,11 102:18
152:4,16 155:22	<b>receiving</b> 131:14	<b>recommends</b> 93:1	<b>redirecting</b> 382:12	103:19 111:11
156:16,18 158:20	241:8	<b>reconcile</b> 266:19	<b>reduce</b> 23:16 66:1	214:13,20 226:8
331:4,20 332:3	<b>reception</b> 170:16	<b>Reconciliation</b>	85:20 99:15	226:17 227:8,18
379:13,20	171:20	301:18	240:12 295:11,17	229:15 230:22
<b>realized</b> 14:4 72:4	<b>recess</b> 107:13	<b>reconfigure</b> 197:4	297:17 304:16	234:15 235:11,16
391:22	186:22	<b>reconsider</b> 289:10	352:13	236:5,16,22
<b>realizing</b> 156:5	<b>recessed</b> 107:17	<b>record</b> 20:12 24:21	<b>reduced</b> 248:9	237:20 240:5
<b>really</b> 29:1 48:21	<b>recession</b> 81:3	26:9,15 33:17	<b>reducing</b> 37:8	244:18 245:16
50:15 63:15 64:5	<b>reckless</b> 350:13	52:12 94:2 98:4	224:13 280:16	246:19 248:3,7,8
67:11 77:6 87:21	<b>reclaim</b> 295:14	107:19 137:1,3	<b>reduction</b> 136:5	248:13 249:1,4
87:22 88:15	<b>recognize</b> 7:5 8:4	187:4 223:4 228:4	303:18 304:20	250:2 253:5
111:17 141:12	43:12 98:12	231:4 232:5 241:7	<b>redundant</b> 277:12	254:13 256:9,12
160:15 161:18	100:17 101:1	250:22 278:1	<b>reengineer</b> 197:4	256:17 259:12,14
163:3 169:22	184:6 199:8	284:7,21 288:4	<b>reevaluated</b> 196:21	259:20 260:15
179:2 181:1 185:9	200:18 229:21	306:15 348:14	<b>reexamined</b> 287:7	261:8 301:11
293:8 299:18	243:11 245:14	359:11 367:1,2	<b>refer</b> 139:21	319:10 384:11
300:7 316:22	254:7 261:14	<b>records</b> 12:22	184:12	<b>regional</b> 82:7
323:21 326:9,14	309:9 338:14	<b>recovered</b> 311:8	<b>reference</b> 136:19	228:21 229:9
327:7 341:16	368:10 383:18	<b>recovering</b> 224:12	243:20	231:22 259:5
342:11,13,19	<b>recognized</b> 258:18	<b>recovery</b> 36:13	<b>referenced</b> 131:14	260:16 301:8
355:15,15 365:10	261:5	<b>recruit</b> 49:12 52:15	<b>referring</b> 128:16	302:21
366:12 367:20,20	<b>Recognizing</b> 81:9	<b>recruited</b> 85:12	177:16	<b>region's</b> 228:5
380:7,20 391:19	<b>recommend</b> 6:20	207:8	<b>refined</b> 39:20	236:10 239:7
392:1,11 393:3,6	23:18 69:3 70:1	<b>recruiting</b> 54:18	<b>reflect</b> 133:13	255:16 264:18
<b>realtor</b> 371:6	134:5 223:15	<b>recruitment</b> 208:10	288:13 328:11	<b>regrets</b> 92:3
<b>real-time</b> 128:6	243:16 244:3	208:18 212:9	<b>reform</b> 23:11 69:18	<b>regular</b> 362:4
<b>reason</b> 22:13 37:4	263:1 278:11	<b>recruits</b> 213:6	<b>reformation</b> 22:5	<b>regulation</b> 40:13
44:2 69:13 76:12	286:18,20 287:11	<b>recycle</b> 85:22 99:11	<b>reformed</b> 38:18	<b>regulations</b> 15:17
192:5 198:12	297:15 352:5	119:16 242:18	39:4	39:6 275:4 303:17
203:9 240:15	353:22	<b>recycled</b> 142:3	<b>refueling</b> 46:13	<b>regulatory</b> 12:17
292:17 315:9	<b>recommendation</b>	321:2	<b>refugee</b> 376:7	13:1 19:4 36:12
<b>reasonable</b> 69:7	23:11 99:19 100:6	<b>recycles</b> 100:2	<b>refusal</b> 94:7	37:5 38:22 39:5
70:16 72:1 96:18	201:9 242:20	<b>recycling</b> 23:6 66:1	<b>refused</b> 291:1	40:5 55:12 79:10
195:13 197:14	314:4 385:6 390:6	75:17 96:1,11	<b>regard</b> 34:13 98:16	132:22 196:22
393:14	393:8	99:14 105:14	286:7 354:6	203:6 274:22
<b>reasons</b> 19:20 49:1	<b>recommendations</b>	111:20 136:3	<b>regarding</b> 93:4	279:8,11 290:3
114:15 177:17	13:7 43:14 95:17	141:18 142:13	177:9 180:3	304:22 305:2
207:21 316:22	102:10 122:18	143:6,17 145:9	184:10 188:20	374:21
391:16	189:9 195:4	147:4 164:2 166:2	189:12 194:11	<b>reigns</b> 217:2
<b>recall</b> 33:13 163:11	204:20 245:12	192:2,6,20 197:17	199:2 225:8	<b>reinvent</b> 205:10
<b>receipt</b> 15:22	286:5 302:9,16,19	197:22 198:2,4,16	294:17 383:11	<b>reinventing</b> 205:9
<b>receipts</b> 21:22	335:4 348:22	231:13,17 278:11	<b>regardless</b> 106:18	<b>reinvigorate</b> 25:2
<b>receive</b> 260:2	352:3 354:7	295:10,22 345:20	243:12 249:12	<b>reiterate</b> 105:7

192:17 241:11 313:6 <b>relate</b> 268:19 274:9 <b>related</b> 98:14 125:15,20 126:3 162:19 195:7 230:16 248:5 305:10 <b>relates</b> 37:21 89:22 129:21 274:10 <b>relation</b> 305:12 321:12 <b>relations</b> 1:23 4:9 77:9 270:18,20 <b>relationship</b> 28:15 221:14,16 247:9 <b>relationships</b> 208:5 216:7 <b>relative</b> 43:22 131:15 289:15 <b>relatively</b> 163:20 236:11 <b>released</b> 318:21 <b>releases</b> 171:7 299:16 382:6 <b>reliable</b> 14:3 72:2,6 137:11 224:7 262:3 298:14 <b>reliably</b> 365:19 <b>reluctant</b> 61:11 <b>rely</b> 108:17,18 319:14 <b>remain</b> 20:22 27:11 50:9 104:1 134:20 250:7 286:21 307:22 316:21 354:16 <b>remained</b> 236:10 <b>remaining</b> 8:19 44:14 <b>remains</b> 241:20 254:2 295:15 305:7 314:16 <b>remarkable</b> 88:16 <b>remarks</b> 51:16 92:6 137:3,4 189:1 238:21	247:4 288:1 313:5 <b>remediation</b> 206:11 212:17 213:1 214:1 215:10 <b>remember</b> 34:3,4 52:15 95:7 140:20 160:7 340:19,21 355:8 368:15 <b>remind</b> 6:22 8:16 207:14 318:9 <b>reminder</b> 186:13 317:1 <b>remote</b> 80:21 <b>removal</b> 289:1 <b>remove</b> 133:8 353:10 <b>removed</b> 94:21 141:9 157:22 215:17 302:4 370:4 <b>removing</b> 104:18 283:22 <b>renaissance</b> 25:2 55:3 69:16 70:3 70:10 71:6 77:20 81:20 86:13 127:10 261:11,15 279:3 296:10 <b>renew</b> 353:9 <b>renewable</b> 116:2 149:20 298:12 300:10 319:14 328:20 339:6 379:18 380:11 <b>renewal</b> 13:14 <b>renovations</b> 46:15 <b>reopen</b> 376:13 <b>repair</b> 46:15 <b>reparations</b> 350:18 <b>repeat</b> 70:19 234:7 <b>repeated</b> 353:20 <b>replace</b> 40:21 57:14 145:1 259:14 339:9 <b>replaced</b> 52:11 <b>replacement</b> 144:2	<b>replacements</b> 144:18 <b>replicate</b> 283:14 <b>replicated</b> 219:16 219:19 <b>replicates</b> 216:1 <b>replicating</b> 220:5 <b>report</b> 15:4 24:4 99:18 114:7 242:19 253:20 255:2 347:7 348:22 370:9 <b>reported</b> 79:7 <b>reporter</b> 341:22 342:1,2 <b>reports</b> 82:17 150:19 369:5 <b>repositories</b> 197:17 198:15 <b>repository</b> 20:1,18 21:1,4,15 22:17 23:5,12,12 34:10 50:9 60:5 62:18 94:3,5,17 95:19 98:11 99:1,16 102:16 104:2 112:22 134:12,14 135:6 142:5,6,9 142:10 158:1,2,7 190:18 191:12,15 191:21 197:16,18 197:20 222:3,19 223:7,13,16 224:17 231:12,15 232:17 234:1,7,9 239:16,20 240:10 243:13,17 249:10 249:13,19 254:3 265:17 266:20 278:14 286:20,22 295:8 297:5 301:20 304:18 311:15,17 312:13 316:20 368:13,15 368:22 369:3 370:21 392:6 <b>represent</b> 12:19	139:10,17 163:6 235:15 246:18 255:15 278:6 303:22 <b>representative</b> 2:3 4:14,15 101:21 108:5 211:22 <b>representatives</b> 101:16 128:15 168:11 189:18 220:17 <b>represented</b> 353:4 353:18 <b>representing</b> 1:22 169:13 276:15 288:9 290:10 300:18 303:6 306:3 310:7 358:7 <b>represents</b> 141:9 165:19 236:3 247:6 384:4 <b>reprisals</b> 126:4 <b>reprocess</b> 44:7 113:18 314:20 <b>reprocessed</b> 241:3 290:21 <b>reprocessing</b> 44:19 65:7 66:1,3 67:10 72:17,19 99:3 111:21 113:9,10 113:15 114:6,9,14 114:17 115:11,14 115:20 116:1,6,16 117:3,12,17 118:18 119:22 120:5,13,17,21 121:9,16,19 122:14,20 133:16 134:1,7 136:22 162:7 164:3 165:8 190:20 192:4,18 230:18 231:13,18 232:4,13 237:19 251:15,20 252:7 252:13,14 253:7 254:6 266:2,14 267:7 280:10,12	289:15,16 290:16 291:4 307:14 309:4,13 315:8,14 315:17 316:2,8 320:7,21,22 321:6 322:1 328:21 329:4 337:11 352:9,12 356:6 357:9 359:14 362:3,3,6,8,9 392:12,14 <b>reprogram</b> 98:14 <b>Republican</b> 58:3 <b>reputation</b> 68:20 <b>request</b> 131:21 223:14 244:2 257:6 302:13 <b>requests</b> 279:1 <b>require</b> 253:22 354:18 <b>required</b> 41:9 79:3 79:14 83:16 191:13 214:20 224:19 231:16 239:13 243:20 250:10 323:14 <b>requirement</b> 143:4 354:10 <b>requirements</b> 16:7 18:5 27:6 141:21 146:12 <b>requires</b> 14:21 18:13 159:14 307:7 333:15 <b>requiring</b> 99:1,16 146:17 224:15 <b>rescue</b> 115:3 <b>research</b> 33:15 65:12 75:19 94:11 100:3 114:18,22 134:7 135:22 138:4,8 143:19 149:1 162:8 164:7 165:22 190:22 192:21 232:14 233:6 236:21 241:10 266:2,13
--	---	--	--	--

266:18 267:14	231:9 240:21	<b>retaining</b> 17:4	150:17	274:13 316:4,5,5
269:17 287:12	251:10 325:14,15	<b>retire</b> 193:14	<b>Richmond</b> 32:5	<b>river</b> 2:7 4:18 5:17
339:17 342:14,15	331:8 353:8 354:7	<b>retired</b> 40:22 78:12	229:18 246:20	7:5,9 12:10 30:22
364:8,13 393:3	390:16	135:19 294:10	<b>rid</b> 186:8 290:17	31:3 53:3 56:10
<b>researching</b> 267:7	<b>respectfully</b> 302:13	322:10 344:8	291:11	61:21 65:12 66:9
<b>resenting</b> 306:7	<b>respective</b> 227:10	383:8	<b>Ridge</b> 2:9 110:1	68:7 72:15 92:11
<b>resentment</b> 326:15	<b>respects</b> 39:16	<b>retiree</b> 376:7 383:5	173:13 174:15	93:12 94:20 95:21
<b>reserved</b> 6:4	376:9 377:6	<b>retirees</b> 259:14	297:2 338:12	96:12 97:17,19
<b>reside</b> 100:11	<b>respond</b> 47:11,11	<b>retirement</b> 80:4	<b>Ridgeway</b> 2:22	98:16 99:5,6
251:12	131:5 204:17	259:17 346:15	288:10 290:11,12	100:5 102:5
<b>residence</b> 322:9	<b>responding</b> 354:5	383:6	291:17,18,19	103:18 104:4
<b>resident</b> 51:10	<b>response</b> 168:4	<b>retrieved</b> 164:11	292:1,3	109:8,20 112:15
135:13 189:4	177:14 205:13	<b>return</b> 20:8 107:14	<b>ridiculous</b> 300:5	113:2,14 115:14
255:9 346:14	275:11 334:7	226:13 287:21	<b>right</b> 11:9,17 14:21	116:10,21 117:8
<b>residential</b> 30:1,15	351:11,15	323:5 360:4	14:21 18:1 30:21	118:12,13 121:3,6
31:5	<b>responsibilities</b>	<b>returned</b> 52:3,5	33:22 34:4 41:15	124:11 127:21
<b>residents</b> 215:15	204:11	164:8	42:20 43:2 46:21	133:2 135:20
226:22 247:22	<b>responsibility</b> 7:6	<b>reuse</b> 2:14 220:20	60:15 66:2 74:16	136:15 144:7
248:2 256:16,19	22:16,20 156:17	226:2 229:4 259:4	75:1 108:3 112:10	145:8 147:10
<b>resides</b> 200:21	249:9 271:19	284:2	113:13 116:9	151:18 171:8
<b>residual</b> 67:6	278:19 320:2	<b>revealed</b> 323:4	130:9 146:19	191:11 203:8,17
<b>residue</b> 63:4	322:13 331:12	<b>revenues</b> 32:14	152:7,9 156:21,22	205:18 207:11,21
<b>resiliency</b> 236:12	<b>responsible</b> 22:7	204:14	158:22 177:10	208:14 209:4,21
<b>resist</b> 302:14	57:13 145:15	<b>review</b> 6:18 16:9	188:22 201:21	210:13 211:21
<b>resolution</b> 105:9	195:13 209:12	105:20 182:17	202:11 219:4	212:16 213:1
162:5,10,11	302:3 310:1	228:14 287:4	282:9 314:12	214:1 215:5
199:12	<b>rest</b> 107:16 143:10	347:19 370:7	315:1 322:18	218:14,19 220:4
<b>resolve</b> 19:12 225:8	162:14 363:3	387:21	325:10 331:13	221:18 222:22
233:15 242:15	<b>restart</b> 162:7	<b>reviewed</b> 347:20	339:19 347:5	224:21 225:1
<b>resolving</b> 225:6	<b>restoration</b> 215:9	<b>revise</b> 133:13	351:6 364:15,22	226:1,5 227:1,18
230:15 254:11	<b>restoring</b> 128:5	<b>revision</b> 152:16	365:17 366:7	228:16 229:7,12
<b>resource</b> 116:2	<b>restrain</b> 300:14	<b>revival</b> 12:8	<b>rights</b> 369:10	230:2 231:22
134:4,7 139:12	<b>result</b> 82:3 104:19	<b>reward</b> 72:5	<b>right-size</b> 144:16	232:18 234:10
165:17,20 232:19	127:5 128:20	<b>re-evaluate</b> 22:6	<b>rigorous</b> 41:21	236:15 237:15
234:16 252:8	203:14	<b>Rhodes</b> 2:25	43:7 198:14	238:5 239:15
298:16 342:12	<b>resulting</b> 190:15	300:20 303:7	258:14	241:1,4 243:4,5
385:11	222:5 224:3 248:9	306:3,6	<b>Riley</b> 122:7 357:12	244:17 245:15
<b>resources</b> 106:16	<b>results</b> 268:8	<b>Ribbon</b> 1:1 5:11	<b>rings</b> 168:20	247:8,11,14 249:2
109:6 130:2	<b>resume</b> 187:1	6:10 48:13 92:22	<b>rise</b> 127:9 363:5	250:14,19 251:13
140:10 178:8	352:10 353:19	108:13 110:14	<b>rises</b> 168:21	253:2,3,3 254:8
230:5 269:21	<b>resumed</b> 107:20	134:5,22 148:2	<b>risk</b> 37:9 295:12,17	254:17 260:5
283:19 300:9	187:5	173:19 306:19	303:22 304:7,14	262:11 264:18
302:10 309:6	<b>resumes</b> 188:11	309:20 312:4	304:16,19 305:7	265:19 277:1
313:20 327:5	<b>resurgence</b> 78:3	358:17 360:12	305:12 329:11	279:19 280:11
339:10 348:9	261:19	361:16	390:11,12	283:3 284:11
353:5	<b>retain</b> 49:12 98:10	<b>rich</b> 375:11	<b>risks</b> 72:1 113:8	285:14 286:14
<b>respect</b> 29:3 145:20	317:2 353:15	<b>Richard</b> 1:15	122:20 199:3	287:9,15 288:9,18

