#### Page 1

# BLUE RIBBON COMMISSION ON AMERICA'S NUCLEAR FUTURE

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MEETING + + + + + WEDNESDAY, July 14, 2010

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The Committee convened at 1:30 p.m. in the Great Hall of the Three Rivers Convention Center at 7016 West Grandridge Boulevard, Kennewick, Washington, Lee Hamilton and Brent Scowcroft, Co-Chairs, presiding.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

LEE HAMILTON, Chair BRENT SCOWCROFT, Chair VICKY A. BAILEY ALBERT CARNESALE PETE V. DOMENICI

CHUCK HAGEL JONATHAN LASH ALLISON MacFARLANE RICHARD MESERVE ERNIE MONIZ PER PETERSON JOHN ROWE

PHIL SHARP

Page 2

ALSO PRESENT:

TIM FRAZIER, Designated Federal Official DAVE BROCKMAN, DOE-RL WARREN SPENCER, Confederated Tribes and

Bands of the Yakama Nation BROOKLYN BAPTISTE, Nez Perce Tribe STUART HARRIS, Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation ALYSSA BUCK, Wanapum Tribe KEN NILES, Oregon Department of Energy

SUSAN LECKBAND, Hanford Advisory Board

CARL ADRIAN, Tri-City Development

Council

GERALD POLLETT, Heart of America NW SARAH MINKLER, Heart of America NW VIC PARRISH, Energy Northwest ELIZABETH SCHEELER, Office of US Senator Jeff Merkley

AGENDA ITEMPAGEOpening remarks, Co-Chairs and Members				Page	3
DOE welcome, Dave Brockman		AGENDA ITEM	PAGE		
Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation, Warren Spencer Jr	C	Opening remarks, Co-Chairs and Members.	4		
<pre>Nation, Warren Spencer Jr</pre>	Γ	DOE welcome, Dave Brockman	11		
<pre>Nation, Warren Spencer Jr</pre>					
Nez Perce Tribe, Brooklyn Baptiste 21 Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, Stuart Harris 40 Wanapum Tribe, Alyssa Buck	C	Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yał	cama		
Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, Stuart Harris 40 Wanapum Tribe, Alyssa Buck	Ŋ	Nation, Warren Spencer Jr	13		
Reservation, Stuart Harris	Ŋ	Nez Perce Tribe, Brooklyn Baptiste	21		
Wanapum Tribe, Alyssa Buck	C	Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indi	ian		
Oregon DOE, Ken Niles 61 Hanford Advisory Board, Susan Leckband 86 Tri-City Development Council, Carl Adrian 96 Heart of America Northwest, Gerald Pollett and	F	Reservation, Stuart Harris	40		
Hanford Advisory Board, Susan Leckband 86 Tri-City Development Council, Carl Adrian 96 Heart of America Northwest, Gerald Pollett and	V	Vanapum Tribe, Alyssa Buck	56		
Tri-City Development Council, Carl Adrian 96 Heart of America Northwest, Gerald Pollett and	C	Dregon DOE, Ken Niles	61		
Heart of America Northwest, Gerald Pollett and	F	Hanford Advisory Board, Susan Leckband.	86		
Heart of America Northwest, Gerald Pollett and					
	Ţ	Tri-City Development Council, Carl Adria	an 96		
Sarah Minkler	F	Heart of America Northwest, Gerald Polle	ett and		
	S	Sarah Minkler	108		
Energy Northwest, Vic Parrish	F	Energy Northwest, Vic Parrish	132		
Office of US Senator Jeff Merkley, Elizabeth	C	Office of US Senator Jeff Merkley, Eliza	abeth		
Scheeler	S	Scheeler	158		
Adjourn	F	Adjourn	162		

		Page
1	P-R-O-C-E-E-D-I-N-G-S	
2	1:30 p.m.	
3	MR. FRAZIER: If the Commissioners	
4	will take their seats? Thank you.	
5	I will add a DOE Headquarters	
6	welcome to everyone and then turn it over to	
7	you, General, or Congressman Hamilton?	
8	General Scowcroft. Thank you,	
9	sir.	
10	CHAIR SCOWCROFT: Oh, you're done?	
11	MR. FRAZIER: Yes.	
12	CHAIR SCOWCROFT: Good afternoon	
13	and thank you, all, for coming to this meeting	
14	of the Blue Ribbon Commission on America's	
15	Nuclear Future.	
16	This Commission was formed by the	
17	Secretary of Energy at the direction of the	
18	President. The purpose of the Commission is	
19	to conduct a comprehensive review of policies	
20	for managing the back end of the nuclear fuel	
21	cycle, and recommend a new plan. That's what	
22	we're working to do.	

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		Page 5
1	There are, of course, matters	
2	related to the back end of the fuel cycle that	
3	are currently pending before the Nuclear	
4	Regulatory Commission and the DC Circuit Court	
5	of Appeals. These matters relate to the	
6	administration's decision to withdraw the	
7	application for the proposed nuclear waste	
8	repository at Yucca Mountain in Nevada.	
9	Obviously, these proceedings are	
10	important. But we cannot know at this time	
11	how or when they will be resolved. It would	
12	be inappropriate for the Commission to inject	
13	itself into these pending proceedings, which	
14	may continue well after the Commission	
15	concludes its work.	
16	Our task is to proceed with our	
17	mandate and to make recommendations to the	
18	Secretary of Energy. The scope of the	
19	Commission's review will not change unless the	
20	Secretary directs it to do so.	
21	We would like to remind those with	
22	us today that we are not a siting commission.	

		Pa
1	We should also point out that our Commission's	
2	charter does not include the details of the	
3	on-site cleanup activities at Hanford,	
4	although we certainly recognize the importance	
5	of this federal responsibility.	
6	In keeping with the Commission	
7	Charter, we decided to visit the Hanford site	
8	because we believe we must hear from	
9	communities with a substantial interest in	
10	solving the waste problem as we conduct our	
11	work.	
12	We also knew that touring the site	
13	would 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 this afternoon and	
18	part of tomorrow morning hearing from tribal	
19	and local government officials, community	
20	groups, and others about their views on the	
21	matters before the Commission.	
22	Tomorrow morning we will also hear	

		Page
1	from the Governor of Washington and	
2	representatives of Washington's congressional	
3	delegation and Attorney General.	
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 them during our	
9	visit.	
10	We look forward to hearing from	
11	more people and groups going forward, and we	
12	encourage anyone with an interest in our work	
13	to submit written input to the Commission now	
14	or at any point in the process. Your comments	
15	will be posted on the Commission Web site and	
16	will be made available to the full Commission.	
17	CHAIR HAMILTON: Okay. Thank you,	
18	Brent.	
19	Good afternoon to everyone.	
20	First, a word about our speakers.	
21	We remind the speakers that they are to keep	
22	to their formal presentation of 10 minutes or	

		Page 8
1	less, and that the remainder of the allotted	rage o
2	time will be used for questions and discussion	
3	with the Commission. Because of the full	
4	schedule we have this afternoon, the Chairs	
5	will be fairly strict in enforcing those time	
6	limits.	
7	We appreciate very much the time	
8	and effort the speakers have put into their	
9	presentations. We've received summaries, of	
10	course, of those statements and the statements	
11	themselves, and we look forward to their	
12	comments this afternoon.	
13	Secondly, with regard to	
14	webcasting, we are webcasting this meeting as	
15	we've done for all of our meetings. We want	
16	people who aren't able to get to our meeting	
17	locations to be able to follow our	
18	proceedings. The video and transcript from	
19	this and all Commission meetings will be	
20	posted on the Commission website.	
21	Next, a word about the	
22	subcommittees. Those of you who have been	

		Page
1	following the work of the Commission know that	
2	we formed three subcommittees to aid in	
3	completing the work of the Commission: the	
4	Reactor and Fuel Cycle Technology	
5	Subcommittee, headed by Pete Domenici and Per	
6	Peterson; a Transportation and Storage	
7	Subcommittee, headed by Richard Meserve and	
8	Phil Sharp; and a Disposal Subcommittee headed	
9	by Chuck Hagel and Jonathan Lash.	
10	After tomorrow's remarks by	
11	Governor Gregoire, we will ask the Co-Chairs	
12	of each of the three subcommittees to provide	
13	a brief update on their work to date.	
14	Next, a word about public comment.	
15	At the end of tomorrow's session, not today's,	
16	we will hear from any member of the audience	
17	who wishes to speak. We've allowed for an	
18	extended public comment period at the end of	
19	tomorrow's meeting, in recognition of the	
20	number of people who have commented at our	
21	prior meetings.	
22	A sign-up sheet for the public	

		Pa
1	comment period will be available tomorrow	
2	morning, starting at 8:00 a.m. and closing at	
3	10:00 a.m. The amount of time allocated to	
4	each speaker will depend, of course, on the	
5	number of people who wish to speak.	
6	Finally, let me just observe that	
7	we are very pleased to have added two members	
8	to the Commission staff since our last	
9	meeting. Mary Woollen will serve as our	
10	government and community liaison person.	
11	Natalia Saraeva will serve as staff liaison to	
12	the disposal subcommittee. This completes, we	
13	believe, at this point the hiring of our core	
14	staff.	
15	With those administrative matters	
16	aside, I'll open the floor up now for the	
17	Commissioners to see if they have any	
18	statements or comments that they wish to make	
19	before we proceed with the afternoon program.	
20	Are there any such comments?	
21	If not, then we welcome to the	
22	microphone Dave Brockman, who is the	

Page 10

		Page 11
1	Department of Energy, Richland manager.	
2	Dave, thank you very much for	
3	hosting our tour this morning. We appreciated	
4	that greatly. We're pleased to hear from you	
5	now.	
6	MR. BROCKMAN: Thank you.	
7	Mr. Co-Chairmen and the	
8	Commission, I want to formally welcome you on	
9	behalf of myself, Shirley Oringer, and the	
10	rest of the Department of Energy here at	
11	Hanford. We're pleased to have you here.	
12	We were honored to be able to show	
13	you a portion of the site this morning,	
14	particularly as it involves the high-level	
15	waste at the site, to give you firsthand	
16	knowledge of the situation we're facing on the	
17	site. We're pleased that you decided to visit	
18	the site and give us a chance to have a very	
19	good dialogue.	
20	I was impressed with the	
21	questions. I'll say I was stumped by some and	
22	I have some look-ups. That's a positive	

Page 12 thing. 1 2 Finally, in the welcoming, I just want to compliment you on the transparency and 3 4 the openness of your Commission. We offered 5 up 80 bus seats and they were gone in a very 6 short period of time. As you can see, the 7 room is filling up. It makes our job easy 8 when you're this open with everybody. We really appreciate that. 9 10 Welcome again. Thank you. 11 CHAIR HAMILTON: Dave, thank you 12 very much. We will begin now with our 13 14 speakers for the afternoon. The first will be 15 Warren Spencer, Yakama Nation Tribal Council. 16 Mr. Spencer, would you please come forward? 17 18 May I point out to you that we 19 have a light system here? The green light 20 will come on when you begin. When you have 1 21 minute left from the 10 minutes, the yellow 22 light will appear. When that light appears,

	Pa
1	we ask you to begin to wrap up your comments
2	so we can turn to questions.
3	Thank you very much for coming,
4	Mr. Spencer. We're pleased to have you. You
5	may begin.
6	MR. SPENCER: Thank you.
7	Good afternoon. Welcome,
8	everybody. I'm Warren Spencer Jr. with the
9	Yakama Nation Tribal Council. I serve as a
10	secretary of the Radioactive Hazardous Waste
11	Committee. I come before the Blue Ribbon
12	Commission on America's Nuclear Future of the
13	United States Department of Energy on behalf
14	of the Confederated Tribes and Bands of the
15	Yakama Nation.
16	I wish to thank the Commission for
17	the opportunity to make this presentation
18	regarding the management and disposal of high-
19	level radioactive waste and other hazardous
20	nuclear materials.
21	The purpose of my comments is to
22	address two main issues: the treaty rights of

the Yakama people with respect to the United 1 2 States Department of Energy's Hanford site; 3 and also, the trust responsibilities that the 4 Energy Department and this Commission have 5 federally recognized tribal governments, in 6 compliance with the treaties between Indian 7 tribes and the United States government. 8 Mr. Russell Jim, manager of the 9 Yakama Nation's Environmental Restoration and Waste Management Program, will subsequently 10 address specific issues of concern to the 11 12 tribe in tomorrow's session regarding the 13 protection of the cultural resources and of 14 the environment, safety, and health of the Yakama people. 15 16 On April 9, 2010 on behalf of 17 Yakama Nation, our own chairman, Harry 18 Smiskin, wrote President Obama and the Energy 19 Secretary Chu, issuing a formal request for 20 government to government consultation 21 regarding the decision of Council in the 22 United States Department of Energy's proposed

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#### Page 14

		Pag
1	Yucca Mountain high-level radioactive waste	
2	repository in Nevada.	
3	This decision is a great concern	
4	of the Yakama Nation in light of the growing	
5	interest in expanding nuclear power, and the	
б	toxic legacy of nuclear weapons production	
7	affecting the health and safety of the Yakama	
8	people and its cultural resources.	
9	Specifically, the Yakama Nation's	
10	treaty resources are impacted by the	
11	radioactive waste generated by the Columbia	
12	Generating Station nuclear power plant on the	
13	Department of Energy's Hanford site from	
14	profound contamination and enormous amounts of	
15	high-level radioactive waste created by the	
16	production of plutonium.	
17	As President Obama noted in his	
18	November 5, 2009 memorandum for the heads of	
19	executive departments and the heads of federal	
20	agencies, "History has shown the failure to	
21	include the voices of tribal officials, and	
22	formulating policies affecting their	

## Page 15

		Page 1	16
1	communities has too often led to undesirable,		
2	and at times, devastating and tragic results.		
3	Consultation is a critical ingredient of a		
4	sound and productive federal-tribal government		
5	relationship."		
6	Unfortunately, we have yet to		
7	receive a response from President Obama and		
8	the Secretary Chu to our request.		
9	The Confederated Tribes and Bands		
10	of Yakama Nation retain perpetual rights on		
11	its reservation in the ceded lands of the		
12	usual and custom places, pursuant to the		
13	treaty of 1855 with the United States, 12		
14	Stat. 957, done and dated June 9, 1855. The		
15	Yakama Nation also reserves rights not		
16	enumerated in the treaty and not divested by		
17	the United States.		
18	The Hanford Nuclear Reservation is		
19	the most contaminated site in the United		
20	States. It is located on the Yakama Nation		
21	federally ceded lands.		
22	The Yakama people have exercised		