289:2 294:9,17,18	<b>Ronnie</b> 2:13 220:19	s 318:6	384:16,18,19,20	228:16 229:7,12
295:21 296:13	<b>room</b> 112:21 211:6	<b>sacrifices</b> 358:12	385:2	230:2 231:21
303:19 308:21	343:20 349:8,12	<b>sad</b> 153:15 328:8	<b>salaries</b> 361:20	232:18 234:10
309:15 310:11	374:8	<b>safe</b> 55:13 67:19	<b>salary</b> 210:21	236:15 237:15
311:3,10,14,21	<b>rooms</b> 349:7	80:19 85:20 94:11	<b>salt</b> 354:13	238:5 239:15
314:22 316:10	<b>root</b> 195:9 238:16	94:21 106:2	<b>Samantha</b> 3:1	240:22 241:4
338:13 339:2	<b>Rose</b> 3:14 363:15	137:12,14 150:8	303:7 306:4	243:4,5 244:17
340:11,12 344:15	366:9 368:6	150:14,20 151:2	308:13,17	245:15 247:7,11
344:19 345:1,12	<b>Ross</b> 2:4 101:8,9	172:17,18,21	<b>sand</b> 345:2	247:13 249:2
345:15,21 348:9	108:8,9,10	193:22 199:5	<b>sands</b> 324:5	250:14,19 251:12
352:7,11,17 356:8	<b>route</b> 314:21	250:8,11 262:2	<b>sandstone</b> 345:8,9	253:1,3,3 254:8
358:13 360:22	<b>routine</b> 299:8	277:5 293:11,11	<b>sandy</b> 121:7 335:19	254:17 260:5
368:21 369:19,21	<b>routinely</b> 41:22	293:12 298:14	345:7	262:11 264:18
370:5,13,16,20	<b>ruinously</b> 315:10	299:20 309:22	<b>Sanford</b> 203:18	265:19 277:1
371:13 372:9,11	<b>rule</b> 27:21 205:9	318:6,9 320:17	<b>Sanmen</b> 25:20	279:19 280:11
373:22,22 377:10	297:13 357:12	340:20 362:15,20	<b>satisfactorily</b>	283:3 284:11
383:5,14 384:13	371:15	363:1 377:18	261:22	285:14 286:14
385:7 386:6 387:4	<b>rules</b> 15:17 74:9	380:11	<b>satisfied</b> 245:5	287:9,15 288:9,18
387:13	76:19 145:19	<b>safeguarded</b>	<b>Savannah</b> 2:7 4:18	289:2 294:9,17,18
<b>Riverkeeper</b>	197:14 371:11	314:16	5:16 7:4,8 12:9	295:21 296:13
359:10	<b>run</b> 103:6 111:12	<b>safeguarding</b>	53:3 54:13 61:21	303:19 308:21
<b>rivers</b> 339:8	156:5 173:20	145:10	65:11 66:9 68:7	309:15 310:11
<b>Riverwalk</b> 1:10	194:1	<b>safeguards</b> 16:5	72:15 87:19 92:11	311:3,10,14,21
<b>roads</b> 171:20 319:5	<b>running</b> 173:9	22:3	93:12 94:20 95:21	314:22 316:10
<b>Rob</b> 214:13	280:17 299:14	<b>safely</b> 20:14 63:5	96:11 97:17,19	336:19 338:12
<b>Robert</b> 3:4,11	300:2 356:10	63:21 192:15	98:16 99:5,6	340:11,11 344:15
317:10 319:20	<b>rural</b> 53:11 54:5	262:16 315:21	100:5 102:5	344:19,22 345:11
322:4,8 351:14,21	151:21 175:21	365:18 377:3	103:18 104:4	345:12,15,21
<b>robust</b> 65:4 127:20	256:7	<b>safer</b> 62:8 76:3	109:8,20 111:10	348:9 352:7,11,17
128:5 169:3 176:7	<b>Rusche</b> 188:21	145:14 277:21	112:15 113:2,14	356:7 358:13
242:21	351:3,13,14	381:22 382:16	115:14 116:10,21	360:22 368:21
<b>rock</b> 173:15	<b>rush</b> 111:18 158:12	392:20	117:8 118:11,13	369:19,21 370:5
<b>rod</b> 141:8	<b>rushed</b> 112:12	<b>safest</b> 78:1 228:6,7	121:2,6 124:11	370:13,16,20
<b>rods</b> 315:22	<b>Russell</b> 3:8 335:13	228:17 241:13,14	127:21 133:2	371:13 372:9,11
<b>Rogers</b> 336:15	337:18 340:4	338:21	135:20 136:15	373:22,22 377:10
<b>Rokkasho</b> 120:14	341:11	<b>safety</b> 41:9,18 42:2	144:7 145:8 147:9	383:5,14 384:13
<b>role</b> 49:19 92:8	<b>Russia</b> 62:7 64:8	42:2,2 193:12	151:18 171:8	385:7 386:6 387:4
95:22 119:7	142:21 281:21	202:7 223:19	191:11 203:8,17	387:13
160:12 194:8	<b>Russian</b> 120:18	228:4,8,11,12	205:18 207:10,21	<b>save</b> 63:8,21 73:1
215:9 227:19	341:19	240:14 241:7	208:14 209:4,21	365:14 372:14
230:7 232:14	<b>Russians</b> 281:20	250:4,4 251:1	210:13 211:21	<b>saved</b> 75:5 372:11
237:16 238:7	357:1	274:20 275:1,4	212:16 213:1	372:12
243:6 251:7	<b>r,sum</b> 10:22	277:12,16 278:1,2	214:1 215:5	<b>saw</b> 87:22 111:9
254:10 259:1	<b>R&amp;D</b> 114:13	284:7,21 307:21	218:14,19 220:4	112:7 127:9
263:5 268:11,19	162:22 198:14	309:8 315:15	221:17 222:22	227:22 231:19
333:13 383:15		316:22 318:17	224:21 225:1	334:7,12 348:12
<b>roll</b> 173:15 211:11		367:14,17 371:14	226:1,5 227:1,17	361:9
	<b>S</b>			

<b>Saxby</b> 2:1 4:12 97:14	<b>scientists</b> 23:3 189:19 245:3	344:2,4 346:5,7 349:15 350:22	<b>secure</b> 55:13 93:16 94:12,16,22	133:10 134:15
<b>saying</b> 50:7 68:21 151:17 167:8	263:22 310:21 311:13 322:14	351:5,9,12,16 354:22 355:3	111:20 137:12 146:9 199:5	<b>selected</b> 15:16 209:1 212:14
226:15 298:13	337:5 378:4 382:14	357:19 360:15 363:10,13 366:4,7	233:11 354:2	223:20 297:6
<b>says</b> 170:19 277:19 299:21 370:1	<b>scope</b> 78:17 82:9	368:4 371:1 372:18 375:21	<b>secured</b> 31:17	301:9 368:22
<b>scalable</b> 262:4	<b>Scowcroft</b> 1:10,13 5:21 6:7,8 10:10	376:1 378:15,18 381:2,8 382:20	<b>securing</b> 180:11	<b>selection</b> 28:18 301:17 359:22
<b>scale</b> 326:11	24:14 26:5 37:19 41:1 47:18 48:3	383:1 385:14 389:4,7 390:19	<b>security</b> 30:4 31:8 58:13 61:16 77:20	383:18,20
<b>scared</b> 281:16,17	51:1 55:17,22 56:8 73:14,17	393:9	93:5,10,19 94:7 100:18,19 108:19	<b>self-determination</b> 129:5
<b>scattered</b> 245:7	74:3,13,17 77:5 77:13 87:2 88:13	<b>scrape</b> 63:13	142:15 143:5 145:22,22 146:7	<b>sell</b> 75:19
<b>scenarios</b> 15:10	89:20 91:9,14 97:2,8,15 101:4	<b>sea</b> 321:9	179:8,21 197:12 209:12 224:6	<b>Sellafields</b> 321:12
<b>schedule</b> 18:5 25:18 38:8 67:14 77:1	107:10 108:3 109:13 123:8	<b>sealed</b> 239:12	225:3 227:5,19 230:1,4 233:10	<b>Senate</b> 68:1 189:17 336:8
<b>scholars</b> 208:12,12 211:14,21 215:6	132:10,13 135:9 147:13 157:10	<b>search</b> 161:18 328:11 332:2	237:17 238:4,7 240:14 241:18	<b>senator</b> 1:22,24 4:8 4:11,12,12 56:3,4
<b>school</b> 52:1 53:21 111:2,3 150:19	166:3 176:10 184:9 186:15	<b>seat</b> 373:6	240:14 241:18 254:10 264:10	56:6,9 67:22 70:19 73:15,16
171:21 185:14	188:10,16,17 199:22 200:4,7	<b>seats</b> 5:6	300:6 315:15 329:14 358:11	74:2,11,16,22 77:6 79:1 91:15
256:13 364:6	203:22 205:12,14 205:17 217:9	<b>second</b> 39:13 42:2 103:9 157:19	329:14 358:11	91:21 92:3 97:11 100:22 101:1
375:1 391:18	220:9,14 225:16 235:4 246:1 255:3	158:19 192:1 193:3 210:3	<b>seduced</b> 139:16	194:3,7 205:4 271:9 308:6
<b>schools</b> 54:2 111:1 343:11,12	265:4 268:13 275:10,12,17	211:19 212:7,8 220:3,15 226:13	<b>see</b> 7:13 20:9 28:8 32:13,14,14 34:14	<b>senators</b> 2:1 97:5 97:13 336:8
<b>science</b> 19:21 35:19 40:14 50:4,11	279:4 282:2,8 285:1,4 288:6	234:10 272:22 304:1 339:3 348:8	86:4,10,14 107:21 131:4 132:3	<b>send</b> 67:17 68:5,10 71:19 175:10
105:12,21 106:7	290:8 291:14,22 293:21 294:5	371:14 373:13 377:4	141:12 150:2 155:20 174:6	291:10 363:6
152:17 178:4	296:16 297:22 300:13,17 303:3	<b>Secondly</b> 43:10 352:9	182:11 186:5 210:4 211:13,19	<b>sending</b> 58:10 75:3 191:17 214:21
182:19 217:21	303:10 305:21 306:2 308:11	<b>seconds</b> 146:14	213:3,14 216:16 237:13 266:20	<b>senior</b> 91:21 364:7
232:21 233:1	310:4 312:15,17 314:6 316:15	<b>secretaries</b> 64:21 89:17	267:3 268:10 331:22 334:2	<b>sense</b> 68:22 70:15 74:5 147:1 155:5
297:2,8 301:16	317:6,8 319:18 322:3 324:8,11	<b>secretary</b> 6:16 17:14 64:20 65:5	345:19 354:14 390:15	174:6 270:15 280:9,10 284:2
302:19 303:1	327:12 330:15 333:3 335:10	65:14 75:15 76:17 254:13 368:11	<b>seduced</b> 139:16	306:14
313:19 360:9	337:15 340:3 341:7 342:18	369:15	210:4 211:13,19 213:3,14 216:16	<b>sensitive</b> 162:1 179:20 194:9
364:19		<b>secrets</b> 227:6	237:13 266:20 267:3 268:10	<b>sent</b> 239:1
<b>sciences</b> 134:3 179:5 183:5		<b>section</b> 141:8 353:13 369:13,14	331:22 334:2 345:19 354:14	280:9,10 284:2 306:14
185:16 195:20		370:1	390:15	306:14
<b>scientific</b> 94:10 105:17,19 106:7		<b>sectors</b> 237:9 274:10	<b>seeing</b> 130:7 174:4 293:6 327:18	<b>senior</b> 91:21 364:7
180:14 184:13		274:11 275:6	330:22	<b>sense</b> 68:22 70:15 74:5 147:1 155:5
301:9 359:20			<b>seek</b> 127:2 171:3 201:14	174:6 270:15 280:9,10 284:2
369:5			<b>seen</b> 20:8 25:20 40:1 120:5 276:22	306:14
<b>scientifically</b> 354:2 369:6			284:14 380:14	<b>senior</b> 91:21 364:7
<b>scientist</b> 177:21 179:19 367:8			<b>segregated</b> 111:1	<b>sensitive</b> 162:1 179:20 194:9
376:17 392:12				<b>sent</b> 239:1

<b>separates</b> 316:2	<b>shadow</b> 171:12	<b>showed</b> 115:13	362:20	218:19,22 220:4
<b>separations</b> 241:21	<b>share</b> 24:3 74:11	<b>shown</b> 128:22	<b>simply</b> 22:19 124:1	221:15,18 222:22
<b>September</b> 118:14	100:22 102:14,19	<b>shows</b> 213:5,5	124:2 128:13	223:20 224:21
<b>series</b> 61:4 286:4	107:7 147:19	324:2	145:1 146:1	225:1 226:1 227:1
<b>serious</b> 57:5 176:12	240:20 262:5	<b>shrinking</b> 338:15	153:17 164:20	227:18 229:7,12
240:3 262:18	304:14 371:18	<b>shut</b> 165:1 350:16	168:7 275:5	229:22 230:2
275:19	<b>sharing</b> 129:6	<b>shutdowns</b> 46:14	<b>sincere</b> 19:20 102:2	231:22 234:10,20
<b>seriously</b> 298:12	<b>Sharp</b> 1:16 41:2	<b>shuttered</b> 252:1	<b>single</b> 144:4 190:7	234:21 236:15
367:21	43:10 46:7 166:6	<b>shutting</b> 164:22	<b>sir</b> 5:9 55:20 77:11	237:15 239:15
<b>serve</b> 73:4 131:22	170:5 181:4	<b>side</b> 41:16,18 42:5	91:13 177:5 286:6	241:1,4,13 243:5
206:19 221:11	200:12 202:10,19	42:6 53:2 58:15	378:16	244:17 245:15
225:22 229:14	270:13	59:1 60:1 81:1	<b>sister</b> 69:9	247:8,11,14,20
237:17 238:13,17	<b>Sharp's</b> 194:21	92:1 113:13 116:9	<b>sit</b> 6:7 152:5 169:9	248:1,4,5,8 249:2
316:22 328:19	<b>Shaw</b> 18:3 81:15	167:3	<b>site</b> 1:23 2:7 4:9,18	250:19 251:13
<b>served</b> 20:3 135:21	<b>Shawn</b> 1:23 4:9	<b>sides</b> 56:10 387:17	5:17 7:5,9,12	252:4 253:2,3
136:6 146:7	77:8 89:4	<b>Siegal</b> 3:1 303:8	12:18 15:22 18:11	254:9 255:21
221:11	<b>sheds</b> 78:17	306:4 308:14,16	21:3 23:1,21 24:1	258:5 260:5
<b>serves</b> 34:10	<b>Sheeler</b> 3:5 319:21	308:17	29:7 30:4 33:3,5	262:11 264:18,18
237:20	322:5 324:12,14	<b>Sierra</b> 173:8	40:9 43:13,14	265:19 266:1,7,13
<b>service</b> 15:8,14	324:14 327:13	174:17 291:17	61:6,7,22 62:10	268:1,4 277:1
21:6 56:12 64:3	<b>sheet</b> 9:17 36:22	292:6 308:14,19	62:19 65:12 66:9	279:19 280:11
170:18 237:9	122:19	352:1 353:5 359:4	66:17 67:1 68:7	283:3 284:11
265:2 342:13	<b>Shell</b> 151:20	362:4	71:18 72:15 77:9	285:14 287:9
<b>services</b> 27:21	<b>Shelly</b> 303:13	<b>sign</b> 201:3 349:10	82:16 90:8 92:11	288:9 289:2,7
53:17 113:16	<b>She'll</b> 391:2	<b>signal</b> 36:17 68:11	93:12 94:20 95:21	294:10,17,18
146:17 207:7	<b>shielding</b> 23:7	<b>signed</b> 20:7 35:3	96:4,12 97:19	295:21 296:1,13
213:2 251:16	<b>shift</b> 42:6	188:5 275:20	98:17 99:7 102:6	303:19,21 304:6
264:8 279:8,11	<b>shifts</b> 22:19	<b>significance</b> 18:15	103:18 104:2,4	305:5 306:12,16
295:18 375:18	<b>shipment</b> 252:20	34:22 36:9,18	109:20 112:15	307:19 308:21
<b>serving</b> 220:18	<b>shipped</b> 36:4 362:8	<b>significant</b> 16:15	113:2,14 115:13	309:15 310:12
387:19 388:4	369:21	34:11,15 36:1	115:15 116:10,21	311:3,11,14,21
<b>session</b> 9:10	<b>shirked</b> 249:9	39:12,13 82:10	117:3,8,18,21	316:10 338:20
<b>set</b> 16:11 46:22	<b>shock</b> 228:1	103:10,20 104:9	118:8,11,13 119:7	340:12 342:13
74:14 86:15 166:7	<b>short</b> 78:16 84:3	134:6 139:17	119:8,11 120:10	344:15,16,19,22
170:11 183:3,4	257:16 330:22	171:11 198:5	121:3,6,17 124:11	345:1,12,16,21
333:15	341:12 381:17	236:11,14,22	127:21 133:2,3	348:10,15,17
<b>sets</b> 137:15 280:13	<b>shortages</b> 83:19	250:8 292:9	137:2 144:7 145:8	352:8,11,18
<b>setting</b> 152:10	<b>shortly</b> 258:1	311:11,12 312:2	147:10 151:18	353:17 356:8
<b>settings</b> 256:6	<b>shortsighted</b> 60:10	325:9	158:11,13 161:22	358:13 361:1
<b>settlement</b> 354:9	<b>short-sighted</b>	<b>significantly</b> 85:6	171:8 174:4,8	367:8 368:21
<b>seven</b> 92:17 190:13	350:19	98:18	175:19 191:11	369:19,22 370:5
210:9 279:18	<b>short-sightedness</b>	<b>sign-up</b> 9:17	201:11,13 202:8	370:13,16 371:13
352:15 375:14	330:1	<b>similar</b> 216:3 258:6	203:7,8 205:18	372:9,11 377:2,10
<b>Seventeen</b> 210:14	<b>short-term</b> 126:6	270:14 321:11	206:14 207:11,21	383:5,14,18 384:5
<b>seventy-three</b>	250:4 359:16	367:16	208:14 209:4	384:7,8,13,22
212:12	<b>shot</b> 194:4	<b>similarly</b> 224:4	211:22 214:13	385:7 386:6,9,17
<b>severely</b> 207:16	<b>shoulders</b> 156:9	<b>simple</b> 88:18	215:5,11 218:14	387:5 390:7

<b>sited</b> 158:7 291:10 312:13	<b>slashed</b> 127:22	379:17,20 393:4	<b>Sorenson</b> 3:5,6	206:7 208:18
<b>sites</b> 26:13 43:17,19 64:2 95:9 104:18 104:21 169:19 182:8 190:13 196:16 198:10 216:2,2,4,7 219:14,17,20 220:6 228:6,7 253:11 301:8 304:11 307:2 314:22 316:1,21 338:1 345:4 354:1 368:21 372:3	<b>slate</b> 271:7	<b>sole</b> 301:20 345:9	322:6 324:13,13 327:15,15,17 330:17,18,19,20 331:7	222:8 226:6 228:12,13 229:17 247:1,7 248:15 252:18 255:20 256:19 267:12 285:14,20 287:18 288:2 294:12 303:6,14 304:3,13 304:20 305:7 306:7 308:18,22 309:8,12 312:19 313:3 314:19,22 320:5 351:22 352:1,21 353:12 353:18,20 354:4 354:16 355:13 357:9,17 358:5,7 358:9,20 359:3,4 359:5,7,9,16 360:20,21 362:11 363:3,19 369:11 370:19 375:7 376:8,9 379:11 383:7 389:14 390:1,2,16 391:5 392:4
<b>site's</b> 250:14 385:2	<b>sledgehammer</b> 163:17	<b>solely</b> 302:19	<b>sort</b> 19:10 173:20 273:2 299:6 333:16 347:4 356:10	376:8,9 379:11 383:7 389:14 390:1,2,16 391:5 392:4
<b>site-specific</b> 307:20	<b>slide</b> 117:6	<b>solid</b> 272:6 310:16	<b>sound</b> 24:7 369:7	<b>southeast</b> 33:8 123:16 236:20 242:11 367:16
<b>siting</b> 7:1 73:22 181:14	<b>slides</b> 111:13	<b>solidarity</b> 379:5	<b>sounded</b> 178:17	<b>southeastern</b> 110:17 318:10
<b>sits</b> 113:17	<b>slight</b> 390:11,12	<b>solidification</b> 230:8	<b>sounding</b> 115:5	<b>Southern</b> 1:18 4:4 10:12,20 11:5,18 11:22 12:10,15 14:22 20:4 24:22 25:3,9,13 27:20 36:21 47:9 52:21 55:9 81:14 128:15 237:21 248:3,6 258:2,11 276:19 290:22
<b>sitting</b> 188:22	<b>slipping</b> 146:3	<b>solution</b> 21:2 102:18,21 186:6 195:14 198:17 232:1 249:17 262:17 263:1 270:9 271:12,12 272:18 287:10 306:20,21 308:1,8 359:16 360:6	<b>sounds</b> 276:3	<b>SouthernCarolina</b> 246:13 247:2,6
<b>situated</b> 129:9 247:14	<b>slogan</b> 232:21	<b>solutions</b> 96:7 118:12 196:9 198:19 209:22 210:13 229:1 234:12,18 317:21 320:12 380:16	<b>source</b> 13:21 83:21 139:10 180:5 244:4 261:12 323:6,17 335:2 345:10 380:14	<b>southwest</b> 53:2
<b>situation</b> 34:16 37:4 140:11 168:5 169:15 171:12,13 184:11 206:15 378:5	<b>slowed</b> 261:21	<b>solution-focused</b> 240:8	<b>sources</b> 14:12 138:11 139:6,20 139:20 294:15 319:14 323:3,8 326:10 372:5 382:1,11	<b>Soviet</b> 142:22 341:19
<b>situations</b> 202:22	<b>slows</b> 205:8	<b>solved</b> 337:3	<b>south</b> 1:22,25 11:8 30:20 59:4,7 60:12,21 61:9,20 63:7,10 68:16,18 69:12,14 72:10,20 87:18 91:21 92:7 92:18 95:3,7,20 101:18 102:4 103:15 107:8 110:20 113:22 115:10,18 116:6,7 118:20 120:6 121:4 122:7,15 124:8,9 132:22 133:6 134:20 136:16 173:8 188:18 190:10 193:9,13 194:8,12 198:22 203:9	
<b>six</b> 11:6 26:12 61:17 92:7 196:12 214:17 226:11,21	<b>sludge</b> 160:17	<b>solve</b> 35:21 157:5 192:8 233:9 264:14 294:22 307:9 337:5 339:14 378:13		
<b>Sixth</b> 198:14	<b>small</b> 53:11 57:17 118:15 119:21 131:6 141:13 144:8 236:3 264:6 315:18 328:5 377:15	<b>solving</b> 7:10 232:20 245:10 253:8 332:18		
<b>sizable</b> 46:16	<b>smallest</b> 31:13	<b>somebody</b> 66:11 156:8 160:14 182:22 202:14 203:5 299:10		
<b>size</b> 141:14 196:17 202:2 281:11	<b>smart</b> 178:7 268:2	<b>somebody's</b> 175:9		
<b>sized</b> 197:9	<b>smartest</b> 271:3	<b>someday</b> 379:16		
<b>skill</b> 46:22 88:10,11 280:13	<b>Smith</b> 368:20	<b>someplace</b> 35:18 181:14 185:5		
<b>skillcraft</b> 84:18	<b>smoke-filled</b> 374:8	<b>somewhat</b> 214:1 344:16 364:4		
<b>skilled</b> 46:12 78:2 79:2,12 81:7,11 84:13 89:18 264:19 266:5	<b>SMR</b> 144:22	<b>soon</b> 265:17		
<b>skills</b> 209:16 215:6 219:10 245:9 260:16 264:2	<b>SMRs</b> 144:8,15 145:4,8	<b>sophisticated</b> 152:5 200:19 236:18 310:19 370:11		
	<b>snapshot</b> 151:19			
	<b>soapbox</b> 195:17 201:6			
	<b>social</b> 129:20 130:15 213:2 320:2 322:13 365:5			
	<b>societies</b> 47:12			
	<b>society</b> 14:15 93:6 130:4 185:21			
	<b>soil</b> 345:7 382:3			
	<b>soils</b> 121:7 345:1			
	<b>soil's</b> 309:18			
	<b>solar</b> 13:15 57:16 57:19 71:11 138:18 139:13 148:16,16 180:16 180:21 319:15 326:6 328:5 334:3 335:7 359:6			