		Page	17
1	their indigenous rights on the Hanford land		
2	from time immemorial, and continue to exercise		
3	their rights as guaranteed by the treaty of		
4	1855 until 1943, when the federal Manhattan		
5	Project excluded Yakama Nation members from		
6	approximately 580 acres of their ancestral		
7	lands.		
8	The Yakama Nation Reservation is		
9	located approximately 13 miles from the		
10	Hanford site.		
11	Hanford is of extraordinary		
12	significance to the Yakama Nation. Hanford		
13	was a Yakama Nation wintering ground from time		
14	immemorial, and contains cultural resources		
15	and trust resources of an unestimated value to		
16	future generations of the Yakama members.		
17	Hanford has and will affect treaty resources		
18	beyond the site's boundaries.		
19	Yakama government policies states		
20	that the Hanford site must be restored into a		
21	condition which permits full exercise of		
22	Yakama Nation treaty rights, while ensuring		

P1protection for the health and safety of Yakama members.3Fursuant to their sovereign4interests, Yakama Nation has enacted a number5of tribal directives to protect its rights and6interests in respect to the Hanford activities.8These include: establishing an9agreement with the Department of Energy to10ensure treaty compliance to protect the Yakama11people and the natural resources; initiate a12comprehensive, independent assessment of13natural resources affected by Hanford; conduct14an assessment of unique risks to tribal15members and their culture; and measures16necessary for special protection of the17resources and the Native American peoples.18Also, to develop in consultation19with Interior and Energy Departments a20mutually agreeable process to permit co-21management of the treaty-defined resources.22And most recently, establishing a			
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	20	mutually agreeable process to permit co-	
22 And most recently, establishing a	21	management of the treaty-defined resources.	
	22	And most recently, establishing a	

		Page
1	comprehensive effort for the removal of the	
2	buried plutonium contaminated waste for proper	
3	disposal in a geological repository.	
4	The Yakama Nation was one of two	
5	tribal governments in the United States	
6	requested to participate in initially	
7	implanting process in 1989, in recognition of	
8	the extraordinary impacts to the Yakama Nation	
9	from past federal government activities and in	
10	anticipation of continued impacts during	
11	remedial actions and restoration activities.	
12	Since that time, the Department of	
13	Energy has recognized other tribal governments	
14	which are affected by its weapons complex	
15	activities.	
16	As Hanford cleanup approaches	
17	completion, or is terminated at specific waste	
18	sites or operable units, ensuring that treaty	
19	compliance is intended becomes a critical	
20	intergovernmental concern.	
21	In order to implement its	
22	government-to-government relationship with the	
	Neel P. Crocc & Co. Inc.	

		Page	20
1	tribal sovereigns, the Department of Energy		
2	has developed an American Indian and Alaskan		
3	Native Tribal Government Policy. This policy		
4	is based on the United States Constitution,		
5	treaties, Supreme Court decisions, Executive		
6	Orders, statutes, existing federal policies,		
7	tribal laws, and the dynamic political		
8	relationship between Indian nations and the		
9	federal government.		
10	The most important doctrine		
11	derived from this relationship is the trust		
12	responsibility of the United States to protect		
13	tribal sovereignty and its self-determination,		
14	tribal lands, assets, resources, and the		
15	treaty under the federally recognized reserved		
16	rights.		
17	This concludes my statement. Once		
18	again, I'd like to thank the Blue Ribbon		
19	Commission for allowing the Yakama Nation this		
20	time to provide testimony. Thank you.		
21	CHAIR HAMILTON: Thank you very		
22	much, Mr. Spencer. We thank you for your		

Page 21 testimony. 1 2 Are there questions for Mr. 3 Spencer? 4 If not, thank you kindly, sir. 5 MR. SPENCER: Thank you again. 6 CHAIR HAMILTON: The next witness 7 is Brooklyn Baptiste. He's from the Nez Perce 8 Tribe. 9 Mr. Baptiste, I understand you're the Vice Chairman, is that right? 10 11 MR. BAPTISTE: Yes. 12 CHAIR HAMILTON: We thank you very 13 much for your appearance this afternoon. You 14 may proceed. 15 MR. BAPTISTE: Okay. Thank you. First of all, I'd like to thank 16 17 the Department of Energy and the Blue Ribbon Commission this morning for requesting the 18 19 tour. I think any tour that you can take out 20 there in any capacity is definitely beneficial 21 to everyone. 22 We had a little time in between

		Page	22
1	the bus rides to chat a little bit and get	_	
2	some more information from each other and some		
3	other views outside a technical but political		
4	format, which is helpful from all angles.		
5	I think the tribal view that we'll		
б	express here today kind of goes along those		
7	lines. It's really hard to quantify the		
8	dynamics. It's not an academic position most		
9	of the time from the tribes, although the		
10	tribes do have the capacity. We have		
11	hydrologists, geologists, engineers, and		
12	scientists that work for the tribe at that		
13	same technical level.		
14	But the things that we'll talk		
15	about that the tribe would like to express		
16	come directly from a culturally-based point of		
17	view that are protected in the treaty of 1855,		
18	as the gentleman before me, Mr. Spencer, has		
19	spoken about.		
20	Those are tribal customs		
21	guaranteed protected by the treaty of 1855,		
22	which is also mentioned in the Constitution in		

		Page	23
1	the United States as supreme law of the land.		
2	That's where we come from, predominately.		
3	I'd like to begin by reading some		
4	of the comments that were formulated by the		
5	tribe.		
6	But we also formulated an end-		
7	state vision by the Nez Perce Tribe which was		
8	adopted in January 2009. That's how we as the		
9	tribe see our relationship based on that trust		
10	foundation between the government and the		
11	Department of Energy, and how we think we		
12	would like to see this and be involved with		
13	this.		
14	In setting that statute approved		
15	by the tribal government is one of those		
16	vehicles that we would like to utilize to		
17	continue our relationship in that manner.		
18	I'll begin by introducing myself		
19	again. Brooklyn Baptiste; I serve as the Vice		
20	Chairman for the Nez Perce Tribe Executive		
21	Committee. I also serve as the Natural		
22	Resource Subcommittee Chair for my tribe, as		

		Page	24
1	well.		
2	I work a lot with our		
3	Environmental Waste and Restoration Management		
4	Office. We have a great staff. They're		
5	always on site.		
6	I think that the DOE tries to do		
7	their best to accommodate the tribe's needs as		
8	technology grows, as relationship grows. I		
9	think that things are evolving to where we		
10	would like to see the relationship further		
11	ourselves.		
12	That directly involves the		
13	situation here as far as EM, the Hanford		
14	nuclear site, and the waste and disposal of		
15	that waste. That's what we'll begin with		
16	today.		
17	I'll go ahead and read what I have		
18	here. Then if there's any questions, feel		
19	free to ask after that. Thank you.		
20	The Nez Perce Tribe is a federally		
21	recognized sovereign government whose		
22	aboriginal territories encompass over 13		

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1	million acres in what are now Idaho,	
2	Washington, Oregon, and Montana, by virtue of	
3	the treaty of 1855 with the United States, 12	
4	Stat. 957.	
5	Among other guarantees, the tribe	
6	has reserved rights to take fish at all usual	
7	and custom places, as well as hunt, gather,	
8	and pasture animals on open and unclaimed	
9	land. The reserved rights extend to areas	
10	known as the Hanford reservation, here, as	
11	well the Hanford reach of the Columbia river,	
12	collectively Hanford.	
13	In addition to the Nez Perce	
14	Tribe's treaty-reserved rights, the tribe has	
15	also identified, since time immemorial,	
16	various lands within Hanford as sacred and	
17	culturally significant to the tribe and our	
18	people. The tribe's access to these lands for	
19	ceremonial purpose also remains a vital	
20	component to the Nez Perce tribe and the way	
21	of life that we've grown accustomed to.	
22	As the fiduciary, the United	

## Page 25

Page1States and all agencies have a trust2responsibility to the Nez Perce Tribe and3other federally recognized tribes.4The trust obligation includes a5substantive duty to consult with the tribe in6decision making to avoid adverse impacts on7treaty resources, and a duty to protect8treaty-reserved rights, as well.9Agency actions seeking to change10or reinterpret existing law shall not abrogate11the treaty rights for the Nez Perce Tribe.12The Nez Perce tribe believes that13the ultimate goal of any nuclear waste14disposal plan must be to protect the air,15soil, groundwater, and surface water in such16a manner that allows unrestricted tribal	
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15 soil, groundwater, and surface water in such	
16 a manner that allows unrestricted tribal	
17 access to the affected areas.	
18 Tribal members' ecological	
19 resources and cultural resources should not be	
20 exposed to any potential adverse risks, above	
21 that which has always existed prior to the	
22 establishment of federal projects facilities	

		Page
1	designed to store or dispose of nuclear waste.	
2	The Nez Perce Tribe opposes the	
3	disposal of any Greater-Than-Class-C or	
4	Greater-Than-Class-C-like waste at Hanford.	
5	The tribe also views the disposal	
6	of high-level waste at TRU waste at Hanford as	
7	unacceptable, recognizing that cleanup or	
8	disposal of technology for some contaminants	
9	may not currently be available. The Nez Perce	
10	tribe will work with the United States to	
11	further reduce the levels of any residual	
12	contamination until technology becomes	
13	available.	
14	Interim action must provide the	
15	greatest degree of human and ecological health	
16	protection if physical or institutional	
17	controls are selected as an option for safe	
18	storage. The recovery curves must be	
19	calculated so that negative impacts to treaty	
20	rights can be avoided.	
21	It's the recognition of the Nez	
22	Perce Tribe to the Blue Ribbon Commission on	

		Page	28
1	America's Nuclear Future that all high-level		
2	radioactive waste must be disposed in a deep		
3	geologic repository and in a tectonically-		
4	stable portion of the North American craton.		
5	Decisions should be made in a		
6	scientifically sound manner, taking into		
7	account known risk factors and acknowledging		
8	that we do not know future population		
9	dynamics, future technologies, or potential		
10	access to buried material and future needs for		
11	that material.		
12	Based on those comments, of		
13	course, the last portion of that is technical		
14	in nature. But I would like to stress to you,		
15	the Blue Ribbon Commission, that I understand		
16	you guys have been burdened with the task of		
17	a long, arduous travel to try to find out the		
18	best way to do it.		
19	I know that you all come to the		
20	table with splendid credentials and a view		
21	that, we're hoping, you might find the path		
22	not only for the United States but for Native		

Page 29 Americans as well, for our tribes. Not only 1 2 because they are protected by law, because 3 there's things that are guaranteed in these 4 treaties that might not have always been kept. 5 But we hope that you now have the ability to 6 make that change for us. 7 I've had the opportunity to speak 8 in front of a lot of federal and state 9 agencies on concerns of the tribe, and have always tried to implore that you think of our 10 children, that you think of the future 11 12 generations of the families here that live and And that once we utilized this land 13 roam. without restrictions, and now it's tough. 14 The elder Russell -- we were kind 15 16 of joking around. But when we have to access 17 land now that we were using -- when you have 18 in the Hanford reach one of the best spawning 19 grounds in the Columbia River. We have to 20 wear a visitor's tag to visit it now because 21 of the contamination, because of what's on the 22 landscape now.

		Page
1	It's hard. It's hard to accept.	
2	But we do it because we understand the laws,	
3	we understand exactly what's trying to be	
4	reached out there.	
5	We also want to make sure that	
6	nuclear waste, you know that this isn't its	
7	effect. When they explained today that it's	
8	being stored there hopefully it's not	
9	forever. Hopefully, there will come a time	
10	where we would like to dispose of it in a	
11	permanent manner. But not here, on the	
12	Hanford reserve.	
13	I think so much damage has already	
14	been done, so much has already been saturated	
15	into the land itself that it's going to be	
16	really hard to repair that and turn it back	
17	into the pristine nature that it was before.	
18	And that's what we're hoping, that's what we	
19	hope lies within your decisions for the future	
20	of our homeland here, but also for the United	
21	States as well, and for the future of nuclear	
22	energy for the United States.	

		Page	31
1	With that, I'm honored to be able		
2	to offer a few comments here to you. Like I		
3	said, it was a good field trip today. I hope		
4	that we all learned something.		
5	Feel free to contact us. We've		
6	sent you the information, our end-state		
7	vision. But also I've sent some of the		
8	letters and comments that the tribe feels are		
9	imperative for us. So if you have any		
10	questions after this, feel free to contact the		
11	tribe in any fashion. The tribe is here for		
12	any questions that you might need to and		
13	hopefully we'll be able to facilitate that.		
14	I appreciate the time that you've		
15	given us to get up here and speak. Hopefully,		
16	the words that we say will stay with you. And		
17	hopefully you now have an opportunity to bring		
18	back some of I think DOE is trying to do a		
19	good job of bringing back that integrity that		
20	these promises were founded on, that these		
21	laws were based on, in our treaty.		
22	You guys now have the opportunity		

		Page	32
1	to bring back that integrity to it, keep those		
2	promises to us, make sure that these things		
3	are disposed of, and that the energy is		
4	created in the most safe and best manner that		
5	it can be.		
6	I thank you very much in our		
7	language, Qe'ci'yew'yew' for allowing me to		
8	speak today.		
9	CHAIR HAMILTON: Mr. Baptiste, we		
10	thank you for your statement. I especially		
11	appreciated the long-term perspective which		
12	you brought to this problem, and the		
13	responsibilities that you place on us to deal		
14	with it in such a way that we are mindful that		
15	future generations will be dealing with this		
16	problem as well.		
17	What that says to me is that we		
18	need a good bit of flexibility and		
19	adaptability in whatever we do, and a lot of		
20	transparency, of course, in the process. But		
21	your statement with regard to the longer term		
22	perspective and our obligation to those who		

Page1follow us is very meaningful.2Are there questions from the3Commissioners?4Per?5MEMBER PETERSON: I would like to6thank you for7CHAIR HAMILTON: You'll have to8speak right up into that microphone.9MEMBER PETERSON: I understand.10I'd like to thank you for the very11useful comments that you've made, as well as12the written materials that we received and I13had an opportunity to review.14They are, I think, very helpful to15us both because they point to the importance16of recognizing that there are wastes that have17been generated that should not be left in18shallow land disposal in tanks and other19things here at Hanford. That means that we20need to find some place, some way to deal with21those that will protect human health and the22environment into the long term.			
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21 those that will protect human health and the	19	things here at Hanford. That means that we	
-	20	need to find some place, some way to deal with	
22 environment into the long term.	21	those that will protect human health and the	
	22	environment into the long term.	