<b>so-called</b> 116:18 150:14	84:13,16 89:14 181:22 224:18	<b>spill</b> 41:21	<b>stability</b> 236:13	364:11
<b>space</b> 104:21	<b>specialties</b> 227:13	<b>spinning</b> 185:19	<b>stabilized</b> 17:3	<b>starting</b> 163:19
<b>spans</b> 300:22	264:2	<b>spirit</b> 98:13 122:1	<b>stable</b> 19:4 106:20	202:10 356:4
<b>spare</b> 97:22	<b>specialty</b> 89:13	238:12	236:11	<b>starts</b> 75:18 272:6
<b>sparsely</b> 373:19	<b>specifically</b> 134:17	<b>spoke</b> 43:11 115:19	<b>stacked</b> 281:2	<b>state</b> 1:22 19:5
374:1	231:8 255:17	126:2,2 292:7,13	<b>staff</b> 102:3,8 112:2	37:15 52:13 54:2
<b>speak</b> 9:12,22	257:1,3 369:10	380:22	214:21 280:11,12	54:6,10 55:8
10:18 41:11 50:7	389:14	<b>spokesperson</b>	366:11	56:20 59:9 63:7
50:16 66:16 71:13	<b>specification</b> 370:2	170:7	<b>staffers</b> 259:16	63:10 69:8,9 88:2
74:5 100:15	<b>specified</b> 301:7	<b>sponsored</b> 208:15	<b>stage</b> 142:20	92:11,17 93:15
123:12,14 131:20	<b>spectrums</b> 261:1	<b>sponsorship</b> 122:4	<b>stagnant</b> 64:18	95:13 100:15
132:8 147:12,20	<b>spell</b> 261:22	<b>squandered</b> 329:19	<b>stairs</b> 349:11	136:21 189:17,17
149:16 166:20	<b>spend</b> 7:17 56:9	<b>square</b> 227:2	<b>stake</b> 331:5	189:20 193:15
188:20 226:3	84:22 320:11	247:13 284:9	<b>stakeholder</b> 203:21	196:20 201:18,21
257:2 259:1 294:7	357:8	373:14 375:13	217:5	202:20 203:2,14
310:10 346:12,18	<b>spending</b> 97:20	<b>squeal</b> 391:3	<b>stakeholders</b> 82:14	203:18 204:16
358:3 364:2	357:2	<b>SRNL</b> 233:5,8	82:18 86:5 91:3	223:3 249:1
366:19 379:6	<b>spent</b> 15:9 19:14	253:13	128:14,19 167:19	255:18,19 260:13
384:1	20:13,19 21:10	<b>SRNL's</b> 232:22	168:12,13 174:5	267:14 279:21
<b>speaker</b> 9:20 10:4,7	23:3,6 28:22 29:1	<b>SRNS</b> 211:5	179:14,15	294:16 301:11
282:11 285:4	35:6,9,12,17 38:4	<b>SRR</b> 213:13 214:9	<b>stakeholder's</b>	305:13 307:7
310:6 334:16	44:10,13 53:22	214:11	167:14	309:2 336:9,9
349:17 351:2,13	60:1,6 61:18 62:6	<b>SRS</b> 2:12 94:22	<b>stand</b> 46:22 101:2	352:4 355:19
357:21 360:16	64:4 76:7 94:4	95:9 96:2,11 99:9	156:20 227:15	359:1,11 369:11
363:13 366:8	97:19 102:11	100:1,9,17 127:16	276:7 314:2	370:17,19 373:13
368:6 371:3	104:14 105:2,9	128:4,14 152:8	379:14 391:15	375:17 383:7
372:20 376:1	106:2,21 114:10	190:15 197:1	<b>standalone</b> 356:3	392:5,11
378:18 381:4	117:7,12,17 121:9	199:16 221:20	<b>standard</b> 43:4	<b>stated</b> 51:11 52:17
382:21 385:16	134:11 163:1	227:3,9 228:5,8	274:2	106:6 128:16
389:7,8 390:21	197:13 231:14	229:3,21 230:6,14	<b>standardized</b> 39:14	249:8 254:2
<b>speakers</b> 7:18 8:16	232:7,16 233:15	230:21 231:2,19	<b>standards</b> 41:9	<b>statement</b> 10:2
8:22 167:20	237:19 240:22	232:3,5 234:4,13	58:21 227:14	87:4 91:15 97:5
178:16 263:7	241:8 249:11	234:19 237:16	257:13 258:15	98:1 101:6,8,10
276:9 317:16,17	250:20 251:15	239:20 240:17	306:16	101:11,20 108:8
391:1	252:15 262:9	241:6,12,15	<b>standing</b> 298:7	108:11 112:19
<b>speaking</b> 65:1	263:2,12 279:15	244:21 245:1	<b>standpoint</b> 217:16	148:5 150:6 155:5
235:19 248:21	280:8 290:19	247:9 249:3,5,18	<b>stands</b> 93:3 359:18	176:6 188:11
288:12 292:4	305:9 307:3,12	250:21 251:7	<b>stand-alone</b> 39:16	288:2 291:21
298:9 303:13	309:3 311:4	254:14,18 259:4,7	<b>start</b> 25:5 52:4 71:6	<b>statements</b> 176:20
355:9 373:8 379:3	315:22 318:13	278:12 279:13	76:4 110:8 120:15	362:14
<b>speaks</b> 50:5 258:19	321:2 324:19	289:20 291:8,10	167:8 184:6 271:6	<b>states</b> 12:8 13:4
<b>special</b> 95:8 120:9	339:13 344:9	291:11 304:10	299:19 325:6	38:2,12 45:20
221:19 283:4	347:19 352:7,10	305:1 358:15	<b>started</b> 5:5 29:18	47:10 55:6,11
356:20 360:10	356:13,15 359:13	383:8,12 384:3	90:19 108:4	59:5 72:9,20 78:7
<b>specialists</b> 256:2	362:7,11 369:4	<b>SRS's</b> 222:5	116:20 166:22	84:19 92:19
<b>specialized</b> 83:15	383:17	<b>stab</b> 271:9	188:4,8 212:4	103:14 113:18
			257:5 356:6	134:2,8 136:16



177:3 191:6 196:4 201:19 226:21 241:22 257:10,14 258:19 281:6 282:21 297:19 305:16 306:10 317:1 318:11 375:18 <b>state's</b> 133:4 286:2 <b>state-specific</b> 305:18 <b>station</b> 173:13,15 173:17 363:22 365:21 <b>stations</b> 103:3 144:11,19 375:12 <b>Statistics</b> 277:19 <b>status</b> 15:4 <b>statute</b> 68:2,5,14 68:19 76:13 189:8 189:15 <b>stay</b> 50:20 119:9 122:10,13 246:10 256:17 271:13 346:14 386:17 <b>stayed</b> 64:18 <b>stays</b> 316:10 357:14 <b>steady</b> 84:12 <b>steam</b> 13:13,17,20 36:3 <b>steep</b> 319:4 <b>Stegall</b> 2:18 276:15 276:17,18,19 279:5 <b>stems</b> 292:11 <b>step</b> 14:22 25:1 39:2 82:14 225:1 263:4 332:5 <b>Stephen</b> 2:18 276:15,18 <b>stepped</b> 203:1,2 <b>steps</b> 40:7 80:18 <b>stern</b> 76:20 <b>steward</b> 155:14 <b>stewards</b> 149:11 <b>stewardship</b>	100:20 304:2,17 <b>stickers</b> 327:19 328:2 <b>stockpile</b> 283:8 <b>stone</b> 354:13 <b>stood</b> 252:1 <b>stool</b> 40:18 <b>stop</b> 66:10 177:17 181:2 185:9,19 186:10 276:4 317:3 321:14,15 329:15 335:5 338:17 339:3 <b>stopped</b> 114:2 315:14 <b>stops</b> 272:5 <b>storage</b> 7:15 21:10 22:22 23:2,7 29:6 29:10,16,19 35:12 35:17 43:16,17 44:6 63:6 66:2 69:21 102:17,21 104:20 105:3,15 109:1 111:20 112:3,4,7 114:9 114:18,21,22 117:8,12,18 122:12 181:13 189:11 197:9 198:8,10,16 199:10 204:4 230:9 233:16,16 249:17 250:5,10 252:9,15 263:12 278:18 284:1 289:12 307:1,4 309:3 314:15 338:22 345:22 352:6,6 353:21 354:1 357:10,11 357:11 359:14 362:8 370:5 383:16 389:18,22 390:4,7,11 <b>store</b> 35:9 121:8 197:11 319:8 363:2 376:16	377:2,3 392:8 393:2 <b>stored</b> 20:14 23:15 94:21 103:12 104:1 142:9 232:17 239:21 262:15 266:17 315:22 <b>stories</b> 153:15 <b>storing</b> 190:14 241:8 267:4 278:12 320:17 345:15 <b>storm</b> 345:2 <b>story</b> 222:12 224:2 387:17 <b>strains</b> 244:14 <b>strange</b> 365:12,13 <b>strategic</b> 136:4 283:6 <b>strategically</b> 82:2 <b>strategy</b> 260:9 269:11 352:19 353:1 354:3 <b>stream</b> 178:13 281:4,11 299:1 354:13 <b>streams</b> 305:10 <b>Street</b> 1:10 <b>strength</b> 236:5 240:5 <b>strengthen</b> 93:10 <b>strengths</b> 239:8 <b>stress</b> 125:18 126:1 <b>striking</b> 138:22 <b>stripped</b> 116:2 <b>strive</b> 238:13,19 <b>strong</b> 28:4 32:4 36:22 92:9 282:15 311:14 383:13 387:8 <b>stronger</b> 93:16 <b>strongly</b> 94:2 243:15 253:19 263:13 <b>struck</b> 159:8 362:21	<b>structure</b> 278:21 <b>structures</b> 17:6 <b>struggles</b> 126:9 <b>struggling</b> 125:18 <b>student</b> 391:5 <b>students</b> 52:2 256:12,15,18 257:11,17 327:19 379:4 389:11 391:12 <b>studied</b> 243:19 284:12 327:21 344:20 347:17 391:8 <b>studies</b> 94:10 250:6 293:15,18 296:3 306:12 307:14 369:5 <b>study</b> 23:3,15 25:13 86:11 105:20 231:2 259:8,10 343:12 <b>studying</b> 239:5 369:4 <b>stuff</b> 76:9 184:7 293:11 325:13 330:5 334:10 342:16 343:16 363:6 364:18 365:16 376:19 377:2 <b>stupid</b> 331:17 <b>subcommittee</b> 16:9 136:11 268:17 346:18 <b>subcommittees</b> 201:9 268:15 <b>subcontractors</b> 46:9 <b>subject</b> 22:10 23:13 301:2 <b>Subjecting</b> 21:14 <b>Submarine</b> 282:22 <b>submit</b> 8:12 33:17 289:21 321:18 322:17 <b>submitted</b> 128:12	<b>submitting</b> 122:19 <b>subsequent</b> 323:19 <b>subsidiary</b> 357:3 <b>subsidiaries</b> 335:5 <b>Subsidize</b> 335:6 <b>substantial</b> 7:10 <b>substantially</b> 82:5 85:19 <b>substations</b> 54:4 <b>substitute</b> 359:15 <b>Subsurface</b> 16:17 <b>sub-journeyman</b> 84:6 <b>succeed</b> 194:5 <b>success</b> 54:17 100:9 100:11 216:18,19 222:12 264:21 <b>successful</b> 25:7 43:3,9 47:6 86:6 141:18 213:12 253:7 366:13 <b>successfully</b> 18:14 19:17 93:14 192:10 196:2 210:12 217:3 227:22 <b>sucking</b> 336:11 <b>sudden</b> 53:13 162:21 180:7 <b>suffer</b> 124:21 151:5 <b>suffered</b> 169:7 312:1 338:7 350:18 <b>suffers</b> 128:20 <b>Suffice</b> 195:19 <b>sufficient</b> 182:14 303:2 <b>suggest</b> 180:13 253:19 273:3,19 302:11 306:20 308:6 320:11 331:9 342:10 350:11 377:14 <b>suggested</b> 223:11 319:6 321:14,15 <b>suitability</b> 306:12 306:17 359:20
---	---	--	--	---

<b>suitable</b> 23:14 230:11 242:7 286:22 305:6 308:1 374:2	386:11 387:8 388:8,9	331:14,21 332:1 332:22	326:19 342:9 352:7 363:5 365:20 368:12 370:8	<b>tanks</b> 62:19 63:3,13 63:20 66:16 67:6 67:13 118:4 157:22 158:15 203:7 304:10,10 354:12
<b>suited</b> 309:15	<b>supported</b> 128:8	<b>sustained</b> 279:2	<b>taken</b> 15:1 40:7 43:18 60:19 73:20 82:14 112:16 118:11 184:21 217:1 262:17 328:10 330:2 360:22 367:21	<b>tantamount</b> 143:11
<b>suits</b> 182:7	<b>supporters</b> 248:8	<b>Suzanne</b> 2:25	<b>talent</b> 254:18 280:13	<b>tapped</b> 96:6
<b>sum</b> 113:19	<b>supporting</b> 214:21 252:14 328:2	300:19 303:7 306:3	<b>talented</b> 387:5	<b>taps</b> 339:9
<b>summary</b> 86:8 288:15 321:19 335:4	<b>supportive</b> 99:6 116:5 245:17 265:1	<b>swallow</b> 328:22	<b>talents</b> 233:12 245:9,14 264:4	<b>tar</b> 324:4
<b>summation</b> 287:22	<b>suppose</b> 164:14	<b>Sweden</b> 198:12	<b>talk</b> 39:21 42:1 76:20 127:9 150:3 151:10,11,14 152:6,21 182:10 206:8 271:16,17 298:18 299:9 313:1 324:22 325:7 332:14 335:16,20 337:2 343:10,14,19,19 343:22 362:2 366:1 375:7 384:19 389:13 391:15	<b>tardiness</b> 48:9,17
<b>Summer</b> 258:2	<b>supposed</b> 169:13 172:17	<b>sweet</b> 381:17	<b>talked</b> 47:5 177:19 197:19 284:18 287:16 308:2	<b>target</b> 136:2
<b>sun</b> 139:1 191:16 191:17 339:8 359:7	<b>supposedly</b> 172:1	<b>sword</b> 62:8	<b>talking</b> 87:16 151:3 153:12 173:11 174:1 178:14 202:12 267:4,7 281:3,12 299:13 299:15 333:18 364:14	<b>TASC</b> 208:16 218:8
<b>sunk</b> 106:5	<b>sure</b> 64:7 89:3 131:18 175:12 181:19 254:14 255:12 263:18,21 275:2 302:1 303:1 318:15 327:9 348:11	<b>synergy</b> 206:13	<b>tax</b> 32:14 54:1 126:7 134:10 248:9	<b>task</b> 101:2 135:17 156:19 207:6 263:15 314:1 366:22 387:14,18
<b>Superfund</b> 2:12 4:18 205:18 206:9 206:20,22 208:2 215:2,22 218:4,9	<b>Surely</b> 59:15 141:21 328:10	<b>system</b> 36:12 54:6 62:14 74:15 83:12 83:14 84:18,22 89:13 110:7 273:3 323:15	<b>taxes</b> 53:19 215:16	<b>taught</b> 126:11 212:19
<b>superhighway</b> 54:12	<b>surface</b> 139:1 309:17 345:1 347:1	<b>systems</b> 104:21 277:13	<b>taxing</b> 246:7,8	<b>taxpayer</b> 73:1 165:18 277:4 324:7 328:4 329:18 390:3
<b>superior</b> 323:8	<b>surplus</b> 369:17	<b>S-E-S-S-I-O-N</b> 188:1	<b>taxpayer</b> 73:1 165:18 277:4 324:7 328:4 329:18 390:3	<b>taxpayers</b> 155:3,4 244:8 291:5 329:7 356:3
<b>superiority</b> 384:15	<b>surprising</b> 268:7	<hr/> <b>T</b> <hr/>	<b>taxpayers</b> 155:3,4 244:8 291:5 329:7 356:3	<b>taxpaying</b> 209:13
<b>supplement</b> 80:13 144:10	<b>surprisingly</b> 311:8 311:13	<b>table</b> 60:5 61:4 64:10,13 65:3 70:12 76:6 106:18 107:22 121:7 184:19 262:18 309:16 360:4 368:12	<b>taxpayers</b> 155:3,4 244:8 291:5 329:7 356:3	<b>teach</b> 41:8 180:15 294:13
<b>supplies</b> 142:16 224:7 242:4 280:16	<b>surrounding</b> 49:6 53:18 126:22 127:3 201:19,19 225:1 255:21 316:12 390:14	<b>tablets</b> 172:5	<b>taxpayers</b> 155:3,4 244:8 291:5 329:7 356:3	<b>teaching</b> 294:12
<b>supply</b> 78:16 84:12 146:9 283:17	<b>survey</b> 33:10,10	<b>tack</b> 163:17	<b>taxpayers</b> 155:3,4 244:8 291:5 329:7 356:3	<b>team</b> 18:2 27:19 42:13 127:17 208:22 211:5 214:9,11,14 250:21
<b>support</b> 22:14 32:5 44:6 80:1 92:20 103:22 136:1 143:13 193:20 199:6 214:16 225:2 234:14,16 236:6 238:1,4 242:1 249:2 250:13 252:13 254:20 257:7,8 259:13 260:22 261:2,11 272:8 289:10 309:22 311:15 316:14 324:7 365:10 367:15 379:9	<b>surveys</b> 32:7	<b>tackle</b> 56:13 90:9	<b>taxpayers</b> 155:3,4 244:8 291:5 329:7 356:3	<b>technical</b> 2:17 13:1 16:2 19:19 21:1,9 23:19 27:19,20 28:12 35:20 136:7 138:2 178:18
	<b>survival</b> 125:4 236:5	<b>tag</b> 111:9		
	<b>survive</b> 137:8	<b>take</b> 5:6 33:1 35:13 42:4 48:12 50:15 55:2 56:15 60:4 61:3 64:8,12 70:11 73:12 88:11 90:13 95:8 102:1 109:5 139:3 148:17 154:16 157:8 170:18 171:14,15 178:8 200:10 204:15 211:18 239:14 267:8 271:8 288:22 298:17		
	<b>survived</b> 76:20			
	<b>Susan</b> 2:17 221:1 255:6,7			
	<b>sustainability</b> 49:20 331:22 365:6			
	<b>sustainable</b> 49:14 233:11 277:6			

182:17 184:13	297:8 313:20	<b>terribly</b> 117:19	282:2 284:22	59:3 143:12
192:13 195:16	334:17	<b>territory</b> 373:14	285:1,8 288:5,6	147:22 156:11
207:6 209:6,19	<b>tell</b> 25:17 28:4 30:2	<b>terrorism</b> 152:2	290:6,8,13 291:14	164:10 166:19
212:18,22 219:10	31:19 45:22 51:19	<b>Terry</b> 333:8	293:19,21 296:15	174:1 176:11
221:1 255:8,17	61:7 150:4 157:7	<b>test</b> 39:9 139:22	296:16,21 297:22	190:7 191:13
257:3 258:7 289:9	171:3 218:3,5	140:13	298:21 300:11,13	209:7,8 267:6
305:19 307:9	308:3 325:17	<b>testimony</b> 11:1	303:3,9 305:20,21	282:1 313:6
310:19 311:1,5	347:15 349:11	14:7 41:3 93:13	308:9,11 309:20	316:19 325:21
312:10 378:6	367:10 371:10	223:19	310:4,9 312:14,15	326:17 331:2
383:11 384:15	379:8 383:13	<b>testing</b> 214:20	313:22 314:5,6	347:13 349:1
<b>technically</b> 135:6	<b>telling</b> 172:5,13	215:1 232:15	316:15 317:6	375:5 377:4,21
243:21 266:4	324:22	<b>Tevye</b> 337:6	319:16,18 322:3	392:21 393:1
<b>technicians</b> 256:1	<b>Tells</b> 40:8	<b>Texas</b> 363:18 364:5	324:8 327:12	<b>things</b> 17:18 31:1
264:1	<b>temporarily</b> 214:19	368:20	330:15 331:7	31:16 38:11 43:22
<b>technique</b> 170:12	<b>temporary</b> 122:12	<b>Textile</b> 371:12	333:1,3 335:8,10	47:12,14 48:19
<b>techniques</b> 182:6	289:12 306:21	<b>thank</b> 5:9 6:8,9	335:16 337:13,15	49:9 61:10 62:16
183:16,19 184:3	307:4 353:21	10:16 24:14,19	340:1,3,9 341:5,7	130:2 132:20
294:21	389:18 390:4,9	25:7,8 26:6 33:18	341:13,16 344:1,2	148:6,10 149:9
<b>technological</b> 47:3	<b>ten</b> 71:3 103:16	33:22 34:6 37:18	346:4,5,11 349:13	162:18 171:14,19
105:14 145:18	235:14 321:1	41:2 47:20 48:1	349:15 350:20,22	172:3,8,10 173:3
148:8 198:1	325:21 326:7	50:17,22 51:1	354:21,22 357:16	181:3 183:21
<b>technologies</b> 23:7	352:15 379:1	55:9,11,17,20,21	357:19 358:2	185:7,20 200:17
23:16 179:5 199:5	<b>tend</b> 180:20 185:6	56:11 73:11,13,14	360:12,15 361:15	204:7,10 221:19
204:4 232:15	191:8	73:16 77:3,5,7	363:10,11 366:3,3	254:20 273:17
233:9 269:1 270:3	<b>tends</b> 122:10	86:17 87:2,14	366:4,11 368:2,4	281:17 298:11
294:22 296:14	<b>Tennessee</b> 242:9	88:14 89:2 91:11	368:5,9 370:22	321:17 326:16
330:3	338:12	91:13,16 96:20	371:1 372:18	331:10 333:16
<b>technology</b> 2:9	<b>Tens</b> 241:2 347:18	97:1,2,9 100:21	375:20,21 378:14	342:8,10 347:9
14:13 27:22 28:7	<b>tenth</b> 1:10 104:12	101:4 107:6,10,11	378:15 380:17,20	348:12,13 365:8
52:10 57:20 58:20	<b>term</b> 21:10 22:22	109:9,12,13	381:2 382:18,20	375:4 381:13
71:11,12 72:18,20	24:8 81:2 84:3	110:12,14 113:20	385:10,12,14,20	<b>think</b> 13:22 26:3
90:1 91:1,5 99:10	111:19 206:16	123:7,8,11,16	385:22 386:20	30:17 35:8 36:16
99:19 105:12	218:16 230:6	132:7,10,12,14,15	387:19 388:3	37:11 45:1 46:17
109:22 133:20	262:12 266:11,20	135:8,9 147:11,13	389:3,4 390:17,19	46:20 48:20 49:1
135:15 136:12	326:9	147:18 157:10,15	393:9,11	49:5,13 50:4 57:9
138:6 143:6,7	<b>terminate</b> 98:14	166:3 176:1 181:4	<b>thankful</b> 328:7	57:15 60:9 61:8
144:2,9 145:2	222:18	186:17,20 188:10	<b>thanks</b> 5:18 91:8	61:15 66:3 70:21
146:2,8 152:6,15	<b>termination</b> 114:4	188:15 199:15,22	270:12 282:13	71:13 73:5 76:2
178:5 185:20	133:14	200:3,12 205:14	<b>theoretical</b> 17:20	95:6 111:15 115:6
192:8,22 198:6	<b>terminology</b>	205:16 211:4	<b>thermal</b> 13:22 14:8	115:20 119:4
199:8 217:21	223:22	217:6,9 220:7,8,9	14:11 44:14	120:8,11 126:6
227:7 229:13	<b>terms</b> 60:5 71:4	220:12,12,14	<b>thermodynamic</b>	130:16 131:9
230:4 242:13,17	180:19 209:11	221:3,6 225:12,16	139:4	151:9 153:4 154:5
242:21 258:8	<b>term-limited</b> 71:1	235:1,4 245:20,22	<b>thermonuclear</b>	158:6,8,16 159:22
264:6 268:16	<b>Terrence</b> 3:6	246:1,5 255:1,2,3	138:21	160:5,10 161:17
279:8,11 287:9	327:16 330:17	265:1,2,4,11	<b>thin</b> 328:20	161:21 162:16
295:5,11 296:6	333:5	275:9,13,15 279:4	<b>thing</b> 39:13 56:20	163:2 170:10

171:15 172:10 174:10,14,15 175:14 176:11 177:11 178:2,10 178:22 179:8 181:9 182:9,18 184:3,14 191:7,17 195:3 196:8 199:21 200:14 203:4 205:2 206:12 209:19 210:7 214:14 220:1 265:13 266:1 267:16,20 274:17 281:20 285:19 288:18 289:16 290:2 292:6,9,11 293:9 299:22 306:22 307:16,21 312:6 325:16 326:6 328:8 329:10,13 330:7 333:20 334:1,19 337:9 342:2,5 344:20 349:8,11 356:4,12 363:3 365:12 366:18 380:9 386:4 388:21 389:1 392:17,17 393:1,3 <b>thinking</b> 80:17 82:1 119:19 139:16 292:22 <b>thinks</b> 163:7 <b>thinly</b> 80:21 <b>third</b> 40:18 42:2 103:17 194:2 197:16 272:12 289:14 324:2 339:16 377:21 <b>third-generation</b> 70:14 <b>Thirty</b> 341:14 <b>Thirty-five</b> 80:2 <b>Thomas</b> 3:8 333:7 335:13 337:18,20	339:16 <b>thorough</b> 143:19 <b>thoroughly</b> 147:6 344:19 <b>thought</b> 72:1 86:11 163:13 173:22 204:18,22 205:1 262:12,13 270:1 306:8 307:6 391:21 <b>thoughtful</b> 24:15 <b>thoughts</b> 24:3 124:15,20 196:9 233:18 371:18 387:1 <b>thousand</b> 383:8 <b>thousands</b> 46:11 108:17 227:7 236:3,6 241:2 247:18,21 248:10 250:9 333:19 <b>threat</b> 136:5 308:22 <b>threatened</b> 22:1 261:20 <b>threatens</b> 193:16 <b>three</b> 7:18 26:13 35:11 136:16 184:22 283:9,10 283:13 285:21 325:3 353:16 <b>three-county</b> 235:16 <b>three-loop</b> 26:19 <b>three-star</b> 282:20 <b>threshold</b> 150:20 151:1 <b>thrilled</b> 25:15,16 <b>thrive</b> 238:15 <b>throw</b> 268:2 284:2 <b>throwing</b> 178:6 <b>Thurmond</b> 67:22 70:20 <b>tides</b> 339:8 <b>tied</b> 350:9 <b>tight</b> 85:9 142:16 <b>Tim</b> 1:18 5:10 6:8	6:12 188:10 <b>time</b> 6:4 8:18,19,21 9:19 16:14 18:6 22:6 25:18 26:1 35:14 42:21 44:20 55:16 57:1 67:14 67:18 68:2,11 69:21 70:3,17 75:10 77:7 82:19 96:20 97:18,20 102:4 107:8 110:11 112:10 120:6,6 123:1 126:10 132:7 136:13 150:12 156:15 157:8 158:11 169:15 172:20 185:6 188:5,7 199:13 200:14 206:10 217:6 226:8,11,13 230:19 231:9 235:12 239:17 240:7 243:11 250:13,21 266:17 276:8,13 279:6,19 287:20 303:2 310:13 314:17 318:5 322:19 327:21 328:11 331:20 336:6 341:11 343:17 355:16 361:1 366:16 371:10 380:18 387:16 389:2 393:6,14 <b>timely</b> 99:8 222:2 278:11 370:4 <b>times</b> 93:6 98:10 140:15 206:18 207:15 281:13 287:17 313:7 343:1 352:15 386:15 <b>Tinley</b> 3:15 368:7 371:4 372:20,22 372:22 375:9	<b>tired</b> 116:7 <b>tit</b> 336:11 <b>today</b> 6:14 7:1 8:17 10:18 18:11 27:11 58:8 69:13 81:5 85:5 91:20 92:4 92:15 93:3 94:1 96:15 97:20 101:18 102:7,12 119:5 125:11 149:16 152:5 189:2 206:10 214:15 223:8 226:3,19 231:10 235:12,15,19 241:19 246:17 249:8 252:10 253:9 255:15 263:7 277:3 278:10 284:15 290:16 298:9 303:14 310:10 328:3 330:22 334:13 336:18 342:7 347:1 362:14 372:14 373:8 374:19 376:12 380:22 383:3,13 385:21 388:4 389:13 <b>today's</b> 9:10 136:19 137:4 185:21,22 287:8 <b>toilets</b> 168:19 <b>told</b> 18:1 27:8 207:19 319:3 340:20 353:15 <b>Tom</b> 2:5,24 3:2,7 109:18 110:16 132:16 157:18,20 164:14 203:5 298:2 300:18,21 310:7 312:18 313:2 314:7 333:6 335:12 <b>tons</b> 62:4 103:10 104:6 160:21	241:3 280:22 281:8 <b>tools</b> 130:9 <b>top</b> 40:16 103:16 202:13 310:21 <b>topic</b> 73:5 231:10 <b>topics</b> 268:18 <b>total</b> 11:17 85:3 318:12 <b>totaling</b> 79:22 <b>totally</b> 172:19 178:19 <b>touch</b> 41:16 274:6 392:22 <b>touched</b> 124:7 161:17 <b>tour</b> 5:16 102:5 159:7 348:11 360:22 361:2 365:20 <b>touring</b> 7:12 <b>tourism</b> 193:8 237:8 <b>touted</b> 320:19 <b>town</b> 50:13 52:17 343:15 374:9 382:7 384:9 390:15 <b>toxic</b> 124:22 126:14 127:5,14 128:22 129:9 132:5 304:12 336:22 355:15 <b>toxicity</b> 99:15 224:14 <b>toys</b> 329:8 <b>traceably</b> 124:10 <b>track</b> 6:6 211:2 232:5 241:12 251:9 348:14 <b>tracks</b> 186:10 <b>trade</b> 80:9,11 85:5 <b>trades</b> 81:16 83:6 86:12 90:18 <b>tradition</b> 358:10 <b>traditional</b> 89:16 <b>traffic</b> 338:13
---	---	--	---	--