I appreciate pointing towards deep 1 2 geologic disposal as being an appropriate solution. And moreover, to providing some 3 criteria for identifying how one might 4 5 identify appropriate deep geologic disposal 6 sites for that purpose. 7 So of course we need to consider, 8 then, a process to develop this type of 9 disposal capability. And wherever it is, it's likely to again impact Native Americans. 10 My question actually relates to 11 12 the relationship with DOE and your thoughts 13 on, from the perspective of developing 14 repositories, is DOE the proper agency to do 15 that? And what would you recommend in terms 16 of the best approaches for these necessary interactions with and in communication with 17 Native Americans? 18 19 Thank you for your MR. BAPTISTE: 20 comments and your question. I quess I'll do 21 my best to try to provide you an answer. 22 I think that's what DOE

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### Page 34

		Page	35
1	specializes in and I think that's exactly what		
2	they're supposed to do. They're supposed to		
3	provide you with their best recommendations		
4	with us for finding that repository.		
5	I think they have the ability to		
б	do that more so than anyone else does. I		
7	think they should, and I think they would be		
8	that resource. I think they provide a lot to		
9	the tribe's view, and I think they do their		
10	best to try to facilitate that trust		
11	obligation. I think it can grow as technology		
12	grows.		
13	I think as a tribal government, as		
14	we grew, so did our need for them to		
15	communicate back and forth. As we		
16	strengthened in our government system, we		
17	realized there's a lot of things that we		
18	weren't getting because we didn't ask for it.		
19	I think that's what's happening		
20	now between the governments of the tribes as		
21	sovereigns, as federal trust agents. I think		
22	those things are happening now. I think that		

		Page	36
1	it can be stronger. We want to be included,	_	
2	even though by law we should be and in		
3	policies they state to involve the tribes. I		
4	think it can grow and I think that's where		
5	it's going.		
б	This is a testament to that		
7	relationship, having us here testifying in		
8	front of the Blue Ribbon Commission on exactly		
9	where we want to go. I think that the tribe's		
10	relationship with the Department of Energy can		
11	only grow stronger. I expect it to.		
12	CHAIR HAMILTON: Jonathan Lash?		
13	MEMBER LASH: One of the		
14	impressions that is very striking after		
15	spending even a morning on the Hanford site		
16	is, first of all, how long it takes to clean		
17	up problems that didn't take so long to		
18	create, and how much money it's taking.		
19	Also, that we were looking at		
20	disposal technologies that may have seemed		
21	reasonable even 50 or 60 years ago and now		
22	seem unreasonable to us. And that knowledge		

		Pag
1	has advanced and surely will continue to	
2	advance quite quickly.	
3	I'm wondering, you strongly	
4	recommended the creation of a deep geologic	
5	repository. It seems likely that, at the pace	
6	our country has been moving to do that, it	
7	will be decades again before such a repository	
8	is created. We'll again learn a great deal.	
9	Are you comfortable with the idea	
10	that in the interim, until a repository is	
11	created, the cleanup process and the	
12	vitrification process are satisfactory, and	
13	that the wastes can remain at that site until	
14	a repository is available?	
15	MR. BAPTISTE: I think the best	
16	way to answer that is, I think that's the best	
17	possible way to do it at this time with what	
18	technology allows us to operate under. So I	
19	think, of course, yes. We are comfortable	
20	because there's other technologies that we're	
21	seeing as not the best methodology to go about	
22	it. So I would think so.	

1		
		Page
1	I think that when politics plays	
2	with science, science always seems to be	
3	trumped by politics in the end. That's why	
4	it's pretty tough to find those solutions to	
5	the deep geologic repository.	
6	But I think in the end, this is	
7	probably the best way to take care of it all.	
8	We wouldn't advocate for above ground. But we	
9	think that it will do until we can get	
10	something a lot better, and that's what we	
11	advocate for.	
12	CHAIR HAMILTON: Are there further	
13	questions?	
14	Mr. Baptiste, thank you very, very	
15	much.	
16	MR. BAPTISTE: Thank you very	
17	much.	
18	CHAIR HAMILTON: I think your	
19	predecessor, Warren Spencer, got off easy	
20	because he didn't have any questions at all.	
21	The Commissioners were just getting wound up,	
22	I believe.	

		Page	39
1	MR. BAPTISTE: Well, I feel bad		
2	for the next tribal leader who's behind me		
3	here. You guys are warmed up.		
4	Again, Qe'ci'yew'yew' for		
5	everything that you do. I want to leave you		
6	with this, that it's not just the tribe that		
7	we're worried about. It's our neighbors here,		
8	as well. It's the fish we consume, the levels		
9	of contamination that are consumed.		
10	We talked about drinking water		
11	being at certain levels. Well, the water		
12	itself is way below that and the salmon that		
13	we eat are at that level. That's the		
14	contamination that we deal with, as well.		
15	That's how much our involvement		
16	means to us; it's not just us. It's the		
17	community members and it's the Northwest		
18	itself. We sit in the same boat and we're all		
19	together in this one.		
20	Thank you.		
21	CHAIR HAMILTON: Thank you very		
22	much, Mr. Baptiste. The next speaker will be		

		Page	40
1	Stuart Harris, Director of Department of		
2	Science and Engineering, speaking on behalf of		
3	the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian		
4	Reservation.		
5	Mr. Harris?		
6	Is he here?		
7	Yes, please. Thank you very much		
8	for appearing, Mr. Harris. You may proceed.		
9	MR. HARRIS: I'm trying to see		
10	who's talking. Who's talking? I didn't see		
11	you talking.		
12	CHAIR HAMILTON: You'll want to		
13	speak right into that microphone. It's a		
14	sensitive microphone but you have to talk		
15	right into it.		
16	MR. HARRIS: I'll do my best.		
17	CHAIR HAMILTON: I know you will.		
18	MR. HARRIS: Thank you for the		
19	opportunity. I appreciate you guys traveling		
20	all over and doing this.		
21	(Non-English language spoken.)		
22	My name is Stuart Harris. I'm the		

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		Page
1	Director of the Department of Science and	
2	Engineering for the Confederated Tribes of the	
3	Umatilla Indian Reservation.	
4	I'd like to welcome you to the	
5	homelands of my people. The boundary of our	
6	ancestral lands goes up from the confluence of	
7	the Columbia and the Snake to the western	
8	bank, all the way to Priest Rapids, and then	
9	south to Lalique to Prosser, thus encompassing	
10	all of the Hanford lands.	
11	Thus, our leaders have expressed	
12	to me that when I'm here to talk to you in the	
13	most strongest of terms that they are very	
14	concerned about the high-level nuclear waste	
15	be consolidated and immobilized via	
16	vitrification and isolated in some deep	
17	geologic repository until the material is	
18	rendered neutral.	
19	Any waste that remains at Hanford	
20	must be completely characterized and isolated	
21	from the environment as much as possible.	
22	I would like to ask you a	

	Page	42
question. Is it high-level waste no matter		
where it is located, whether it is in a tank		
or in the soil beneath the tank?		
America made it and you are		
charged with investigating solutions. I		
challenge you to take full responsibility for		
your decisions, for your outcomes here because		
countless generations will be living with the		
consequences.		
Many people won't remember your		
names in 1,000 years, but they will know what		
you have decided. In my oral tradition,		
people do remember names. They remember names		
for a very long time.		
We've lived here for 10,000 years		
or longer. We've paid for, in blood, the		
right to retain our treaty-reserved rights		
throughout our homeland, including these		
Hanford lands.		
The CTUIR oral teachings have		
accumulated the wisdom to sustain themselves		
through flood, famine, and strife. My		
	<pre>where it is located, whether it is in a tank or in the soil beneath the tank?</pre>	<pre>question. Is it high-level waste no matter where it is located, whether it is in a tank or in the soil beneath the tank?</pre>

		Page	43
1	ancestors left me the legacy of a rich		
2	language, art and exquisite environmental		
3	knowledge that has become stable and rational.		
4	Yet unless in one generation,		
5	Hanford has become so contaminated that my		
6	people will be living with the contaminated		
7	consequences for the next 10,000 years or		
8	longer, Hanford and its legacy will be added		
9	to the CTUIR storehouse of environmental		
10	teachings.		
11	I can only hope that the teachings		
12	don't evolve into a warning to stay away		
13	forever due to contamination. And I can only		
14	hope that the rich aquatic life in the river		
15	and the salmon upon which we depend do not		
16	become mere memories.		
17	I personally, with my work that		
18	I've been working on, don't want to be blamed		
19	for making the mistake of not cleaning up this		
20	site. Our people remember things like that.		
21	The CTUIR is also a natural		
22	resource trustee of all the Hanford natural		

		Page	44
1	resources. My ancestors managed the natural		
2	resources responsibly for that long and I		
3	intend to pass that responsibility on to my		
4	children.		
5	The CTUIR's policy and end-state		
6	vision for Hanford is that Hanford should be		
7	cleaned, closed and fully restored. This		
8	means that all the resources should be clean		
9	enough to safely use for traditional		
10	activities and life-ways, restored to baseline		
11	conditions to support our rights and		
12	resources, protected from most development and		
13	accessible to tribal members for traditional		
14	uses.		
15	I understand, after working in		
16	this nuclear field since 1993, that the United		
17	States urgently needs one, or probably more,		
18	deep geologic repositories for high-level		
19	radioactive waste, TRU waste, both defense and		
20	civilian.		
21	The reclassification of salt cake		
22	as low-activity waste and the blending of		

		Pa
1	different levels to dilute radioactivity	
2	doesn't change the origin of the waste. It is	
3	still classified as high-level waste and it	
4	requires geologic disposal. It cannot be left	
5	at Hanford.	
6	DOE is legally required to	
7	retrieve tank waste, whether it is in or out	
8	of the tanks, and remediate the entire site.	
9	Enforceable milestones have set the schedule	
10	and NRC requirements mandate that high-level	
11	waste will be disposed of in deep geologic	
12	repositories. There are no waivers or	
13	shortcuts on either aspect.	
14	Without Yucca Mountain or a	
15	suitable alternative that is ready fairly	
16	soon, DOE will not be able to meet its legal	
17	obligations.	
18	Interim safe storage is an option	
19	that may be required but it entails additional	
20	mitigation obligations to account for the	
21	continued disproportionate burden that my	
22	people bear as long as they can't access their	

Page 45

		Page	46
1	natural resources safely or effectively, or		
2	allowing the CTUIR to build and manage the		
3	storage sheds and have some economic		
4	opportunity as well as everybody else.		
5	The continued storage of		
6	commercial reactor fuel in pools is not a good		
7	idea for several reasons that include		
8	degradation of the cladding and fuel rod		
9	assemblies, as what happened in the K-basins;		
10	the cost of the continued security; the lack		
11	of this is an important part, I thought		
12	the lack of a nationally standardized		
13	infrastructure, which leads to widely		
14	different cost estimates; and, at Hanford,		
15	proximity of the storage pools to the Columbia		
16	River.		
17	The nation has invested a lot		
18	and it's a boat-load of money in the		
19	mining, processing, and fabrication of fuel		
20	rods.		
21	In Europe they are reprocessed		
22	without generating large amounts of liquid		

		Page
1	waste, and 92 percent of each fuel rod	
2	assembly is reused. The liquid waste is all	
3	vitrified and stored above ground as high-	
4	level waste in dry cask storage. The cladding	
5	is crushed or minimized and stored in low-	
6	level vaults.	
7	I'm going to go to capping.	
8	Capping high-level waste in tanks or in the	
9	ground is illegal and wrong. The nation and	
10	our future cannot preclude the option of	
11	digging up and soil-washing the Earth.	
12	If the current waste inventory is	
13	left as it is, a huge amount will reach the	
14	river. According to DOE's own estimates, the	
15	dissolved nuclear fuel contaminants from the	
16	BBXBY leak alone are moving at a quarter-mile	
17	a year and they're only 5 miles from the	
18	river.	
19	The nuclear and chemical hazard	
20	will last for tens of thousands of years.	
21	Pump-and-treat remediation, chemical	
22	stabilization, biologic treatments they're	

		Page	48
1	only short-sighted. The only true and		
2	permanent solution is to dig up the waste and		
3	immobilize it using vitrification and then		
4	isolating it in a deep geologic repository.		
5	The current vitrification plans,		
б	we believe, are not sufficient for all of the		
7	high-level waste at Hanford.		
8	The entire country benefited from		
9	the Manhattan Project. Don't impose eternal		
10	burdens on our tribal government.		
11	There must be equity between the		
12	cost of building the nuclear industry and the		
13	people who have born and will bear the burden		
14	of being exposed to products of the nuclear		
15	genie both on the front end, mining, and		
16	the back end, the perpetual legacy of		
17	management and stewardship when we're not		
18	the decision makers.		
19	Tribes are not only distinct		
20	governments. Our lifestyles are so tightly		
21	intertwined with the environment and all the		
22	natural resources, that any residual		

		Page	49
1	contamination at Hanford has a greater impact		
2	on our health and culture than on any other		
3	local community.		
4	We use the resources for food,		
5	medicines and materials. We use the		
6	groundwater for drinking and in our sweat		
7	lodges.		
8	Our entire natural law includes		
9	aspects of the landscape, the air, the light,		
10	and the water. Our law teaches our people how		
11	to talk, how to dress and respect each other,		
12	take care of the Earth, and manage our daily		
13	affairs. Thus, we're always affected to a		
14	greater degree by exposure to contamination		
15	and by loss of access to our lands and		
16	resources.		
17	Because my people are the ones who		
18	will bear the disproportionate impacts of any		
19	residual materials, the CTUIR should be		
20	afforded the opportunity to be a significant		
21	part of the solution, including having a seat		
22	on this Blue Ribbon panel.		

	Page 50
True life-cycle costs of leaving	
waste at Hanford have not been evaluated. As	
I have explained, the impacts will be	
affecting my offspring for many, many	
generations. These costs must be included in	
the life-cycle risk profile. Don't	
overestimate or overstate the benefits of	
jobs. Don't underestimate the cost.	
I'd like to remind the Blue Ribbon	
panel that Hanford was rejected as a viable	
geologic repository during the Basalt Waste	
Isolation Project, or BWIP.	
I've been asked to address some	
specific questions. How should the US go	
about developing one or more disposal sites?	
First and foremost	
CHAIR HAMILTON: Mr. Harris, I'll	
have to ask you to begin to wrap up your	
statement, if you would, please.	
MR. HARRIS: I'm right there. I'm	
with you.	
CHAIR HAMILTON: I'm sorry?	
	<pre>waste at Hanford have not been evaluated. As I have explained, the impacts will be affecting my offspring for many, many generations. These costs must be included in the life-cycle risk profile. Don't overestimate or overstate the benefits of jobs. Don't underestimate the cost. I'd like to remind the Blue Ribbon panel that Hanford was rejected as a viable geologic repository during the Basalt Waste Isolation Project, or BWIP. I've been asked to address some specific questions. How should the US go about developing one or more disposal sites? First and foremost CHAIR HAMILTON: Mr. Harris, I'll have to ask you to begin to wrap up your statement, if you would, please. MR. HARRIS: I'm right there. I'm with you.</pre>

Page 51 MR. HARRIS: I'm right there with 1 2 you. Thank you 3 Okay. CHAIR HAMILTON: 4 very much. 5 MR. HARRIS: Would you like me to 6 finish? 7 CHAIR HAMILTON: If you want to 8 make a further sentence or two. 9 MR. HARRIS: Sure. I'd love to. The site for a deep geologic 10 11 repository has to be crystalline basement 12 rock. Any siting needs to be in the 13 representation of the people. The local 14 governments have to be included. The 15 organization that manages it has to be 16 government. 17 We'd like to be a partner to the 18 solution. Our people are businessmen and we'd 19 like to be a partner to any business that 20 comes about building a repository or building 21 an interim safe storage place. As we're going 22 to be the stewards of this land, we'd like to

Page be there in the future for the cleanup as a solution. CHAIR HAMILTON: All right. Thank you very, very much, Mr. Harris. Thank you for reminding this Commission of its responsibility in a very eloquent way. I appreciated your statement of the end-state vision, as well as the emphasis you put upon the burden that your own people will bear if this problem is not resolved. Are there questions from the Commissioners? Richard? MEMBER MESERVE: Mr. Harris, thank you very much for your statement. MEMBER MESERVE: Mr. Harris, thank you very much for your statement. In the course of your comments, you indicated that you had concerns about the adequacy of the vitrification processes that are now underway at Hanford. I'm curious as			
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18 adequacy of the vitrification processes that	16	In the course of your comments,	
	17	you indicated that you had concerns about the	
19 are now underway at Hanford. I'm curious as	18	adequacy of the vitrification processes that	
	19	are now underway at Hanford. I'm curious as	
20 to what specifically you are concerned about.	20	to what specifically you are concerned about.	
21 MR. HARRIS: Specifically, I've	21	MR. HARRIS: Specifically, I've	
22 visited other vitrification sites in	22	visited other vitrification sites in	

		Page
1	Sellafield and in Georgia. Typically, the	
2	problems occur with the change-out of the	
3	melters and the secondary waste that goes with	
4	that. There's always more waste than you	
5	calculate and here doesn't seem to be enough	
6	redundancy built into the system in case it	
7	fails. It's a nice system. We could use two.	
8	CHAIR HAMILTON: All right.	
9	Further questions?	
10	Ernie?	
11	MEMBER MONIZ: Yes. Mr. Harris,	
12	thank you. As you said, you're Director of	
13	the Department of Science and Engineering. I	
14	think we've had a lot of discussion about the	
15	technologies of cleanup, vitrification, et	
16	cetera.	
17	But I'm indebted to the tribes	
18	here since when I came here in 1998, when I	
19	was with the Department of Energy, it was the	
20	tribes who were the strongest supporters of a	
21	science program that could guide long-term	
22	decisions. This is 12 years later.	

Page 54 I'm wondering, how do you evaluate 1 2 the status of the science program that can understand, for example, transport of 3 radionuclides to the Columbia River; 4 5 understanding the science in ways that can 6 really guide long-term decisions for really 7 complete cleanup? 8 MR. HARRIS: I appreciate the 9 question. The science that we've observed is 10 sound. It seems to be well thought out. It's the management of the science information that 11 12 seems to be the problem. 13 We have compartmentalized 14 management systems that take the science and decide they want to replicate it and try 15 16 something from their own shop. Integration of 17 the management systems that deal with the 18 science of the movement, migration or 19 characterization of the waste seems to be the 20 problem. 21 It's very -- I appreciate the work 22 that the people are doing here. We're very

		Page
1	supportive of it. It's the management or like	
2	the previous speaker had said, Brooklyn, it's	
3	the politics that get involved with it.	
4	Money shouldn't be an issue. We	
5	have some of the greatest minds in the whole	
6	world working on this.	
7	My people, they look to what we do	
8	and they appreciate it because it's very	
9	complicated and very difficult. But one thing	
10	that they do know is that, after all these	
11	years we've been working on it, and we've got	
12	the easy stuff cleaned up, the really hard	
13	decisions are coming right now, the really,	
14	really hard ones. And people are going to	
15	have to make those decisions.	
16	I believe the Department of Energy	
17	has done a very good job in promoting good	
18	science here at the site. Like I said,	
19	though, it's the management of the	
20	information.	
21	MEMBER MONIZ: Okay. Thank you.	
22	CHAIR HAMILTON: Any other	

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1	questions?		
2	Thank you very much, Mr. Harris,		
3	for your contribution to the Commission. We		
4	appreciate it.		
5	MR. HARRIS: Well, I appreciate		
6	it. Say hello to your boss when you get back.		
7	CHAIR HAMILTON: Okay. The next		
8	speaker will be Alyssa Buck, the leader of the		
9	Wanapum tribe.		
10	Is she here, please?		
11	Thank you very much for joining us		
12	this afternoon. We appreciate it. You may		
13	proceed.		
14	MS. BUCK: Okay. Hello. My name		
15	is Alyssa Buck and I represent the Wanapum.		
16	I'd like to welcome each and every		
17	one of you and welcome the Blue Ribbon		
18	Commission here to our homelands. On behalf		
19	of the Wanapum elder and the Wanapum		
20	community, we welcome each of you.		
21	We are an American Indian		
22	community maintaining and exercising our		

		Page	57
1	aboriginal rights. We understand the need for	2	
2	renewable energy.		
3	Before the Columbia, there was Che		
4	Wana. Wanapum, which means river people are		
5	part of the river and the land through which		
6	it flows. We are part of the people who lived		
7	here and those who continue to live along the		
8	river's shores.		
9	The Columbia is the river of life.		
10	The Priest Rapids Wanapum people have been		
11	supported by the river's bounties for		
12	thousands of years.		
13	Teachings of the Wanapum tell all		
14	who will listen to be responsible to the land,		
15	to the creatures that live within the water		
16	and on the land, to the ancestors that are		
17	buried in the land and to those who have not		
18	yet been born. The Wanapum are the caretakers		
19	responsible for the land and passing on the		
20	teachings of the natural world to the next		
21	generation.		
22	The Priest Rapids Wanapum live on		

Pag 1 the Columbia River. It has been our home from 2 time immemorial. As Indian people, we were 3 put here to protect and preserve the land and 4 river for ourselves, our children and those 5 not yet born. 6 As spiritual people, the Priest 7 Rapids Wanapum continue to practice our 8 religion in friendly understanding and respect 9 for all people and things. 10 Through strenuous and prudent	e
2 time immemorial. As Indian people, we were 3 put here to protect and preserve the land and 4 river for ourselves, our children and those 5 not yet born. 6 As spiritual people, the Priest 7 Rapids Wanapum continue to practice our 8 religion in friendly understanding and respect 9 for all people and things. 10 Through strenuous and prudent	
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8 religion in friendly understanding and respect 9 for all people and things. 10 Through strenuous and prudent	
9 for all people and things. 10 Through strenuous and prudent	
10 Through strenuous and prudent	
11 offering the Merson have suggested by by the	
11 efforts, the Wanapum have successfully built	
12 relationships with federal, state and local	
13 agencies, including Department of Energy. The	
14 respect, trust and mutual understanding that	
15 results from these relationships allow the	
16 Wanapum to actively participate in decision-	
17 making processes that affect our	
18 responsibilities to care for all things put	
19 here by the Creator.	
20 The Wanapum have made their home	
21 along the Columbia River in an area known as	
22 Hanford. It became a central location for us	

		Page	59
1	because the land and river provided everything		
2	needed to live life.		
3	The Priest Rapids Wanapum		
4	experience various impositions on their land.		
5	The construction of the Hanford plutonium		
б	plant and the US Army training center took		
7	nearly 1,000 square miles of Wanapum land, but		
8	we continue to maintain and exercise our		
9	aboriginal rights.		
10	We assume that all Hanford will		
11	eventually be restored and protected. With		
12	that, we do understand the need for renewable		
13	energy.		
14	That's it.		
15	CHAIR HAMILTON: Thank you very		
16	much. And thank you for the emphasis you		
17	placed on a fair process as we deliberate on		
18	the management of waste disposal. You've		
19	opened our eyes to that as a very important		
20	part of our deliberation. We thank you for		
21	that.		
22	Are there other questions from the		

Page 60 Commissioners? 1 2 Mr. Chairman? MEMBER SHARP: 3 CHAIR HAMILTON: Phil? 4 MEMBER SHARP: Yes. I just wanted 5 to say, if anything comes through strongly, 6 both from the testimony now and what we saw 7 today in our interaction with the 8 representatives of the tribes, it's how much 9 this country would have benefited if we had had their engagement and their values in the 10 11 management of these systems in the early 12 years. 13 It's quite understandable that, 14 for World War II purposes, quick decisions were made. What is not so understandable and 15 16 many of us have difficulty with is, after the war and 20 years later, why actions were not 17 18 taken in a more timely fashion, or at least, 19 a mind-set seemed to be in place that did not 20 recognize the burden that we were placing on 21 the land, the water, the air and the people of 22 the area.

		Page 61
1	CHAIR HAMILTON: Thank you very	
2	much. Any further questions?	
3	Thank you, Ms. Buck. We	
4	appreciate it.	
5	MS. BUCK: Thank you.	
6	CHAIR HAMILTON: We're scheduled	
7	for a break now but we've been moving along at	
8	a good pace. If it's all right with the	
9	Commissioners, I'll go ahead and call the	
10	Oregon Department of Energy if they're here,	
11	Mr. Ken Niles, and we'll take that in before	
12	the break.	
13	Is Mr. Niles here?	
14	Thank you very much, Mr. Niles.	
15	He represents the Oregon	
16	Department of Energy. He is with us this	
17	morning. We're delighted to have you here,	
18	sir. You may proceed.	
19	MR. NILES: Thank you very much,	
20	Chairman Hamilton, Chairman Scowcroft,	
21	distinguished members of the Commission. Good	
22	afternoon and welcome to the Pacific	

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1	Northwest. Thank you for the opportunity to	
2	present the state of Oregon's perspectives on	
3	several issues which involve the work of the	
4	Commission.	
5	Again, I'm Ken Niles. I'm the	
6	Nuclear Safety Division Administrator for the	
7	Oregon Department of Energy. I'm here on	
8	behalf of Oregon Governor Ted Kulongoski.	
9	Oregon is very much impacted by nuclear waste	
10	generation, storage, transportation and	
11	disposal, so your deliberations and your work	
12	are important to us.	
13	I'm sure your tour of the Hanford	
14	site this morning was illuminating. The	
15	extent and complexity of the generation of	
16	waste that occurred at Hanford is	
17	overwhelming.	
18	Although a major cleanup effort is	
19	underway, as you are well aware, to try and	
20	address Hanford's waste, that waste and the	
21	risk it presents are a legacy that Oregon and	
22	all other Pacific Northwest residents will	

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1	face for many generations to come.	
2	Oregon is only a few miles	
3	downriver from the Columbia River and	
4	potentially impacted by contaminants that get	
5	into the Columbia River.	
6	Our involvement in Hanford began	
7	back in the 1980s, in large part because at	
8	that time, the federal government was	
9	examining Hanford as a potential high-level	
10	nuclear waste repository.	
11	By the time that project was	
12	canceled, details of the extent of the	
13	contamination to the soil and groundwater were	
14	finally public knowledge and we moved to an	
15	active oversight role of the Hanford cleanup.	
16	While our primary focus is the	
17	Hanford site itself, Oregon has additional	
18	concerns regarding nuclear waste. The state	
19	of Oregon provides the primary transportation	
20	corridor to and from the Hanford site.	
21	Waste shipments traveling to and	
22	from Hanford typically travel over 200 miles	

		Page	64
1	of Oregon interstate, much of which is subject		
2	to unpredictable and severe winter weather		
3	conditions. Through the years, we've gained		
4	extensive experience and insight into safe		
5	management of radioactive waste shipments		
6	traveling through our state.		
7	Also, Oregon is home to the former		
8	Trojan Nuclear Power Plant, where 791		
9	irradiated fuel assemblies are being		
10	indefinitely stored in 34 dry storage		
11	containers. As you well know, that spent fuel		
12	is currently stranded with no place to go.		
13	With all that in mind, there's		
14	three points I wish to raise with the		
15	Commission. First and foremost is that the		
16	Hanford site is not an appropriate location to		
17	take on any additional waste storage, waste		
18	disposal, or waste generation missions. We're		
19	more than 20 years into a cleanup that now		
20	looks as though it's going to stretch to 65 or		
21	70 years by the time it's all complete.		
22	Cleanup at Hanford is already		