<b>train</b> 28:13 84:15 89:10	<b>transporting</b> 35:18 307:3	339:5	253:14 255:17,18 265:14 266:12,22 276:6,13,14 283:11 289:5 295:19 301:8 303:22 328:6 330:4,4 338:9 347:9,17 353:4 362:13 371:11 391:1	<b>underemployed</b> 83:3 88:9
<b>Traina</b> 3:18 376:3 378:19 381:4,6,9 381:10	<b>transuranic</b> 311:15	<b>trust</b> 45:13 68:16 215:19 264:11,15 311:7,20 312:6,8 353:18 372:8	276:6,13,14 283:11 289:5 295:19 301:8 303:22 328:6 330:4,4 338:9 347:9,17 353:4 362:13 371:11 391:1	<b>underground</b> 134:11,14 135:6
<b>trained</b> 78:1 79:12 81:11 233:13 263:19	<b>traumatic</b> 229:6	<b>try</b> 56:18 183:16 188:6 204:3 283:14 326:19 330:3,12 342:16 351:7	283:11 289:5 295:19 301:8 303:22 328:6 330:4,4 338:9 347:9,17 353:4 362:13 371:11 391:1	<b>undermined</b> 288:19
<b>trainee</b> 210:4	<b>traveled</b> 337:22	<b>trying</b> 52:14 57:12 58:2 117:20 156:2 156:4 184:15 185:8 361:11	295:19 301:8 303:22 328:6 330:4,4 338:9 347:9,17 353:4 362:13 371:11 391:1	<b>Underneath</b> 345:7
<b>trainees</b> 213:21	<b>tread</b> 163:4	<b>tryouts</b> 208:21 211:15 212:3,13	295:19 301:8 303:22 328:6 330:4,4 338:9 347:9,17 353:4 362:13 371:11 391:1	<b>underpinning</b> 13:11
<b>training</b> 2:12 4:18 39:18 47:8 83:11 83:15 84:11,14,18 85:1,2,5,9 89:14 89:15 90:10 91:4 205:19 206:9,12 206:21,22 207:2 208:3,10,16 209:2 209:5,15 211:18 214:2 215:3,22 216:4 217:19 237:3,4 256:1	<b>treasure</b> 61:9 281:22	<b>tubes</b> 169:6	295:19 301:8 303:22 328:6 330:4,4 338:9 347:9,17 353:4 362:13 371:11 391:1	<b>underscore</b> 244:16
<b>trainings</b> 218:10	<b>treasures</b> 139:11	<b>Tucker</b> 2:15 220:21 235:7,8,9 246:2	295:19 301:8 303:22 328:6 330:4,4 338:9 347:9,17 353:4 362:13 371:11 391:1	<b>underscores</b> 378:9
<b>transcript</b> 9:7	<b>treat</b> 281:21 379:22	<b>turbines</b> 13:18	295:19 301:8 303:22 328:6 330:4,4 338:9 347:9,17 353:4 362:13 371:11 391:1	<b>understand</b> 69:4 71:19,20 74:2 142:8 143:21 153:14 162:6 192:6 199:3 201:8 209:8 215:4 231:7 240:17 255:13 271:3 286:15 321:20 343:9 372:8 388:18 392:12
<b>transfer</b> 22:16 212:19	<b>treated</b> 63:5 72:15 164:12 355:18	<b>turn</b> 10:6,11 21:19 67:18 77:8 108:1 142:17 166:7 220:15 312:8 357:10,11	295:19 301:8 303:22 328:6 330:4,4 338:9 347:9,17 353:4 362:13 371:11 391:1	<b>understandable</b> 273:11
<b>transferred</b> 204:11 278:20	<b>treatment</b> 7:15 98:22 131:15 383:16	<b>turning</b> 62:8 76:6	295:19 301:8 303:22 328:6 330:4,4 338:9 347:9,17 353:4 362:13 371:11 391:1	<b>understanding</b> 62:13 63:19 64:2 72:2 147:7 163:6 193:10 200:20 286:12 391:20
<b>transformative</b> 211:3	<b>treaty</b> 76:4 142:21 143:3 164:9	<b>tutorials</b> 214:22	295:19 301:8 303:22 328:6 330:4,4 338:9 347:9,17 353:4 362:13 371:11 391:1	<b>understands</b> 71:14
<b>Transit</b> 322:20	<b>Treichel</b> 3:14 360:18 363:15 366:8,10 367:7	<b>Twenty</b> 209:1	295:19 301:8 303:22 328:6 330:4,4 338:9 347:9,17 353:4 362:13 371:11 391:1	<b>understated</b> 108:16
<b>transition</b> 380:14	<b>tremendous</b> 136:14 165:20 244:17,22 245:17 325:7 326:14	<b>twice</b> 213:9,10 226:10 248:19	295:19 301:8 303:22 328:6 330:4,4 338:9 347:9,17 353:4 362:13 371:11 391:1	<b>understood</b> 61:12 89:4 125:4
<b>transitional</b> 133:20	<b>tremendously</b> 205:8	<b>twisted</b> 306:13	295:19 301:8 303:22 328:6 330:4,4 338:9 347:9,17 353:4 362:13 371:11 391:1	<b>undertake</b> 74:21
<b>transitioning</b> 83:7	<b>tribal</b> 203:19	<b>two</b> 1:10 4:20 12:20 13:19 15:10 26:15 26:21 28:8 29:8 32:3 39:1 40:2,16 40:16 45:2 103:2 110:8 115:10 120:15 124:7 133:5 146:6 152:11,11 157:17 167:22 171:6 184:22 189:18,19 191:3,4,9 196:22 212:10 224:13 225:9 233:18 244:19 247:14	295:19 301:8 303:22 328:6 330:4,4 338:9 347:9,17 353:4 362:13 371:11 391:1	<b>undertaken</b> 314:14
<b>translating</b> 233:5	<b>tried</b> 203:12 317:22 342:22	<b>two-and-a-half</b> 363:22	295:19 301:8 303:22 328:6 330:4,4 338:9 347:9,17 353:4 362:13 371:11 391:1	<b>undertaking</b> 227:21
<b>transmission</b> 33:4	<b>trillions</b> 320:9	<b>two-day</b> 208:22	295:19 301:8 303:22 328:6 330:4,4 338:9 347:9,17 353:4 362:13 371:11 391:1	<b>underutilized</b> 85:6 85:10
<b>transparency</b> 354:7,19	<b>trips</b> 391:18	<b>two-state</b> 229:15 235:16 259:14	295:19 301:8 303:22 328:6 330:4,4 338:9 347:9,17 353:4 362:13 371:11 391:1	<b>underway</b> 16:21 17:10 40:1
<b>transparent</b> 135:1 387:22	<b>tritium</b> 61:14 131:2 150:9 171:7,9 230:7	<b>two-thirds</b> 247:12	295:19 301:8 303:22 328:6 330:4,4 338:9 347:9,17 353:4 362:13 371:11 391:1	<b>under-employed</b> 207:3
<b>transport</b> 58:16 314:12,21 338:11 338:17 354:4	<b>tritium-related</b> 136:3	<b>two-unit</b> 11:9,11,15	295:19 301:8 303:22 328:6 330:4,4 338:9 347:9,17 353:4 362:13 371:11 391:1	<b>under-served</b> 207:4
<b>transportation</b> 58:15 100:14 189:11 318:18 319:1 390:10	<b>trouble</b> 114:15 334:15	<b>two-year</b> 255:18	295:19 301:8 303:22 328:6 330:4,4 338:9 347:9,17 353:4 362:13 371:11 391:1	<b>undesirable</b> 319:2 319:10
	<b>troubled</b> 239:22	<b>type</b> 27:13 28:16 30:1 90:11 150:9 184:10 231:12	295:19 301:8 303:22 328:6 330:4,4 338:9 347:9,17 353:4 362:13 371:11 391:1	
	<b>trough</b> 356:8	<b>types</b> 175:13 186:4 253:20	295:19 301:8 303:22 328:6 330:4,4 338:9 347:9,17 353:4 362:13 371:11 391:1	
	<b>truck</b> 375:15	<b>tyranny</b> 44:3	295:19 301:8 303:22 328:6 330:4,4 338:9 347:9,17 353:4 362:13 371:11 391:1	
	<b>true</b> 27:11 89:8 195:11 206:13 272:11 279:3	<b>T-A-B-L-E</b> 4:1	295:19 301:8 303:22 328:6 330:4,4 338:9 347:9,17 353:4 362:13 371:11 391:1	
	<b>truly</b> 97:18 140:17 222:11 293:11		295:19 301:8 303:22 328:6 330:4,4 338:9 347:9,17 353:4 362:13 371:11 391:1	
			295:19 301:8 303:22 328:6 330:4,4 338:9 347:9,17 353:4 362:13 371:11 391:1	

<b>undetermined</b> 321:8	241:21 257:10,14 258:19 281:6	45:19 136:2 140:14 142:16,22	53:19 134:10 258:1,5,18 328:5	<b>various</b> 14:8 15:8 80:15 163:8 166:2
<b>unduly</b> 194:15	282:21 297:19	151:12 163:22	356:18	166:8 182:6,8
<b>unduplicated</b> 261:7	306:9 318:10	242:3,6,7 298:16	<b>utilization</b> 136:13	189:12 216:16
<b>unemployed</b> 83:2 207:3	321:13 375:17	298:17 338:4	250:14	269:9 303:21
<b>unemployment</b> 52:12,14 70:5	<b>units</b> 12:19 13:14 16:20 26:21 32:4	<b>urban</b> 55:1 256:6	<b>utilize</b> 361:12	365:15 388:22
81:4 207:18	33:2 55:4 78:5	<b>urge</b> 96:8 106:17	<b>utilized</b> 66:22	<b>vary</b> 138:6
248:14,17 334:22	79:20	243:15,17 245:13	244:4 254:19	<b>vast</b> 167:17 224:22
<b>unencumbered</b> 284:10	<b>universal</b> 195:2	254:13 278:17	<b>utilizing</b> 234:12	<b>vendors</b> 39:19 41:8
<b>unequaled</b> 250:21 254:19	<b>universities</b> 189:20	302:18 307:12	296:6	84:15 89:12
<b>unfair</b> 240:3	255:18 261:6	354:18 368:14	<b>Utley</b> 2:9 110:2	<b>ventures</b> 238:15
<b>unfairly</b> 355:17	<b>universities</b> 189:20	370:7 381:21	147:15,17 157:11	<b>venues</b> 180:7
<b>unfortunately</b> 19:16 22:8 106:10	<b>universities</b> 189:20	<b>urgency</b> 164:16	174:19 185:10	<b>version</b> 167:15
112:13 119:1	<b>university</b> 255:19	289:4	<b>U.S</b> 36:18 90:12	<b>vessels</b> 377:17
301:4	255:20 294:12	<b>urgently</b> 143:18	97:13 101:21	<b>veteran</b> 294:9
<b>unfounded</b> 193:11	312:18 313:3	<b>urging</b> 382:9	189:13 192:2	<b>veterinarian</b> 292:4
<b>unified</b> 50:7 229:14 231:1 260:8	389:13,16 391:6,8	<b>usable</b> 315:19	251:19 252:10	<b>veto</b> 312:12
<b>Uniform</b> 257:21	<b>unmade</b> 297:11,11	<b>use</b> 13:5,12 14:12	264:8 277:18	<b>viability</b> 22:1
<b>union</b> 85:5 279:21 322:14	<b>unnecessary</b> 307:5	17:15 27:14 32:2	280:1,6 282:22	<b>viable</b> 15:12 301:14
<b>unions</b> 80:9,11 84:19 90:18	<b>unnoticed</b> 228:9	40:20 45:2 58:19	290:5 295:6 325:4	<b>vibrant</b> 229:22 358:9
<b>unique</b> 71:19 190:11 227:4	<b>unparalleled</b> 96:5 251:4	60:22 61:1 77:2		<b>Vice</b> 27:20 383:5
230:20 232:19	<b>unprecedented</b> 83:18 228:1	81:2 83:5 84:5	<b>V</b>	<b>Vicky</b> 1:14 26:5
233:4 234:13	244:14 384:21	115:12 119:8	<b>v</b> 111:3	<b>victory</b> 367:4 368:1
237:6 240:18	<b>unproved</b> 320:12 321:22	120:2 123:4	<b>vacation</b> 193:13	<b>Vidalia</b> 30:20
241:22 245:14	<b>unquestioned</b> 139:2	138:18 142:11	<b>Valentin</b> 109:19	<b>video</b> 9:7
253:10 254:14	<b>unresolved</b> 320:13	147:10 149:15	123:10,11 132:11	<b>view</b> 10:10 34:17
257:14	<b>unrestricted</b> 311:10	154:16 175:20	132:12 166:21	57:10 61:8 67:4
<b>uniquely</b> 224:21 385:1	<b>unsafe</b> 151:16 223:21 307:4	180:13,19 186:3	167:7 170:5,14	71:5,18 72:5
<b>unit</b> 18:8,9 25:5 29:11,15 53:1,7	<b>unselected</b> 297:7	189:10 192:15	177:9 184:10	74:12 164:16
84:7	<b>unspent</b> 104:16	230:12 234:15	292:7	167:4 232:8 240:2
<b>United</b> 12:8 13:4 38:2,12 45:19	<b>unsuitability</b> 359:21	238:2 242:8	<b>VALETIN</b> 2:6	292:1
47:10 55:6,11	<b>unsurpassed</b> 232:4 234:14	244:12 245:8	<b>valid</b> 315:16	<b>viewed</b> 183:8 318:5
78:7 84:19 113:18	<b>unused</b> 224:12	252:11 269:13	<b>Valley</b> 113:20	<b>viewpoint</b> 163:10 231:3
134:2,8 177:3	<b>unusual</b> 49:6	276:1 280:13	242:9	<b>views</b> 8:2 97:21
196:4 226:21	<b>unwanted</b> 319:10	284:10 289:11	<b>valuable</b> 7:13	100:22 107:7
	<b>upgrades</b> 54:15	295:2,10 299:3	126:7 186:19	181:6 186:19
	<b>upset</b> 286:7 343:2,4	313:20 318:7	219:21 252:8	288:13
	<b>upsetting</b> 299:18	327:5 334:21	264:20 309:6	<b>vigilance</b> 307:9
	<b>Upstate</b> 359:6	339:8 341:11	<b>value</b> 224:12 254:8	<b>vigorous</b> 212:5
	<b>uranium</b> 14:10	<b>useful</b> 86:19 102:10 112:8 159:6 182:9	307:12	<b>violate</b> 252:16
		246:16 289:17	<b>vans</b> 212:2	<b>violated</b> 120:3
		<b>uses</b> 29:10,15 291:7	<b>vantage</b> 199:3	<b>virtually</b> 31:13
		<b>usually</b> 52:5 88:8	<b>variables</b> 15:11	<b>visible</b> 274:15
		<b>utilities</b> 60:20,21 269:4	<b>varied</b> 163:22 364:4	<b>vision</b> 65:2 259:20
		<b>utility</b> 25:20 40:8	<b>variety</b> 7:14 241:8 260:22 388:21	<b>visit</b> 7:8 8:9 50:6,17

56:7 96:15 113:13 169:6 199:17 226:8 240:17 246:16 357:16 393:16 <b>visited</b> 20:20 41:5 142:8 200:19 211:20 <b>visiting</b> 199:16 255:13 322:8 338:1 <b>vital</b> 49:19 78:2 92:8 94:6 102:18 105:8 232:19 289:16 <b>vitality</b> 108:21 238:11 <b>vitaly</b> 295:1 <b>vitrication</b> 75:4,6 160:19 161:8 190:17 197:5 317:22 <b>vitricified</b> 67:16 112:14 191:19 197:1 230:8 231:18 305:9 <b>vitricify</b> 161:3 <b>vitricifying</b> 160:21 <b>vividly</b> 33:14 <b>Vogel</b> 111:7 151:18 152:10 167:22 168:20 171:6 <b>Vogtle</b> 7:20 11:7 12:12,19 15:16 16:10,13 17:12,19 18:2 19:7 26:14 26:14 27:4 29:17 30:15,16 32:2 34:13 35:7 37:15 38:1,19 51:15,17 51:20 53:8,20 55:4,5 81:13 103:3 236:15 237:21 258:12 276:20 277:1,10 373:15 374:10 375:10	<b>Vogtle's</b> 78:5 <b>voice</b> 50:7 60:9 100:16 102:14 183:17 229:14 231:1 331:8 <b>voices</b> 130:8 <b>volume</b> 23:16 232:16 251:8 352:13,14 <b>voluntary</b> 202:1 <b>volunteer</b> 198:11 201:13 306:21 <b>volunteered</b> 315:6 <b>Von</b> 122:3 <b>vote</b> 20:16 <b>voted</b> 98:10 <b>Voters</b> 306:7,9 358:4,14 359:2,9 <b>V.C</b> 258:2 <hr/> <b>W</b> <hr/> <b>Waccamaw</b> 359:9 <b>wages</b> 85:1 <b>wait</b> 270:8 329:2,2 <b>waiting</b> 190:17 <b>wake</b> 124:21 171:19 229:6 <b>wall</b> 17:4 <b>Walmart</b> 356:20 <b>WAND</b> 123:13 126:18 <b>want</b> 5:13 9:4 24:21 47:20 56:11 56:19 60:22 67:11 68:4 74:4 77:2 88:19 112:11 113:19 116:15 122:14,15 124:1,2 132:16 147:1,5,22 149:2 154:4,15,16 155:11 156:15 163:6 170:10 172:9 175:18 179:12 181:18 182:4 199:15 211:4 217:16 225:12 231:21	237:13 249:1 260:1 265:18,20 265:21 269:3 284:15 288:13,16 292:14 300:7 306:14 312:5 313:6 316:8 319:8 327:10 329:8,17 334:9,10 336:19 342:11 351:7 353:3 357:15 362:12 365:1 366:10 379:8 381:16 385:21 386:7,20 387:10 388:5 390:14 393:11 <b>wanted</b> 41:4 43:10 70:5 111:4 166:6 292:8 294:16 327:2 364:12 366:19 <b>wanting</b> 66:8 <b>wants</b> 123:3 154:13 158:20 173:6 302:21 334:11,11 343:19 356:18 365:20 <b>war</b> 61:14 62:21 67:3 73:10 192:14 222:6 227:22 229:8 303:20 304:15 338:6 339:13 356:5 372:14 386:10 <b>warm</b> 91:21 <b>Washington</b> 110:19 128:8 136:12 271:16 308:5 368:20 <b>wasn't</b> 64:5 92:4 159:4,19 306:22 373:7 <b>waste</b> 7:11,16 19:15 20:7,16 21:13 22:2,8 23:4 24:8 28:16 35:5	50:10 59:22 60:6 60:19 61:18 62:20 63:13,20 67:2,15 69:19 70:2,13 71:22 72:8,14 85:21 93:22 94:13 94:17,19 95:2 96:7,10 98:18,21 99:9,15 100:1 102:17 103:21 104:4,10,16 109:2 111:18 112:1,15 113:4,22 116:11 116:14 118:2 121:8,10 122:9,11 123:19,21 124:6 124:22 126:3,15 126:17 127:6 129:1,10,18,22 132:5 133:3,9,10 133:12 134:15,16 134:18,19 140:6 140:20,21 141:2,5 141:6 142:7 150:10 152:22 157:22 158:15 161:4,6,12 166:18 176:13,18 177:10 177:13 178:13,20 178:22 179:7 182:17 185:6 188:21 189:14 190:9,12,14,16 191:2,8,11,18,20 192:2,11 193:14 194:16 196:11,15 196:19 197:1,4,7 197:21 198:20 199:11,21 202:3 203:7 222:5,10,12 222:20,20,21 223:6,17 224:1,2 224:14 225:9 230:8 232:21 234:5,18 239:15 239:21 240:12,22 243:10 244:3,7,12	244:12 249:12,12 249:16 250:5,7,11 251:9 252:17,21 254:11 262:1,10 263:2,9,11 265:18 267:9 268:21 271:4 276:8 278:12,15 279:15 280:7 281:1,1,4 281:11,21 286:15 287:2,20 288:17 288:21 289:2 290:16,18,19 291:3,11 295:1,4 295:5,9,13 296:5 296:7 299:16 301:5,8,12,21 303:20 304:5,9,12 305:9,10 307:1,3 307:16,21 308:21 309:2 310:1,15,17 311:16 312:13 314:13,20 315:9 315:14,18,20,21 316:7,20,20 317:3 317:21 318:1,2,14 318:18 319:8,12 320:15,18,21 321:3 323:19 329:1 330:11 334:12 336:4,5,20 337:4,12 338:11 338:20 344:10,14 345:15,18 346:2 346:17 349:6 352:6,14,17 353:1 353:10,11,17 354:2,4,12,13,15 354:16 357:13 358:19,19 359:1 359:12,19 360:7 364:15 366:22 368:19 369:11 376:14 379:10 382:8,8 389:14,18 390:1,6,15 392:4 392:6,10,18
---	---	--	--	--

<b>wasted</b> 106:4 329:18	87:17 110:22 171:5 373:6 374:9 374:10	<b>welcomes</b> 123:13	172:7,16 173:3 176:21 177:12,16 178:14 181:9,15 188:3,6,7 213:12 272:7,9 274:11 280:15,16 281:3 281:12 283:7 285:16 296:10 306:18 318:12 327:18 328:2 330:10,21 334:16 336:10 347:22 355:17 364:14 379:5 388:16	349:18 351:8,10
<b>wastes</b> 223:12 254:4	<b>ways</b> 58:16 80:13 174:10,14,22 178:2 179:3,6 190:5 192:12 198:20 266:8 267:8 269:15 304:7 339:17 357:8 392:8	<b>weld</b> 42:20	176:21 177:12,16 178:14 181:9,15 188:3,6,7 213:12 272:7,9 274:11 280:15,16 281:3 281:12 283:7 285:16 296:10 306:18 318:12 327:18 328:2 330:10,21 334:16 336:10 347:22 355:17 364:14 379:5 388:16	<b>willing</b> 43:3 47:13 65:10,11 75:15 76:9 232:1 234:6 234:8,11 264:20
<b>watch</b> 71:7 111:6,8 119:6 379:14	<b>weaknesses</b> 239:9	<b>welders</b> 264:1	272:7,9 274:11 280:15,16 281:3 281:12 283:7 285:16 296:10 306:18 318:12 327:18 328:2 330:10,21 334:16 336:10 347:22 355:17 364:14 379:5 388:16	<b>willingly</b> 227:20
<b>watched</b> 64:16	<b>wealth</b> 294:19	<b>well-being</b> 348:18 348:19	272:7,9 274:11 280:15,16 281:3 281:12 283:7 285:16 296:10 306:18 318:12 327:18 328:2 330:10,21 334:16 336:10 347:22 355:17 364:14 379:5 388:16	<b>willingness</b> 73:4 195:6
<b>water</b> 11:12 13:13 26:22 27:1 33:4 121:7 124:4 125:2 131:2 151:16,22 168:21 184:19 309:6,16 344:11 344:14 345:2,10 382:3	<b>weapon</b> 73:7 300:4	<b>well-executed</b> 242:12	272:7,9 274:11 280:15,16 281:3 281:12 283:7 285:16 296:10 306:18 318:12 327:18 328:2 330:10,21 334:16 336:10 347:22 355:17 364:14 379:5 388:16	<b>Wilson</b> 2:25 300:19 303:6,9,13
<b>waters</b> 151:13 309:17	<b>weapons</b> 62:11,12 66:8 76:6 104:1 138:21 142:22 230:10 329:6 338:5 339:12 350:9 364:15	<b>well-funded</b> 242:21	272:7,9 274:11 280:15,16 281:3 281:12 283:7 285:16 296:10 306:18 318:12 327:18 328:2 330:10,21 334:16 336:10 347:22 355:17 364:14 379:5 388:16	<b>win</b> 367:18
<b>waterway</b> 339:2	<b>weapons-grade</b> 62:5 64:9 242:6	<b>well-meaning</b> 176:19	272:7,9 274:11 280:15,16 281:3 281:12 283:7 285:16 296:10 306:18 318:12 327:18 328:2 330:10,21 334:16 336:10 347:22 355:17 364:14 379:5 388:16	<b>wind</b> 13:15 57:16 57:19 71:11 138:18 139:13 149:3,3 319:15 326:6 339:8 379:17,20 393:4
<b>waterways</b> 125:3,7	<b>wearing</b> 327:18	<b>went</b> 5:19 28:17 29:11,15 38:20 61:6 107:19 111:9 163:13 187:4 209:3 310:18 357:1 364:6 391:8 391:17,22	272:7,9 274:11 280:15,16 281:3 281:12 283:7 285:16 296:10 306:18 318:12 327:18 328:2 330:10,21 334:16 336:10 347:22 355:17 364:14 379:5 388:16	<b>winding</b> 319:4
<b>way</b> 12:7 16:13 19:22 20:8 28:21 36:2 37:6 43:5 44:8,9 45:11 65:15 71:15 73:9 76:2 82:11 96:13 101:3 108:20 114:17 117:20 129:16 137:11 164:22 175:4 178:8 184:12 193:1 198:9 219:2 247:19 253:8 261:16 266:3 267:3,22 271:3 275:1,22 300:4 310:1 312:1,6 314:2 318:6 323:21 325:21 326:8,19 338:21 348:6,20 356:12 357:1 365:12 380:5	<b>Weaver</b> 1:24 91:16 91:18 97:3	<b>weren't</b> 46:8 159:4 180:10	272:7,9 274:11 280:15,16 281:3 281:12 283:7 285:16 296:10 306:18 318:12 327:18 328:2 330:10,21 334:16 336:10 347:22 355:17 364:14 379:5 388:16	<b>windows</b> 361:9
<b>Waynesboro</b> 1:21 4:6 7:21 30:13,14 36:5 51:4,8,13,18 52:1,3,8 53:5,12 54:7,12 55:1 78:6	<b>web</b> 137:1 175:18	<b>west</b> 113:20 364:5 367:10	272:7,9 274:11 280:15,16 281:3 281:12 283:7 285:16 296:10 306:18 318:12 327:18 328:2 330:10,21 334:16 336:10 347:22 355:17 364:14 379:5 388:16	<b>winds</b> 245:7
	<b>webcasting</b> 9:3	<b>western</b> 319:1,7 320:1 322:12 338:10	272:7,9 274:11 280:15,16 281:3 281:12 283:7 285:16 296:10 306:18 318:12 327:18 328:2 330:10,21 334:16 336:10 347:22 355:17 364:14 379:5 388:16	<b>winning</b> 61:13 62:21 67:3
	<b>website</b> 8:14 9:9 17:16 354:11	<b>Westinghouse</b> 11:9 11:15 16:6 18:3 26:16,19 114:8	272:7,9 274:11 280:15,16 281:3 281:12 283:7 285:16 296:10 306:18 318:12 327:18 328:2 330:10,21 334:16 336:10 347:22 355:17 364:14 379:5 388:16	<b>Winsor</b> 2:17 209:19 221:2 255:6,7,7 265:5 272:21
	<b>weddings</b> 211:12	<b>wet</b> 35:12 114:21	272:7,9 274:11 280:15,16 281:3 281:12 283:7 285:16 296:10 306:18 318:12 327:18 328:2 330:10,21 334:16 336:10 347:22 355:17 364:14 379:5 388:16	<b>win-win</b> 69:12 206:15
	<b>wedge</b> 122:13	<b>we'll</b> 16:22 17:13 69:17 110:3 142:11 148:15 150:1 330:12	272:7,9 274:11 280:15,16 281:3 281:12 283:7 285:16 296:10 306:18 318:12 327:18 328:2 330:10,21 334:16 336:10 347:22 355:17 364:14 379:5 388:16	<b>WIPP</b> 311:15
	<b>week</b> 16:11 40:8 122:2 212:15	<b>we're</b> 5:14 6:2,13 6:21 25:15 35:15 45:16,17 56:2 58:10 59:10 60:22 62:16,17 63:12 64:14 66:16 71:8 72:12,13 73:18 75:9,21 76:9 88:4 91:22 107:17 110:6 113:11 119:7 121:3 122:11,16 162:12 162:21 165:12 166:17,18 168:9	272:7,9 274:11 280:15,16 281:3 281:12 283:7 285:16 296:10 306:18 318:12 327:18 328:2 330:10,21 334:16 336:10 347:22 355:17 364:14 379:5 388:16	<b>wisdom</b> 145:7
	<b>weekly</b> 122:1 173:10		272:7,9 274:11 280:15,16 281:3 281:12 283:7 285:16 296:10 306:18 318:12 327:18 328:2 330:10,21 334:16 336:10 347:22 355:17 364:14 379:5 388:16	<b>wise</b> 109:4 378:20 381:5,6
	<b>weeks</b> 162:21 209:2 209:5		272:7,9 274:11 280:15,16 281:3 281:12 283:7 285:16 296:10 306:18 318:12 327:18 328:2 330:10,21 334:16 336:10 347:22 355:17 364:14 379:5 388:16	<b>wisely</b> 54:1
	<b>welcome</b> 5:13 12:1 48:13 51:7 56:5 56:19,21 61:21 91:22 97:8,16 102:7 206:1 221:9 226:4 246:14 254:22 255:14 282:12 287:4 381:10 383:2		272:7,9 274:11 280:15,16 281:3 281:12 283:7 285:16 296:10 306:18 318:12 327:18 328:2 330:10,21 334:16 336:10 347:22 355:17 364:14 379:5 388:16	<b>wiser</b> 357:7
			272:7,9 274:11 280:15,16 281:3 281:12 283:7 285:16 296:10 306:18 318:12 327:18 328:2 330:10,21 334:16 336:10 347:22 355:17 364:14 379:5 388:16	<b>wish</b> 9:22 10:3 17:15 69:16 109:10 134:20 147:16
			272:7,9 274:11 280:15,16 281:3 281:12 283:7 285:16 296:10 306:18 318:12 327:18 328:2 330:10,21 334:16 336:10 347:22 355:17 364:14 379:5 388:16	<b>wished</b> 76:4
			272:7,9 274:11 280:15,16 281:3 281:12 283:7 285:16 296:10 306:18 318:12 327:18 328:2 330:10,21 334:16 336:10 347:22 355:17 364:14 379:5 388:16	<b>wishes</b> 9:12
			272:7,9 274:11 280:15,16 281:3 281:12 283:7 285:16 296:10 306:18 318:12 327:18 328:2 330:10,21 334:16 336:10 347:22 355:17 364:14 379:5 388:16	<b>wishful</b> 139:16
			272:7,9 274:11 280:15,16 281:3 281:12 283:7 285:16 296:10 306:18 318:12 327:18 328:2 330:10,21 334:16 336:10 347:22 355:17 364:14 379:5 388:16	<b>withdraw</b> 22:9 145:17
			272:7,9 274:11 280:15,16 281:3 281:12 283:7 285:16 296:10 306:18 318:12 327:18 328:2 330:10,21 334:16 336:10 347:22 355:17 364:14 379:5 388:16	<b>wither</b> 146:4
			272:7,9 274:11 280:15,16 281:3 281:12 283:7 285:16 296:10 306:18 318:12 327:18 328:2 330:10,21 334:16 336:10 347:22 355:17 364:14 379:5 388:16	<b>withholding</b> 172:5
			272:7,9 274:11 280:15,16 281:3 281:12 283:7 285:16 296:10 306:18 318:12 327:18 328:2 330:10,21 334:16 336:10 347:22 355:17 364:14 379:5 388:16	<b>withstanding</b> 278:22