		Page
1	difficult enough without adding additional	
2	complexity of storing spent fuel from	
3	commercial nuclear reactors or high-level	
4	waste or spent fuel of other US Department of	
5	Energy sites.	
6	A Draft Environmental Impact	
7	Statement was released late last year by the	
8	US Department of Energy and it indicated that	
9	the planned cleanup will not be sufficient to	
10	eliminate long-term risks.	
11	Risks from existing waste in the	
12	soil are expected to recontaminate the	
13	groundwater over and over again for a period	
14	of thousands of years, resulting in	
15	unacceptable human and environmental risks at	
16	the Columbia River shoreline for several	
17	thousand years.	
18	The focus at Hanford needs to	
19	remain fully on completing this cleanup. We	
20	do not need the added distractions of a new	
21	mission of storage or reprocessing or any	
22	other distraction that we've had to face off	

		Page	66
1	and on, at least proposed to us, over the past		
2	20 years.		
3	Proposals have drawn very strong		
4	opposition from throughout the region. We		
5	understand there is support for consolidated		
б	storage as an intermediate-term solution and		
7	it may well be a good idea to pursue, but		
8	Hanford is not an appropriate location to host		
9	such a storage facility.		
10	My second point is that any		
11	solution to our high-level waste problem must		
12	take into consideration the transportation		
13	implications.		
14	The state of Oregon long ago		
15	accepted as policy that radioactive materials,		
16	even highly radioactive ones such as spent		
17	fuel, can be transported safely. But to help		
18	ensure that safety and to garner public		
19	acceptance, the development of a		
20	transportation program of this scale has to		
21	closely involve the states along the		
22	transportation routes and needs to incorporate		

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1	above-regulatory standards to minimize the	Page	67
2	likelihood and severity of an accident.		
3	Oregon has worked closely with		
4	other western states and with the US		
5	Department of Energy to develop and implement		
6	a comprehensive transportation safety program		
7	for the shipment of transuranic waste to the		
8	Waste Isolation Pilot Plant. That program has		
9	been highly successful and generally well		
10	received by the public.		
11	It has succeeded in large part for		
12	a couple of reasons. One, because the federal		
13	government recognized that it needed the		
14	states as partners and it needed to adopt a		
15	number of common-sense elements that go well		
16	beyond the regulatory requirements. We would		
17	need something on that same manner for any		
18	transportation of spent fuel on a wide-scale		
19	basis.		
20	The WIPP program has seen an 11-		
21	year record: more than 8,000 shipments, more		
22	than 10 million miles of safe transportation		

		Page	68
1	and only a handful of very minor incidents.		
2	One of the issues we learned when		
3	working with the US Department of Energy and		
4	other western states, as well as other states		
5	around the nation, for the past 25 years on		
б	transportation planning, is that a major		
7	radioactive material transportation safety		
8	program cannot be successfully developed and		
9	implemented over a short period of time. It		
10	will take years to develop a national		
11	transportation program that can support		
12	consolidation, storage, disposal or		
13	reprocessing.		
14	The Western Governors Association		
15	has passed a number of policy resolutions over		
16	the years to deal with high-level waste		
17	storage, disposal and transportation.		
18	The WGA Policy Resolution 08-6,		
19	which focuses on transportation of spent		
20	nuclear fuel and high-level waste, states that		
21	analysis by an experience of western states		
22	show that adequate preparations to accommodate		

		Page
1	large-scale shipments require at least 3 years	
2	following the designation of routes and	
3	shipping modes, which can be a lengthy process	
4	on its own and a process which the Department	
5	of Energy never fulfilled for Yucca Mountain.	
б	So please, don't underestimate the amount of	
7	time that will be necessary with the	
8	transportation planning process and all that	
9	it encompasses.	
10	Our third point is a request for	
11	the Commission to look for ways in which to	
12	deal with the waste that's out there in	
13	perhaps more manageable pieces, to look at it	
14	in smaller chunks, if you will.	
15	We know, for instance, there's	
16	already been a mention by the US Department of	
17	Energy and others that defense high-level	
18	waste should be dealt with separately from	
19	commercial spent nuclear fuel.	
20	Clearly, the vitrified high-level	
21	waste that we hoped to see at Hanford in a	
22	decade or more has no value and no purpose,	

for example, as new fuel. The discussion and 1 2 the examination of reprocessing is not 3 something that encompasses the Department of 4 Energy's waste. Some type of permanent 5 geologic disposal will be necessary for at 6 least that portion of the waste stream that's 7 already out there. 8 Another piece of the pie that you might look at separately could be the 9 commercial spent fuel that resides at shut-10 11 down and decommissioned reactors throughout 12 the nation right now. If consolidated, 13 interim storage is something that's worth 14 looking at, perhaps these shut-down reactors do offer a limited known quantity of waste. 15 16 Perhaps that could be the amount of waste that 17 could be brought to try out that process. 18 Removing it from the reactor sites 19 would eliminate those sites as potential 20 safety or security risks and would also allow 21 reuse of those sites. 22 The Western Governors also weighed

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## Page 70

		Pa
1	in on this issue of interim storage,	
2	approached it from the standpoint of state and	
3	local buy-in.	
4	Policy Resolution No. 09-5 states	
5	that in the event that centralized interim	
6	storage, either private or federal, is deemed	
7	necessary, no such facility, whether publicly	
8	or privately owned, shall be located within	
9	the geographic boundaries of a western state	
10	without the written consent of the governor.	
11	That's the Western Governors' position on that	
12	issue.	
13	That concludes my formal comments.	
14	Thank you, again, for coming to the Pacific	
15	Northwest to hear a variety of different local	
16	and regional perspectives.	
17	CHAIR HAMILTON: Mr. Niles, we	
18	thank you very much for your very concise and	
19	precise presentation. The Commission would	
20	certainly want to extend our thanks to the	
21	Governor of Oregon for your participation this	
22	afternoon.	

## Page 71

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1	We have certainly noted your	
2	emphasis on the transportation policy and	
3	likewise, not wanting to add any additional	
4	waste to Hanford. So thank you for your	
5	testimony.	
6	Do we have questions?	
7	Phil?	
8	MEMBER SHARP: Yes, Mr. Chairman.	
9	I particularly appreciate your	
10	focus on the transportation. I just wanted to	
11	follow up. Your point about good planning and	
12	the success of WIPP are very useful.	
13	I wonder, given the experience in	
14	Oregon with the transportation through there,	
15	whether there or anywhere else, we have had	
16	accidents? And more importantly, have we had	
17	accidents in which radionuclides were released	
18	into the environment?	
19	I got from you a high confidence	
20	level in doing transportation as long as you	
21	do it well planned and do it right. Am I	
22	correct in that?	

Page 73 MR. NILES: We do have confidence in the transportation safety program. There's certainly a lot of safety inherent within the shipping containers themselves. The way in which radioactive materials are transported is the level of hazard subsequently determines the amount of shipping robustness of the containers. We have seen, certainly with radioactive materials, shipments around the nation over many years, we have had some fairly severe accidents, but not with a release of highly radioactive materials. The releases that have occurred have been because the hazard of those materials was such that it did not require robust packaging. What we've seen with the WIPP transportation program is that the accidents have been caused by mistakes by other drivers. We've had a couple of drunk drivers who have rear-ended the WIPP transportation vehicle. We've had cars coming off the entrance ramps

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and sideswiping them. 1 2 But it really is based upon some 3 very common-sense principles that I think are 4 sometimes overlooked when you look at the 5 whole WIPP transportation program. A common-6 sense way to reduce the likelihood of an 7 accident is to have very good drivers driving 8 very well maintained trucks, and not putting them in a bad situation of bad weather and 9 road conditions. 10 11 Those are very common-sense 12 things. And those are built into the WIPP 13 transportation program with very strict 14 requirements for the drivers, for the carriers, for the inspections and protocols to 15 keep them off the road. 16 17 We're proud of the program that's 18 been developed. From a state perspective, we 19 certainly expect the same or more for any 20 high-level waste shipping campaign to come. 21 CHAIR HAMILTON: Chuck?

MEMBER HAGEL: Thank you.

22

		Page
1	Mr. Niles, thank you. I	
2	appreciated your comments this morning on the	
3	bus, as well.	
4	I want to address the disposal	
5	issue. Last week, the Disposal Subcommittee	
6	heard from the Western Governors Association,	
7	among other individuals and associations who	
8	shared their view, about the disposal issue.	
9	If I understood what you said on	
10	that issue, and if I could ask you to maybe go	
11	a little deeper into the disposal repository	
12	issue if I got it right, you were	
13	suggesting that, in your opinion, our country	
14	would require a permanent disposal repository.	
15	If that's true or not true, I'd like you to go	
16	down a little deeper on that point.	
17	And then, share with this	
18	Commission your thoughts based on your	
19	experience and knowledge, especially of the	
20	Hanford situation, what should be the	
21	requirements that we are looking at,	
22	recognizing that we're not a siting	

commission, but we do have some significant 1 2 responsibilities to address that issue. And 3 obviously, in the end it's a rather 4 significant part of the equation and whatever 5 decisions that are eventually made, not just 6 regarding Hanford but the nuclear cycle. 7 Thank you. 8 MR. NILES: Sure. To the first 9 part of that, in terms of Oregon's decision on geologic disposal, quite frankly it is an 10 issue that as a state, we have not weighed 11 12 heavily in one way or another beyond the 13 support of and approval of Western Governors 14 Association resolutions over the years which had advocated for deep geologic disposal. 15 16 So from the perspective of signing 17 on to these resolutions, Oregon has supported 18 and does continue to support deep geologic disposal. 19 20 In terms of looking at the waste, 21 and at Hanford especially, it's a very 22 complicated situation as some of you probably

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## Page 76

		Page 77
1	for the first time today at Hanford began to	2
2	realize what's going on there.	
3	The focus at Hanford has had to be	
4	and continues to be stabilizing the waste to	
5	get it into a form where it would be safe for	
6	deep geologic disposal, if that's what were to	
7	happen.	
8	It took more than 10 years just to	
9	stabilize the spent nuclear fuel that was	
10	stored a quarter-mile from the Columbia River.	
11	When cleanup began in 1989, it was envisioned	
12	that at that time we were 10 years away from	
13	vitrification. Well, we're 20 years later and	
14	we're still 10 years away from vitrification.	
15	The focus here, I think, needs to	
16	remain on those next steps of stabilizing	
17	those wastes.	
18	At the same time, it does cause	
19	issues in terms of if they're as you heard	
20	on the tour this morning, if you're going to	
21	vitrify the waste at Hanford you have to make	
22	some assumptions into what type of performance	

1it may need to meet in a geologic repository.2So there are decisions that are having to be3made now without necessarily knowing the end4game.5Likewise are issues related to6storage of the vitrified canisters once the7vitrification plant begins to produce those.8You saw the canister storage building which9has some limited room for canisters. What's10the next step if there are additional11canisters and still no place to take them?12The eventual disposal issues, I13think, at Hanford are very important. But14from our perspective, those more near-term15priorities are much more important for us:16getting the waste out of the tanks, getting it17vitrified. That is our I won't say full18focus, but it overrides issues in terms of19trying to figure out where that will go20eventually from Hanford.21I hope I answered your questions.22MEMBER HAGEL: Do you believe that		
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<ul> <li>20 eventually from Hanford.</li> <li>21 I hope I answered your questions.</li> </ul>	18	focus, but it overrides issues in terms of
21 I hope I answered your questions.	19	trying to figure out where that will go
	20	eventually from Hanford.
22 MEMBER HAGEL: Do you believe that	21	I hope I answered your questions.
	22	MEMBER HAGEL: Do you believe that

## Page 78

		Page 79
1	a permanent disposal repository is going to be	
2	required?	
3	MR. NILES: Yes, absolutely.	
4	Absolutely.	
5	CHAIR HAMILTON: Jonathan?	
6	MEMBER LASH: Earlier in your	
7	testimony you said that it's the position of	
8	the Western Governors that no facility should	
9	be located in the state without the written	
10	consent of the Governor. That's	
11	understandable.	
12	In fact, we are learning that in	
13	every country that has moved successfully	
14	forward with a siting process, that process	
15	has been more the negotiation of a contract	
16	between a national need and a community's	
17	needs, rather than the imposition of a	
18	responsibility.	
19	I'm interested whether you have	
20	thoughts about how the relationship would work	
21	between a state negotiating whether it was	
22	willing to have a facility, communities	

		Page	80
1	stepping forward and saying whether they were		
2	willing to have a facility, and the federal		
3	government. How should that work; should the		
4	state have the full responsibility; should		
5	both the community and the state be engaged?		
6	MR. NILES: Well, I think if I had		
7	the real answer that would resolve it we'd		
8	take a giant leap forward, because I don't		
9	have that. We've certainly not had a great		
10	experience in voluntary siting here in the		
11	United States.		
12	Going back to the days with the		
13	Nuclear Waste Negotiator, we had a Native		
14	American tribe on the Oregon-Nevada border		
15	that was into the first two phases of		
16	examination. There was resistance at the		
17	state level, as well.		
18	But there was resistance not just		
19	because of that idea. When you looked at the		
20	site there just was not an easy way to get		
21	there. And it just did not make sense as a		
22	place to try and move waste from throughout		

the nation. 1 2 I understand that one of your 3 meetings may in Carlsbad, that you're going to be perhaps talking with the folks in WIPP. I 4 guess I would suggest that I hope those folks 5 6 there who do have a successfully sited 7 repository, despite some opposition within the 8 state -- I hope they can have some better 9 lessons for you than I can provide to you. I do think the state needs to be 10 involved, absolutely. But the community is 11 12 certainly where the impacts would be and needs to have a role, as well. 13 14 Okay. Further CHAIR HAMILTON: 15 questions? 16 Our time is fairly limited. We'll 17 recognize the three Commissioners and ask them 18 to be quite brief. Ernie and then Allison and 19 then Per. 20 Ernie? 21 MEMBER MONIZ: I'll just return to 22 the transportation issue. This is a bigger

question than Oregon. 1 2 There was a National Academy 3 report a few years ago that suggested that, when it came to the logistics of moving 60,000 4 5 tons or more of spent fuel and high-level 6 waste, that perhaps a different organizational 7 structure outside the government should be 8 considered. 9 Do you have any views on that? 10 MR. NILES: You know, I would 11 throw out the WIPP transportation program and 12 its development as the model, and the way in 13 which that was done -- which was a very 14 cooperative effort between western states and 15 the US Department of Energy, later signed on 16 by other states throughout the nation -- as 17 really the model that we would like to see 18 happen. 19 CHAIR HAMILTON: Okay. Allison? 20 MEMBER MONIZ: With DOE? 21 MR. NILES: Yes, with DOE. 22 MEMBER MacFARLANE: Thanks. Based