<b>WNCPSR</b> 319:20 322:5	269:22 273:12 287:15 334:20	<b>world</b> 13:5 17:2 58:7 64:16 65:21	<b>www.nirs.org</b> 342:13	325:22 326:2,7 333:19 337:21
<b>Wolfe</b> 2:8 109:22 135:11,12,13 147:14 163:5,11	335:1 358:15 385:8 388:8	71:10 76:3 137:16 139:8 140:4	<b>www.southernco...</b> 17:16	344:9 356:7 360:21 367:13
<b>women</b> 47:1 83:1 306:7,9 359:8	<b>workable</b> 223:22 307:3	142:17 144:12 145:14,22 152:7	<b>Y</b>	378:22 379:1 381:15 384:5
<b>Women's</b> 2:6 109:18 298:6	<b>worked</b> 42:13 46:20 198:12	180:4,15 192:13 214:4 228:7	<b>yard</b> 155:9	386:2,3,4,9 387:7 387:9,9,9 392:7
<b>won</b> 367:14	210:20 277:11 279:18 283:2	241:14 254:18 268:5 296:8,12	<b>Yasinsac</b> 3:9 340:6 341:9 344:5,7,8	392:19
<b>wonder</b> 41:10 152:12 157:18 328:14 332:3	310:11 324:16,17 371:12 384:12 386:9	310:22 320:18 334:9 338:6 391:17	<b>year</b> 16:14 28:1 53:21 58:11 84:22	<b>yellow</b> 110:9
<b>wondered</b> 43:20 166:20 270:13	<b>worker</b> 52:12 277:5 384:4	<b>worldwide</b> 39:19 142:20 144:10	85:3 115:18 141:17 161:20	<b>yesterday</b> 5:16 6:13 17:7 41:4
<b>wonderful</b> 178:3,9 180:22 221:16 337:5 381:18	<b>workers</b> 18:10,12 18:14 32:15 42:8	<b>world's</b> 66:5,6 78:1 146:16	162:14 169:5 239:17 271:21,22	46:7 61:6 97:19 102:6 112:7 142:9
<b>wood</b> 14:2	46:12 53:8 78:9 79:12 81:7,12	<b>world-class</b> 219:11	274:16 311:5 346:14 371:22	159:6,18 231:19 356:19 361:1
<b>word</b> 174:3 175:5 175:11 270:22	83:20 84:13,16 85:12 88:21	<b>worried</b> 64:5,7 122:11 340:14,15	372:3 391:19	<b>young</b> 2:13 47:1 49:16 150:16
<b>words</b> 25:9 124:15 124:20 125:11 170:13 259:22	241:16 259:11 260:4 261:20	340:22 <b>worry</b> 157:2 249:18	<b>yearly</b> 244:20	153:15 210:19 213:14,15 217:20
<b>work</b> 5:19 7:11 8:11 12:3,9,16 16:15,17,20 18:18	278:6 338:5 383:9	250:3 <b>worst</b> 315:8	<b>years</b> 15:3,10 21:22 23:2 25:6,21 28:8	220:19 221:5,6 225:17 278:6,8
24:1 28:1 38:16 42:7 47:16 58:2 70:12 79:13 81:18 84:2 92:10 93:17 95:2 96:13 97:11	<b>workforce</b> 46:16 47:2 77:17 78:2	<b>worth</b> 197:13 220:5 224:16	31:15 32:16 35:13 35:14,16 40:2	338:6
123:22 126:19 129:19 150:14 157:5 158:22 159:15 161:22 165:16 174:8 185:7 194:13 198:13 204:10 207:20 208:3 209:3 210:12,14 216:6 218:20 231:6 232:22 235:3 238:3 240:1 244:13 245:20 256:17 260:2 261:4 263:21	79:17 80:20 85:22 240:19 256:3,4 257:2 258:22 259:2 260:10 263:18 264:19 266:5 387:6	<b>wouldn't</b> 30:9 143:8 157:18 160:22 161:13 168:3,4 202:4 327:9 366:16 392:13	41:14 49:11 51:22 54:21 58:1 63:1 63:14 70:20 71:3 78:8 90:18 92:15 105:19 112:3,9 114:2 120:15 122:3 125:8 135:14,19 140:1 161:11 163:13 184:15 185:1,1,2 185:4 189:5 199:1	<b>youth</b> 379:4 <b>Yucca</b> 20:1,20 21:2 21:7 22:22 23:1 23:20 35:19 50:8 60:4 61:3 63:14 66:15 69:6 70:11 71:5 74:3,10 75:4 94:5,6 95:19 98:5 98:8,11,15 102:15 104:14 105:16,18 106:1,10,17 112:17,19,21 113:5 118:17 122:16 133:14 151:10 158:8 183:20 184:15 191:22 195:10,15 197:3 231:6,7 233:21,22 238:22 239:16 240:1 243:14,18 262:14 265:15 286:8,20 288:19 289:5,6,11 297:6 301:20
	259:2 260:10 263:18 264:19 266:5 387:6	<b>worry</b> 157:2 249:18 250:3	41:14 49:11 51:22 54:21 58:1 63:1 63:14 70:20 71:3 78:8 90:18 92:15 105:19 112:3,9 114:2 120:15 122:3 125:8 135:14,19 140:1 161:11 163:13 184:15 185:1,1,2 185:4 189:5 199:1	
	<b>workforces</b> 41:8	<b>worth</b> 197:13 220:5 224:16	205:7 210:6,7,20 221:11,13 226:11 226:14 227:17 235:14 237:17 241:6 245:19 248:11 249:5 250:9 255:11 257:16 273:8 277:10 279:16,18 286:9 296:2 300:22 301:3 302:7 311:5 320:10,16 321:15	
	<b>workhorse</b> 263:5	<b>wouldn't</b> 30:9 143:8 157:18 160:22 161:13 168:3,4 202:4 327:9 366:16 392:13		
	<b>working</b> 6:21 15:5 18:3,4 42:11 46:13 55:7 63:11 75:7 91:2 96:16 186:1 218:2 257:18 260:11 261:6 277:10 280:2 283:5,7 337:7,21 342:3 343:3 344:10 371:11	<b>wrote</b> 136:20		
	<b>workout</b> 212:5	<b>www.aboutnucle...</b> 371:20		
	<b>works</b> 269:11	<b>www.ans.org</b> 371:19		

302:4 304:18	<b>10,000</b> 259:11	<b>1952</b> 371:8	208:19 259:7	344:9 346:13
306:11 311:16	<b>10.1</b> 153:11	<b>1954</b> 111:4 190:15	337:22	<b>30,000-plus</b> 384:4
312:3 317:18	<b>10:15</b> 107:13	<b>1960s</b> 52:8	<b>2010</b> 19:3 209:3,4	<b>30-year-old</b> 287:7
347:11,12,16,17	<b>10:16</b> 107:20	<b>1969</b> 52:20	212:10	<b>300</b> 144:19 251:17
348:2,4 359:21	<b>100</b> 23:2 63:13 84:1	<b>1970</b> 373:15	<b>2011</b> 1:6 78:19	284:9
362:16,19 367:3	112:9 281:13	<b>1970s</b> 315:15	<b>2012</b> 80:4 371:20	<b>300-plus</b> 353:16
367:11 368:12	295:14	373:15	371:22	<b>31.55(c)</b> 369:14
369:2 376:13	<b>100,000</b> 79:11	<b>1977</b> 310:12	<b>2013</b> 143:3	<b>310</b> 247:13
<b>Yucca's</b> 360:3	<b>101</b> 4:14	<b>1982</b> 19:15 301:5,7	<b>2016</b> 18:9 27:10	<b>32</b> 360:21
	<b>104</b> 79:20 150:8	368:18 369:8	35:13	<b>33</b> 318:12
	281:5	<b>1983</b> 104:11 310:12	<b>2017</b> 18:10 55:5,5	<b>350</b> 208:20
<b>Z</b>	<b>107-107</b> 133:7	<b>1984</b> 297:4	<b>2050</b> 148:17	<b>3500</b> 18:12 32:15
<b>zealot</b> 364:21	369:13	<b>1987</b> 182:14 301:16	<b>206</b> 4:19	53:2
<b>Zeller</b> 2:23 294:2	<b>108</b> 4:15	<b>1989</b> 53:7	<b>21</b> 257:16 281:2	<b>36</b> 62:4 190:16
296:19,21 297:1	<b>11</b> 210:20 213:19	<b>1990</b> 226:12	378:22	300:22 358:6
297:10	213:20 255:11	<b>1990s</b> 136:6	<b>21st</b> 14:18	<b>36,000</b> 308:20
<b>Zero</b> 147:19,21	<b>11:35</b> 187:4	<b>1992</b> 39:3 310:18	<b>22</b> 135:14	<b>36-year</b> 294:9
151:4	<b>110</b> 4:16	<b>1993</b> 142:20 229:5	<b>22,000</b> 373:18	<b>37</b> 156:6 304:11
<b>Zigelman</b> 276:16	<b>113</b> 208:20	<b>1995</b> 123:5 248:2	<b>220</b> 4:20	<b>39</b> 213:19
279:9 282:4,6	<b>12</b> 30:19 341:15	<b>1997</b> 153:9	<b>23</b> 302:7 367:13	<b>393</b> 4:22
	375:12	<b>1998</b> 104:17	<b>2400</b> 103:10	
	<b>12-month</b> 211:8		<b>25</b> 105:19 184:15	<b>4</b>
<b>\$</b>	<b>12:30</b> 187:1	<b>2</b>	185:1 207:18	<b>4</b> 12:12 15:16 16:10
<b>\$1</b> 20:5	<b>12:32</b> 187:5 188:2	<b>2</b> 26:15 53:1,7	326:2,7 386:3	16:20 17:13,19
<b>\$1.3</b> 60:19	<b>120</b> 112:3	149:6 212:7,21	<b>25,480</b> 80:2	18:9 19:8 32:21
<b>\$1.4</b> 118:6	<b>1200</b> 26:16	213:8 214:18	<b>250</b> 58:1 324:20,22	34:14 35:7,11
<b>\$1.5</b> 118:6	<b>13</b> 54:3	<b>20</b> 35:13,14,16	<b>250,000</b> 392:19	37:15 55:4 78:5
<b>\$10</b> 104:13	<b>13th</b> 16:4,12	57:20 59:17 81:3	<b>26</b> 79:9 325:4	369:14 370:1
<b>\$15</b> 85:4	<b>13-year</b> 153:15	143:8 185:4	<b>26,000</b> 237:2	374:19
<b>\$16</b> 63:8 75:5	<b>14</b> 210:9 311:4	221:11 248:18	<b>27</b> 150:8	<b>4,000</b> 79:2 88:5
<b>\$2</b> 75:16	323:8	262:4 281:6 286:9	<b>275</b> 4:21	103:4 248:2
<b>\$20</b> 104:15	<b>14,000</b> 53:7	301:3 321:14	<b>28,000</b> 285:21	<b>40</b> 92:15 114:2
<b>\$24</b> 53:20	<b>15</b> 54:20 57:20 71:3	323:7,9 324:3		189:5 209:14
<b>\$250</b> 161:20	279:18	326:7 373:17	<b>3</b>	325:5
<b>\$3</b> 75:16	<b>150</b> 257:10	<b>20s</b> 210:5	<b>3</b> 12:12 15:16 16:10	<b>42</b> 213:20
<b>\$400</b> 58:11	<b>1500</b> 18:10	<b>20th</b> 14:15	16:20 17:12,19	<b>45</b> 70:20
<b>\$5</b> 174:12	<b>16</b> 221:12 386:4	<b>20,000</b> 112:22	18:8 19:7 32:21	<b>45,000</b> 358:7
<b>\$50</b> 105:2	<b>1600</b> 79:5	<b>2005</b> 15:6 19:2	34:13 35:7 37:15	<b>48</b> 4:5
<b>\$716</b> 104:11	<b>17</b> 11:17 79:7 323:9	311:18 353:14	55:4 78:5 374:19	
<b>\$750</b> 84:21	<b>17th</b> 16:8	<b>2006</b> 115:8 294:10	<b>3,000</b> 104:6 134:17	<b>5</b>
<b>\$9</b> 111:10	<b>18</b> 16:18 53:4	<b>2007</b> 116:12 353:7	158:13	<b>5</b> 138:20
<b>\$900</b> 111:9	162:12 210:7	354:8	<b>3.1.1.6</b> 353:14	<b>5,000</b> 88:5
	<b>18th</b> 152:16	<b>2008</b> 15:16 35:3	<b>3:53</b> 393:19	<b>50</b> 143:1 155:1
<b>1</b>	<b>188</b> 4:17	116:11 196:6	<b>30</b> 11:8 15:2 25:6	199:1 259:15
<b>1</b> 26:14 53:1 62:19	<b>19</b> 210:6 318:11	257:5	41:14 78:8 149:4	320:15
<b>1,000</b> 153:10	386:2	<b>2009</b> 78:20 106:7	151:11 279:16	<b>50s</b> 372:13
<b>1:00</b> 9:19	<b>1950s</b> 247:17	115:16 116:19	317:13 337:20	<b>50-mile</b> 202:8
<b>10</b> 4:4 30:19 110:6				<b>50-year</b> 232:22
146:13				
<b>10th</b> 101:22				

51 4:7 62:18 94:18  
 52 39:6  
 56 4:8  
 57 275:19 386:4  
 58 210:7  
 59 156:5

---

**6**

---

6 4:2  
 6,000 11:16 278:6  
 60 34:2 227:17  
   237:17 248:11  
   387:7  
 60s 372:13  
 60-year 247:10  
 62,500 280:22  
 65 320:10 388:17

---

**7**

---

7 1:6  
 70s 45:14 58:9  
   90:19 251:18  
   303:17  
 700 79:21 281:7  
 72 256:15  
 72,800 79:22 80:3  
 74 282:22  
 75 29:12 118:7  
   210:22  
 750 149:5  
 77 4:10 29:15

---

**8**

---

8,315 112:20  
 8:00 1:9  
 8:01 5:2  
 80 52:9  
 800 18:13 32:13  
   87:11  
 82 59:14 301:10  
 832 373:14 375:13  
 85 256:16  
 87 369:1  
 88 301:18

---

**9**

---

9.1 153:11  
 9.7 70:4

9/11 228:1  
 9:46 107:19  
 90 277:19,20 284:2  
   300:3 310:16  
 900 26:20 27:2  
   53:10 244:20  
 91 4:11  
 93 335:2  
 94 221:12  
 95 295:14  
 97 4:13