		Page	83
1	on your considerable experience, I'm		
2	interested to know what you think would be the		
3	right institution to manage a repository and		
4	site a repository.		
5	MR. NILES: I'm afraid I don't		
6	have a good answer to give you. As I've		
7	mentioned, we have not gotten heavily into the		
8	repository aspect of things. Our focus has		
9	been primarily on Hanford and on the		
10	transportation aspect of it. So I would say		
11	I do not have the direct experience to help		
12	with that question.		
13	CHAIR HAMILTON: Final question,		
14	Per.		
15	MEMBER PETERSON: Yes. Thank you,		
16	Mr. Niles. I took extensive notes because		
17	there's just a long list of insights in what		
18	you had to say to us. I think that that is		
19	something that, in general, we've been finding		
20	whenever we talk to people who've worked with		
21	transport and other issues at the state level.		
22	That means, of course, that that knowledge is		

very important to us. 1 2 I have a question. You noted the 3 idea that perhaps one should start with spent fuel from decommissioned reactor sites so that 4 5 you learn about transportation at smaller 6 scale before going forward. You also 7 mentioned potentially working on defense high-8 level waste as being a priority. 9 I'd like to clarify. Did you 10 mean, have complete independence from the 11 civil or did you mean start with that first to gain experience that you could then use in 12 working with disposal of civil materials? 13 14 MR. NILES: It could potentially It could be either starting with it 15 be both. 16 with the intent of moving on to a same 17 facility or a separate facility. 18 The idea being that there seems to be a pause as we look at the idea of 19 20 reprocessing, which is obviously the 21 commercial waste stream and we don't have a 22 need to pause on defense high-level waste

		Page	0 5
1	because there isn't a use for that in the	raye	00
2	future.		
3	So if it was addressed separately		
4	entirely, with a separate geologic facility,		
5	or if that just became the first step, I think		
6	either would be something we would like to see		
7	happen.		
8	CHAIR HAMILTON: Mr. Niles, we		
9	thank you very much for your statement and		
10	your response to questions.		
11	The Commission now will take a		
12	break of 15 to 20 minutes. When we return		
13	we'll have Susan Leckband from the Hanford		
14	Advisory Board.		
15	We stand in recess.		
16	(Whereupon, the above-entitled		
17	matter went of the record at 2:53 p.m. and		
18	resumed at 3:14 p.m.)		
19	CHAIR HAMILTON: The Commission		
20	will resume its sitting. We'll hear now from		
21	Susan Leckband, who is the Chair of the		
22	Hanford Advisory Board.		

1			
		Page	86
1	Ms. Leckband, would you come		
2	forward, please? Thank you. We were very		
3	pleased to have you this morning on our tour		
4	and thank you very much for coming this		
5	afternoon.		
6	You may proceed.		
7	MS. LECKBAND: Thank you. And		
8	thank you so much for offering me the		
9	opportunity to come and speak for the HAB		
10	regarding the high-level waste question.		
11	The Hanford Advisory Board is a		
12	31-seat board made up of different interests:		
13	local government, the Hanford workforce, the		
14	tribes, environmental and economic interest		
15	groups and members of the public at large.		
16	We provide advice and		
17	recommendations to the tri-party agencies. At		
18	this present time I didn't bring my		
19	calculator there are between 500 and 800		
20	years of direct Hanford experience sitting on		
21	this volunteer board.		
22	The Hanford site's place in		

		Page	87
1	history is well documented, from the		
2	beginnings of the Manhattan Project through		
3	the Cold War and now in terms of environmental		
4	remediation.		
5	In addition to huge nuclear		
6	processing canyon facilities and smaller		
7	supporting buildings, there are miles of		
8	trenches, ditches, ponds, cribs, plus		
9	underground tanks and miles of piping		
10	containing nuclear wastes from past		
11	operations.		
12	These wastes require remediation		
13	actions in many forms from simple demolition		
14	to retrieval, treatment and repackaging for		
15	final disposal, both on and off the Hanford		
16	site.		
17	The waste burden that will be left		
18	on the Hanford site when remediation actions		
19	are complete is huge. This is a message you		
20	have heard before.		
21	Today, we are in the midst of		
22	construction. But this time the focus is on		
			-

		Page	88
1	building a waste treatment plant that will		
2	convert approximately 50 million gallons of		
3	nuclear waste into a more stable form, into		
4	glass, so it can be permanently disposed in a		
5	national repository. That's the plan, to take		
6	the canisters of vitrified high-level waste		
7	created by the WTP and dispose of them off the		
8	site.		
9	You'll notice I use the collective		
10	we when describing what is currently happening		
11	at Hanford. The public has become involved,		
12	not only as observers, but participants in the		
13	cleanup decisions being made.		
14	We, the Hanford Advisory Board,		
15	are part of that stakeholder segment of the		
16	public who follow Hanford cleanup very closely		
17	and provide advice to this date, more than		
18	225 pieces of advice comments, and		
19	recommendations and engage in dialogue with		
20	the Department of Energy and the federal and		
21	state regulators on a wide spectrum of Hanford		
22	cleanup issues and decisions.		

		Page	89
1	We recognize the Hanford cleanup		
2	race is not a sprint; it's a marathon.		
3	We are called stakeholders because		
4	we have a stake in the outcome. We live here.		
5	We breathe the air here. We use the water		
6	resources of the Columbia River and future		
7	generations of our families will live here.		
8	The health and livelihoods of citizens of the		
9	Pacific Northwest for generations to come may		
10	be impacted if the cleanup is not adequate.		
11	The Hanford Advisory Board is		
12	concerned that Hanford will become a de facto		
13	high-level waste repository for the vitrified		
14	waste that will be the product of the waste		
15	treatment plant currently under construction.		
16	I have focused on this one		
17	particular item, but please, make no mistake.		
18	The Hanford Advisory Board has provided a		
19	plethora of advice, ranging from simple		
20	retrieval and disposal of on-site waste to		
21	worker issues in health and safety. But I		
22	particularly wanted to concentrate on the		

		Page	90
1	high-level waste repository because we just		
2	recently issued a piece of advice.		
3	Our board operates by consensus.		
4	So imagine all of you sitting around the		
5	table, plus about 20 more, with varying		
6	interests, coming to agreement on a piece of		
7	advice. This is no small feat. And it's a		
8	real testimony to those people's engagement in		
9	Hanford cleanup.		
10	We're concerned that if we become		
11	a high-level waste repository in the interim,		
12	there will be potential impacts to the vadose-		
13	zone, groundwater and the Columbia River, that		
14	there will be a financial burden in the need		
15	to build short and/or long-term high-level		
16	storage capacity. Even interim high-level		
17	storage could last for decades. Will that		
18	money be taken away from cleanup to construct		
19	and maintain these long-term storage or		
20	interim storage facilities?		
21	We're also very distressed about		
22	the potential for the increased total waste		

		Page
1	load for the site with a very, very long	
2	radioactive half-life. Over time, the	
3	national will, along with funding to remove	
4	the high-level waste from Hanford to an off-	
5	site repository, may fade. As I said, interim	
6	can be a very long time.	
7	Delays in identification of a	
8	national high-level repository could drive	
9	costly design changes that may be needed to	
10	match the vitrified high-level canister	
11	specifications to a new or different	
12	repository waste acceptance criteria.	
13	These are simply a few of the	
14	concerns we have regarding the high-level	
15	waste repository.	
16	I'm going to close with one	
17	statement. We don't inherit this land; we	
18	borrow it from our children. I don't know the	
19	author of that statement, but that's very much	
20	what the Hanford Advisory Board feels.	
21	Thank you for this opportunity.	
22	CHAIR HAMILTON: Thank you very	

		Page	92
1	much for your statement. Your emphasis on		
2	building consensus in the community certainly		
3	needs to be commended. We thank you for that.		
4	Are there questions from		
5	Commissioners?		
6	Two here. Per and then Jonathan.		
7	MEMBER PETERSON: Thank you for		
8	the comments and advice. I appreciate them.		
9	In particular, I think that we've learned a		
10	very important dimension of the problem, which		
11	is this question of waste acceptance criteria.		
12	If I were to summarize, and then		
13	if you could tell me if I'm correct, the point		
14	is that this has a strong impact on what the		
15	composition is of the waste glass that needs		
16	to be made.		
17	This needs to be done		
18	expeditiously because this is what controls		
19	the rate at which we can clean up the tanks,		
20	which are at risk of leaking. So it needs to		
21	be done expeditiously.		
22	But this does mean that we have to		

		Page	93
1	have some idea about waste acceptance		
2	criteria. And with uncertainty about what the		
3	geologic repository might be, it makes it		
4	difficult for us to come back and understand		
5	whether we have the correct waste acceptance		
6	criteria.		
7	So if I'm summarizing this		
8	correctly, it means that we do need to look		
9	very carefully at the question of waste		
10	acceptance criteria, and make sure that that		
11	would not be an impediment to the future		
12	geologic disposal of the materials that will		
13	come out of the waste facilities here.		
14	MS. LECKBAND: That's exactly		
15	right.		
16	CHAIR HAMILTON: Jonathan?		
17	MEMBER LASH: I liked your		
18	description of this process not being a sprint		
19	but a marathon. The same could be said about		
20	efforts to locate a long-term geologic		
21	repository.		
22	I was interested in your		

		Page
1	observations about why it takes 20 years to	
2	build a vitrification plant when other	
3	countries seem to get them in operation more	
4	quickly.	
5	MS. LECKBAND: I believe it takes	
6	this length of time because there were two	
7	false starts in the beginning. There was the	
8	proposal to privatize the vitrification	
9	facility and that certainly was a failure.	
10	That takes a great deal of time.	
11	We also have a very stringent	
12	regulatory process here.	
13	I would also point to the fact	
14	that with the government funding on a cyclic	
15	basis, it makes it difficult to progress.	
16	I can tell you for a fact I	
17	worked for one of the French companies. When	
18	they determined they were going to build a	
19	vitrification facility, they did all the	
20	designing upfront and then the government gave	
21	them all the money at once. There wasn't the	
22	constant struggle to make sure you had the	

Page 95 right amount of money and if you were going to 1 2 get the funding this year or next year. 3 The politics was removed a bit from it. I think in many cases politics don't 4 5 necessarily hasten the process. 6 CHAIR HAMILTON: Are there further 7 questions? MEMBER LASH: Will all our former 8 9 members of Congress take that last comment 10 into account; any defense? 11 MEMBER HAGEL: That's why we're 12 former members. 13 CHAIR HAMILTON: Any further 14 questions or snide comments? 15 MEMBER LASH: Touche. CHAIR HAMILTON: Okay. Thank you, 16 Jonathan. 17 18 Thank you very much. 19 MS. LECKBAND: Thank you. 20 We appreciate it. CHAIR HAMILTON: 21 Give our appreciation to the Board, as well. 22 MS. LECKBAND: Thank you very

		Page	96
1	much.		
2	CHAIR HAMILTON: The next speaker		
3	is Carl Adrian, President/CEO of the Tri-City		
4	Development Council.		
5	Mr. Adrian, thank you for coming		
6	this afternoon. You may proceed.		
7	MR. ADRIAN: Thank you for having		
8	me.		
9	Just an observation. My office is		
10	across the parking lot here and we have some		
11	fleece jackets over there. So if any of the		
12	Commission would need a jacket either this		
13	afternoon or tomorrow, let me know. We'd be		
14	happy to provide it.		
15	Good afternoon. My name is Carl		
16	Adrian. As you said, I'm President and CEO of		
17	the Tri-City Development Council, also known		
18	as TRIDEC. We use a lot of acronyms in the		
19	community.		
20	TRIDEC is the lead economic		
21	development organization for Benton and		
22	Franklin Counties. The organization was		

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1	created in 1963 and is designated by the US	
2	Department of Energy as the community reuse	
3	organization for the bi-county area.	
4	TRIDEC has approximately 375	
5	member companies, and contractual	
6	relationships with most of the units of local	
7	government in the area.	
8	As a part of our broader economic	
9	development programs, TRIDEC has had a long	
10	history of interaction with Hanford. During	
11	the '60s, '70s, and '80s, TRIDEC advocated for	
12	additional missions and supported the	
13	construction of new nuclear power reactors,	
14	such as Columbia Generating Station which you	
15	visited this morning.	
16	More recently, TRIDEC has been a	
17	leader in working with the Department of	
18	Energy and Congress to ensure adequate funding	
19	is available to clean up defense legacy waste	
20	at all the weapons-complex sites, and	
21	certainly especially Hanford.	
22	Disposal of defense waste from the	

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		Page	98
1	various DOE sites represents a national		
2	ecosystem, where individual sites such as		
3	Hanford were designated for storage of		
4	specific types of waste. This Nuclear Policy		
5	Act ecosystem has been under way for 20 years.		
6	So when Yucca Mountain was taken		
7	off the table, that certainly wasn't part of		
8	the deal, at least in our minds in the		
9	community. But it also upsets this entire		
10	ecosystem.		
11	If high-level waste doesn't go to		
12	Yucca Mountain, then why should New Mexico		
13	take low-level and TRU waste, Idaho the		
14	nuclear navy waste, or Hanford the mixed		
15	waste? These are just three examples of what		
16	have turned into what we believe is a		
17	political house of cards for waste disposal.		
18	Let me talk about some details		
19	with regard to Hanford. For 67 years our		
20	community along with other weapons-complex		
21	communities has supported national		
22	missions, first with World War II, then the		

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1	Cold War, and now with weapons-complex cleanup	
2	missions.	
3	Hanford is getting cleaned up. In	
4	fact, by 2015 a 586-square-mile site will be	
5	focused on the Central Plateau, an area of	
6	approximately 75 square miles. So there will	
7	be a dramatic reduction in active footprint.	
8	In this community and in some of	
9	the other weapons-complex communities, some of	
10	this excess land we believe can be turned into	
11	energy parks. And in our case, we believe	
12	that some of that energy park can be part of -	
13	- we hope can be part of replacing some of	
14	the 45,000 gallons of diesel fuel that would	
15	be burned at a waste treatment plant on a	
16	daily basis to make steam, and the 70	
17	megawatts of electricity that are projected to	
18	be used at that facility.	
19	So we believe we have an effort	
20	here to not only help the community but	
21	certainly help the nation, and certainly DOE.	
22	The Waste Policy Act of 1982	

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## Page 99

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established the need to identify the nation's
 waste repositories of high-level, mixed, low level, and TRU waste.

Congressional amendments to the 4 5 Nuclear Waste Policy Act in 1987 designated 6 Yucca Mountain as the nation's deep geologic 7 high-level nuclear waste repository. It was 8 supposed to be operational, as I'm sure you know, in 1998. That's been mentioned before. 9 Hanford is one of the few sites 10 11 that have both weapons-complex with high-level 12 waste and commercial spent nuclear fuel. This 13 site has something close to 70 percent of the 14 nation's high-level weapons-complex waste. 15 In addition, at Energy Northwest 16 we have more than 560 tons of spent commercial 17 nuclear fuel. And you heard from Oregon

18 there's another 700 tons within probably 300 19 miles of here.

Although you will hear from others that Yucca Mountain does not have the capacity to hold all the nuclear waste, it can easily

		Page
1	and safely handle all of the nation's weapons-	
2	complex waste, and it should. We believe	
3	strongly that it should.	
4	Let's talk about confidence in the	
5	process. I think the real challenge for the	
6	Blue Ribbon Commission is, how do you assure	
7	Tri-Cities residents, or residents of some of	
8	the other weapons-complex sites, that any	
9	solution you develop even if it's adopted	
10	and implemented will not be susceptible to	
11	the same political consequences and	
12	shenanigans, frankly, that Yucca Mountain has	
13	been subjected to.	
14	Sound science, we believe, is very	
15	critical. It's interesting one reporter	
16	just recently in Seattle stated, or wrote,	
17	that the only science currently working	
18	relative to Yucca Mountain was political	
19	science. Having a degree in political	
20	science, I understand that process. But	
21	seriously, science and NRC licensing are	
22	critical to moving ahead with a solution to	

Page 102

1 the nuclear waste issue.

<ul> <li>continues to get in the way of good science.</li> <li>As it's been mentioned, other nations such as</li> <li>France and even Japan have reprocessing and</li> <li>classification programs in place, and they are</li> <li>working.</li> <li>There are also some national</li> <li>considerations that we believe are important.</li> <li>Any alternative site proposed by the Blue</li> <li>Ribbon Commission or any alternative process</li> <li>other than Yucca Mountain will require</li> <li>extensive study. And will cost at a minimum,</li> <li>probably an amount equal to what was already</li> <li>spent on Yucca, in the neighborhood of \$10</li> </ul>
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15 spent on Yucca, in the neighborhood of \$10
16 billion.
17Any alternative to Yucca will also
18 set the final site selection back by years,
19 probably decades. That's even if we decide to
20 keep everything where it is currently.
21 This Blue Ribbon Commission, all
22 of you, have a tremendous challenge and an

Page 103 opportunity to move the nation's cleanup 1 2 program and our nuclear program ahead. Your 3 task becomes a little easier if you separate two decisions: what to do with the nation's 4 5 weapon complex waste, and how to close the 6 nuclear fuel cycle of the nation's commercial 7 nuclear reactor programs? 8 First off, TRIDEC recommends we 9 follow the law, and Yucca is the law for highlevel waste. 10 We also feel that the nation needs 11 12 to reprocess commercial spent nuclear fuel, 13 closing the fuel cycle. Some of that 14 reprocessing could be done at Hanford, although I'm not advocating that here today. 15 16 But nuclear programs become nearly impossible 17 if there's no solution to the high-level waste 18 issue. 19 By the way, if nuclear-fuel -- if 20 commercial waste was recycled, Yucca Mountain 21 should be large enough to handle all the 22 weapons-complex waste and the waste remaining

Page 104 after processing of commercial spent fuel. 1 2 Even the energy park located on Hanford that could become available by 2015 3 4 becomes questionable if the waste issue is not 5 solved, or at least there's a clear path 6 forward. So we believe we can't move forward 7 without you completing your work. 8 These last two items, reprocessing 9 of spent nuclear fuel and an energy park, are tremendous economic development opportunities 10 not just for this community but, I think, for 11 the nation. So we really do await the outcome 12 13 of your deliberations and the path forward 14 that you may recommend. Again, we can't 15 afford to wait another 10, 20, or 30 years to 16 solve this predicament. 17 I understand that a number of you 18 asked some questions on the tour this morning regarding energy parks. On behalf of TRIDEC, 19 20 we would be happy, along with some of our 21 partners at the other weapons-complex sites, 22 to come and brief you at some point on the

	Page 105	
1	status of those parks in the various	
2	communities. We make that commitment to you	
3	at this time.	
4	That concludes my remarks.	
5	CHAIR HAMILTON: Thank you very	
б	much, Mr. Adrian. We thank you for your	
7	participation.	
8	Are there questions from Members?	
9	Brent?	
10	CHAIR SCOWCROFT: Thank you very	
11	much, Mr. Adrian. I just wonder how your	
12	thoughts about future development at Hanford	
13	correspond to those of the Indian tribes' that	
14	we heard from earlier, who also claim some	
15	jurisdiction here.	
16	Are you in agreement with them?	
17	MR. ADRIAN: I don't view the	
18	community's thoughts as being radically	
19	different than that of the Native Americans.	
20	There is a land use plan that was	
21	approved by DOE, I think back in the late	
22	'90s. It designates some 60 square miles for	

	Page 106
1	potential industrial use and another 9,000
2	acres for research and development use.
3	The community believes, I will
4	say, there are some parts of the site that
5	should be open to public access. And not that
6	they should be disturbed, but should be open
7	for the public to be able to see. The top of
8	Rattlesnake Mountain is one that I think is of
9	much interest in the community, and the views
10	that you can receive from there.
11	But again, I think the community
12	in fact is beginning an effort later this
13	summer and early fall, in conjunction with
14	DOE, to really look at some of those long-term
15	land use issues. We hope the Native Americans
16	will be part of that discussion.
17	CHAIR HAMILTON: Any further
18	questions?
19	Allison?
20	MEMBER MacFARLANE: One thing you
21	said that I thought was right on was that one
22	of the most important things is figuring out

	Page 107
1	how to ensure that the solutions we develop
2	won't be subject to, as you called them,
3	political shenanigans.
4	What's your recommendation?
5	MR. ADRIAN: I'm not sure what the
6	answer to that is, other than it obviously has
7	to be
8	MEMBER MacFARLANE: But you're the
9	political scientist.
10	(Laughter.)
11	MR. ADRIAN: Well, I'll go back to
12	real science and say I think it has to be
13	based on very solid science.
14	There was some discussion earlier
15	about whether the states and the community
16	should be involved and I think we believe
17	strongly that wherever this is going to happen
18	and we hope it still happens in Nevada
19	that the state and the community need to be
20	partners in that, and work together with any
21	other groups, whether it be Native Americans
22	or others, that may be involved in the

Page 108 1 outcome. 2 CHAIR HAMILTON: Further 3 questions? 4 Mr. Adrian, thank you very much. 5 Please extend our thanks to the Council, as 6 well. 7 MR. ADRIAN: Thank you. 8 CHAIR HAMILTON: You are excused. We thank you for your appearance. 9 10 The next speaker is Gerald Pollett, the Executive Director of the Heart 11 12 of America Northwest. Mr. Pollett, we're very pleased to 13 14 have you. You may proceed. 15 MR. POLLETT: Joining me today will be Sarah Minkler, one of seven university 16 17 and regional law students interning with us this summer. 18 19 Could I have our PowerPoint put 20 up? 21 Thank you, members of the 22 Commission, for touring Hanford. On behalf of

	Page 109
1	our 16,000 members across the Northwest, thank
2	you for touring and thank you for being here.
3	You have our detailed testimony.
4	I'm going to present the summary of it and
5	answer your questions. You have graphics,
6	footnotes, etcetera in the background.
7	If I could go to the next slide?
8	Here you have what it is we're
9	trying to protect out here in the Northwest,
10	the Columbia River, running through Hanford
11	from left to right for 50 miles.
12	Next slide?
13	Flowing through for 50 miles. And
14	as we speak today, you have radioactive
15	strontium-90 entering the river in seeps,
16	measured at the shoreline wells at 1,500 times
17	the drinking water standard.
18	I'd like to take a minute to have
19	you think about what that means. The drinking
20	water standard is set at a level at which one
21	adult out of every 10,000 die of cancer.
22	Children are three to ten times more

Page 110 susceptible to cancer from the same dose. 1 2 As you've heard eloquently earlier 3 today, there are tribes with treaty rights to 4 live along and fish those 50 miles, and to use 5 the resources, which includes the groundwater. 6 Think about a 15 percent fatal cancer rate if 7 you use that groundwater. 8 Next slide? 9 The first lesson that we hope you will take away from Hanford is, the 53 million 10 gallons of liquid high-level nuclear waste 11 12 sitting in the tanks are the result of reprocessing. Reprocessing equals liquid 13 14 high-level nuclear waste. 15 There is no treatment plant that 16 operates and is in-site. It is \$8 billion 17 over budget. It is still, and always seems to 18 be, 8 or 10 years away from completion. Ιt 19 has massive challenges to work properly. 20 The proposals for reprocessing, 21 including the Department of Energy's Draft 22 GNEP EIS issued in December 2008, simply

	Page 111
1	avoided even calculating what the cost of
2	reprocessing was, or what would happen with
3	the wastes from reprocessing, other than to
4	say shallow land burial. And if there's
5	another lesson from Hanford, it's that shallow
6	land burial is unacceptable.
7	Next slide, please.
8	Hanford's contamination from
9	shallow land disposal is far above what anyone
10	can view as acceptable. And the Energy
11	Department driven by decisions to minimize
12	the amounts of waste it wants to send to the
13	hypothetical Yucca Mountain repository, and
14	driven by decisions to avoid deep geologic
15	repositories for other wastes proposes to
16	leave vast quantities of waste in the ground
17	and even in the bottom of the tanks.
18	We call the Energy Department's
19	plan to cap 1,700 acres or more of central
20	Hanford a coverup, not a cleanup plan.
21	Next slide?
22	This is from the Draft Tank-

	Page 112
1	Closure Waste Management Environmental Impact
2	Statement released by the Energy Department
3	last October. It shows its projection for
4	uranium-238 in the groundwater 125 years from
5	now, mostly due to the releases from residues
6	from tanks, from discharges from the tank
7	systems that would be capped and not cleaned
8	up, and from the proposed landfills, including
9	the one for the secondary wastes from
10	vitrification and the wastes for where you put
11	the melters, etcetera.
12	Next slide?
13	This is uranium in the groundwater
14	in the year 3890. Think about what we are
15	doing for future generations.
16	Next slide?
17	This is a chart from the EIS
18	showing that the Energy Department's
19	projection, for instance, for plutonium in the
20	groundwater under the Central Plateau will
21	grow to 160 times the drinking water standard
22	in 1,000 years. And this is without adding

Page 113 off-site waste. 1 2 Next slide? This is iodine in the groundwater 3 in approximately 2,000 years. The dark red is 4 5 50 times the drinking water standard. You see it heading towards the Columbia River as it 6 7 slowly releases from the landfills and the 8 residues that the Energy Department proposes 9 to simply cap. 10 Sarah, do you want to talk about some of the implications of this for a moment? 11 12 MS. MINKLER: Good afternoon. My name is Sarah Minkler. I am one of several 13 14 law students who has been working with Heart of America Northwest and Mr. Pollett. 15 Our main focus has been filing a 16 17 complaint against DOE regarding one of their 2004 Records of Decision which designates the 18 19 Hanford area as essentially a radioactive 20 waste dump. 21 This decision basically says only 22 that additional waste will be transported and

		Page	114
1	dumped at Hanford. It doesn't give us an		
2	opportunity to discuss whether this		
3	radioactive waste should even be shipped to		
4	Hanford.		
5	I think that for future		
6	generations, my generation I see a few		
7	other younger faces in the crowd your		
8	children and grandchildren, it seems like a		
9	125 years, several thousand years seems		
10	like a long time and it's very far out.		
11	But it's our generation who are		
12	going to have to clean up Hanford, clean up		
13	the contamination. And I think that until we		
14	have a firm grip on what we obviously haven't		
15	cleaned up yet, before we have a firm grip on		
16	that, I don't think that it's responsible to		
17	ship additional waste into Hanford.		
18	Thank you. And I'll turn it back		
19	over to Mr. Pollett.		
20	MR. POLLETT: Thank you, Sarah.		
21	Bob Apple, one of my board members		
22	and Spokane City Council member, asked me to		
			-

follow up on that by saying that the 1 2 Commission might have the idea that storing additional waste or disposing of additional 3 4 waste at Hanford, at a site with prevailing 5 winds heading towards my city of Spokane, is 6 appropriate. The people of Spokane don't 7 think so. 8 In 1986, I wrote a statewide 9 referendum for Hanford that stopped Hanford from simply being designated as the other 10 Yucca Mountain finalist. And said, under the 11 12 Nuclear Waste Policy Act, that any veto by the governor would be exercised by vote of the 13 14 public. 15 A question was asked earlier about 16 how you get community consensus. It is vital that the entire state be involved in the 17 18 question of where you site a deep geologic repository. 19 20 And one of the other major take-21 aways -- if I can have the next slide -- let's 22 go, jump ahead a few slides. Next slide, next

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## Page 115

		Page
1	slide.	
2	You need several deep geologic	
3	repositories. There is three times more	
4	plutonium in the soil at Hanford than the	
5	Energy Department has acknowledged. There is	
б	16 times more plutonium and transuranic waste	
7	in the soil at Hanford than the Energy	
8	Department has in the contact plan at TRU -	
9	- it is planning to ship to WIPP.	
10	Essentially, we need a repository	
11	for additional transuranic waste, Greater-	
12	Than-Class-C-Waste, which the Energy	
13	Department has another pending EIS proposing	
14	shallow landfill disposal of at Hanford or	
15	another site.	
16	We need a repository for a	
17	significant quantity of the low-activity	
18	vitrified waste that cannot be buried in the	
19	landfills at Hanford without causing the	
20	damage you saw from radioactive iodine,	
21	technetium-99, etcetera, to the groundwater.	
22	The low-activity waste vitrified also releases	

116

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Page 117 and contaminates our groundwater above 1 2 standards for 10,000 years. 3 Long-term storage capacity for the 4 vitrified waste is something that we've always expected to have to need at Hanford. It is 5 6 not going to contaminate the groundwater. But 7 we need to have a repository program that gets 8 it right. We're not afraid of having the 9 vitrified canisters stored here, but we are afraid of having vitrified low-activity waste 10 11 buried and contaminating the groundwater. 12 Thank you very much. I'd be glad 13 to answer your questions, and you have detailed comments distributed. 14 15 CHAIR HAMILTON: Thank you very 16 much, Mr. Pollett, for a very thoughtful 17 presentation. 18 Are there questions from Members? 19 Pete? 20 MEMBER DOMENICI: I just have a 21 couple of questions. What is your 22 organization?

	Page 118
1	MR. POLLETT: Heart of America
2	Northwest. We are the region's oldest,
3	largest public interest group working for the
4	cleanup of Hanford, with 16,000 members across
5	Washington and Oregon.
б	MEMBER DOMENICI: Are they against
7	the proposals that DOE has for Hanford, or are
8	they in favor of it, your 16,000 people?
9	MR. POLLETT: Well, we're against
10	using Hanford as a national radioactive waste
11	dump for the 3 million cubic feet of off-site
12	waste that the Energy Department proposes to
13	ship in.
14	We are against delaying emptying
15	single-shell tanks through the year 2040. We
16	believe it can be done faster.
17	We are for cleaning up. Our
18	organization led the effort that ended the
19	liquid waste discharges. And we spearheaded
20	the effort to end the Energy Department from
21	using unlined soil trenches at Hanford for
22	disposal.

Page 119 MEMBER DOMENICI: I know that 1 2 you're very effective. You win them all. 3 I was wondering, do you work full-4 time for this organization? 5 MR. POLLETT: Yes, I do. 6 MEMBER DOMENICI: So you're on a 7 salary that they pay you? 8 MR. POLLETT: That's right. 9 MEMBER DOMENICI: Is your salary a 10 matter of public record? MR. POLLETT: Well, I'd be glad --11 12 MEMBER DOMENICI: Is it or not? 13 I'm not going to investigate it. 14 MR. POLLETT: -- to tell you 15 privately. 16 MEMBER DOMENICI: I didn't hear 17 you. 18 MR. POLLETT: I'd be glad to tell 19 you what my salary is without it being 20 broadcast across the country. 21 MEMBER DOMENICI: You can tell me at the door. I'll be at this door over here. 22

Page 120 1 MR. POLLETT: Let's just say my 2 wife and I drive a 12 or 13-year old beat up 3 station wagon, sir. 4 MEMBER DOMENICI: I'm just 5 kidding. You don't know me very well. 6 MR. POLLETT: I earn a fraction of 7 what the Energy Department people get paid. 8 MEMBER DOMENICI: You don't know 9 me very well, so you interrupt me and things. 10 That really is not nice. 11 MR. POLLETT: I'm sorry. 12 MEMBER DOMENICI: You just take 13 your turn and I'll take mine. I'm a slow, 14 easy-going guy. You're a full-time employee. 15 16 Would you say that you're charged with seeing 17 to it that what you and your experts think 18 should be the case is the case out at this 19 reservation; is that the way you see your job? 20 Our job is to use MR. POLLETT: 21 the Energy Department's own analyses and our 22 independent analyses. We have three

Page 121 hydrogeologists -- some of whom used to work 1 2 on-site -- on our Board. We use those 3 analyses to try to advocate for a cleanup that 4 protects the Columbia River, protects the 5 health of future generations, and is safe for 6 the workforce. 7 MEMBER DOMENICI: One last 8 question. Are there witnesses today from the 9 area that have been opposed to permanentizing what we have out there? 10 11 We have used the words, "We want to follow good science." Would you say that 12 13 is your mantra, too, that you want to follow 14 good science? MR. POLLETT: Well, I believe --15 16 MEMBER DOMENICI: What is it with 17 reference to science? How do you put science into this? 18 19 MR. POLLETT: I think good science 20 would have us look for a deep geologic 21 repository located in granite and --22 MEMBER DOMENICI: No. No. Ι

Page 122 don't want you to give a speech. I want to 1 2 know whether you support the notion of good science having a big part in the decision 3 4 making here. 5 MR. POLLETT: Absolutely. And I 6 believe that everyone who you hear from, 7 whether they agree with me or not, believes 8 that they're advocating for good science. 9 MEMBER DOMENICI: I don't think 10 you mentioned that in your comments. Did you? Well, I'm not sure. 11 MR. POLLETT: 12 MEMBER DOMENICI: You were too 13 busy talking about what we shouldn't do to 14 talk about what we should do, it seems to this 15 Senator. 16 Having said that, I want to thank 17 you for coming, and in particular thank the 18 young lady for the time she puts in on this. 19 I hope that you will look for all expert 20 opinions on both sides of things, because 21 America has a huge problem. 22 I will tell you, so you don't get

	Page 123
1	too worried about what we're going to decide,
2	we don't have the authority to designate the
3	sites for future waste disposals, either
4	temporary or permanent. That's not within our
5	charter.
б	So, as far as us designating it,
7	you can rest assured that it was your
8	testimony, young lady, that convinced us.
9	CHAIR HAMILTON: Any further
10	questions?
11	MEMBER DOMENICI: Thank you, Mr.
12	Chairman.
13	CHAIR HAMILTON: All right.
14	Allison?
15	MEMBER MacFARLANE: I'm interested
16	in where your figures came from, the maps of
17	the contamination.
18	MR. POLLETT: All the maps have
19	the citations in our testimony that you should
20	have in front of you or distributed to you.
21	They are from the Draft Tank-Closure Waste
22	Management Environmental Impact Statement

Page 124 1 MEMBER MacFARLANE: Okay. They're 2 DOE? 3 MR. POLLETT: -- issued by U.S. 4 DOE. Yes. 5 MEMBER MacFARLANE: Okay. 6 MR. POLLETT: Yes. 7 MEMBER MacFARLANE: And -- so I understand the iodine-129 comes from the 8 9 vitrified low-activity waste. Is that the main source? 10 11 MR. POLLETT: It is not the only 12 source -- and I hope that the Department of 13 Ecology will be speaking tomorrow about this -14 - it is not the only source. The off-site 15 waste would contribute tremendously to it, as 16 well. MEMBER MacFARLANE: The off-site 17 18 waste? 19 MR. POLLETT: The proposal to add 20 3 million cubic feet of mixed and low-level 21 off-site waste. 22 MEMBER MacFARLANE: Okay.

Page 125 MR. POLLETT: But the impact to 1 2 groundwater shown in the slide I showed was without the off-site waste added. 3 4 MEMBER MacFARLANE: Okay. MR. POLLETT: And the iodine and 5 6 technetium-99 are very serious hitters for the 7 groundwater. 8 MEMBER MacFARLANE: T know. What. 9 about the plutonium map that you showed, what's the source of the plutonium? 10 The sources for the 11 MR. POLLETT: plutonium are myriad. We don't have a lot of 12 13 time. But there is a lot in the tank 14 discharges, a very significant amount in the deliberate -- remember, the tank wastes when 15 16 they ran out of room they were discharged 17 straight into the soil of --18 MEMBER MacFARLANE: So those are 19 the discharges that already happened? 20 MR. POLLETT: And there are 43 21 miles of unlined trenches with plutonium. 22 There is the US Ecology site with plutonium.

Page 126 The list goes on and on. 1 2 MEMBER MacFARLANE: Okay. Any of it come from the tank heels? 3 MR. POLLETT: I don't know the 4 5 extent of the percentage of that contribution 6 from the tank heel. Someone else, perhaps 7 from the U.S. DOE, can answer that. I don't 8 think that it's very high from the tank heel. 9 MEMBER MacFARLANE: Okay. Thanks. CHAIR HAMILTON: Further 10 11 questions? 12 Chuck? MEMBER HAGEL: Mr. Chairman, thank 13 14 you. Thank you both for coming. 15 I did not read all of the 16 17 information that you had forwarded to the Commission before we arrived. So the question 18 19 I'm going to ask may well be answered in that 20 information. But here's the question. 21 Have you submitted to DOE your 22 organization's recommendations, specific

Page 127 recommendations on what you believe should be 1 2 done about Hanford today? 3 We are where we are. We have a 4 problem. We all recognize that. We're not 5 going to fix the problem without some answers. 6 It's difficult. We have all these different 7 dynamics of interest that are flowing through 8 this issue, which we've heard from some today 9 and we'll hear more tomorrow. 10 So the question is, have you sent a list of recommendations to the DOE on what 11 you believe they should be doing today about 12 13 unraveling all these problems? 14 MR. POLLETT: Extensively. Our 15 comments on the Tank-Closure Waste Management 16 EIS I think were 40-some odd pages. We are a member of the Hanford 17 18 Advisory Board, and our Chair spoke earlier 19 about our consensus having issued, I think, 20 215 pieces of advice. And board members often 21 joke that they can tell which advice I write 22 because it's longer than the others.

	Page 128
1	So we have very extensively
2	participated. And I have to say, we have
3	enjoyed a very good relationship in terms of
4	having good discussions with site management
5	about those proposals.
6	MEMBER HAGEL: What has DOE's
7	response been?
8	MR. POLLETT: Well, the Energy
9	Department has a baseline for capping these
10	discharged sites and the 43 miles of unlined
11	trenches, instead of characterizing what is in
12	them and retrieving as necessary.
13	I think you'll see that the state
14	of Oregon, Heart of America Northwest, the
15	tribes, and the Advisory Board have repeatedly
16	said it is inappropriate to assume that you
17	can just cap these vast areas at Hanford
18	without examining what is in the trenches,
19	what is in the discharge cribs cribs are
20	the liquid waste discharge areas and ponds,
21	and deciding after characterization what needs
22	to be dug up and treated.

	Page 129
1	And a significant portion of it,
2	we believe, needs to go to deep underground
3	repositories.
4	MEMBER HAGEL: So you have
5	recommended the actual implementation of
6	different processes and procedures and
7	policies in order to address this?
8	MR. POLLETT: Yes. And on tank
9	wastes we have urged that we believe very
10	strongly that we can retrieve single-shell
11	tank wastes faster than 2040, which is the
12	Energy Department's current proposal.
13	MEMBER HAGEL: May I just take
14	advantage of one other quick question? I'm
15	sorry to interrupt you but I know our time is
16	short.
17	What did you mean by coverup? You
18	say that the DOE it's not cleanup, it's
19	coverup. What are they covering up?
20	MR. POLLETT: Well, literally,
21	the Energy Department's proposal is not to
22	look at what is in 43 miles 43 miles of

	Page 130
1	unlined ditches into which radioactive wastes
2	were disposed 50 feet deep. It's a vast
3	quantity of waste.
4	In order to examine what is in the
5	liquid waste discharge sites on the Central
6	Plateau along the river corridor, by contrast,
7	under pressure from EPA, the state, and the
8	public, the Energy Department agreed in the
9	'90s to simply retrieve all those waste sites.
10	For the Central Plateau it is
11	saying, "We are going to cover them, that is
12	it. Without finding out what is under them,
13	we are just going to cap them, cover them,
14	abandon the waste underneath it." And the
15	science is very clear that the waste will
16	continue to move.
17	MEMBER HAGEL: Are you implying by
18	coverup that they're hiding something, or is
19	what you mean literally covering up?
20	MR. POLLETT: Literally.
21	MEMBER HAGEL: You don't mean
22	they're hiding anything?

	Page 131
1	MR. POLLETT: Literally cover up.
2	I will say that we have recently
3	had to appeal the RCRA permit sent by the
4	Energy Department to the state where the
5	Energy Department stamped Official Use Only on
6	the maps of those low-level burial grounds,
7	and said, "You can't see where they are," even
8	though they're available online. So there are
9	still problems with secrecy at the Hanford
10	site.
11	The Energy Department, as you may
12	know from the National Freedom of Information
13	Coalition and journalist groups, has not been
14	rated very highly in terms of meeting the
15	President's openness directive.
16	Your Commission, I should say, has
17	done a fabulous job in terms of transparency
18	and openness. I appreciate that. Thank you.
19	CHAIR HAMILTON: Mr. Pollett, we
20	thank you very much for your appearance.
21	Thank you also to Sarah for appearing with
22	you. We're very pleased to have you. Thank

	Page 132
1	you very much.
2	MR. POLLETT: Thank you all very
3	much.
4	CHAIR HAMILTON: Our next speaker
5	will be Vic Parrish from Energy Northwest. We
6	learned this morning that Vic Parrish is
7	retiring as of today as the CEO of Energy
8	Northwest.
9	Vic, we certainly express our very
10	best wishes to you in your retirement. We
11	thank you for the contributions you have made.
12	Thank you also for joining us all morning in
13	our tour. We look forward now to your
14	presentation.
15	MR. PARRISH: Thank you, Chairman
16	Hamilton.
17	Chairman Hamilton and Scowcroft
18	and distinguished members of the Commission,
19	I am Vic Parrish. I am the Chief Executive
20	Officer of Energy Northwest until close of
21	business today.
22	I'd like to thank you for the

Page 133

1	invitation to speak with you today on behalf
2	of the commercial nuclear industry about the
3	future of our nation's used nuclear fuel
4	management policies and programs. We
5	appreciate the opportunity to open an ongoing
6	dialogue with the Commission as it carries out
7	its mandate.
8	Energy Northwest owns and operates
9	Columbia Generating Station nuclear power
10	plant located in nearby Richland. Columbia
11	has operated safely and reliably for more than
12	25 years. We are currently in the license
13	renewal process with the Nuclear Regulatory
14	Commission to extend Columbia's operating
15	license for another 20 years.
16	Since Columbia began operation in

16 Since Columbia began operation in 17 1984, ratepayers have paid approximately \$290 18 million to the Nuclear Waste Fund. Over \$34 19 billion has been paid by electricity 20 ratepayers nationwide since the fund started 21 in 1982. These funds were for the federal 22 program that was supposed to have begun

		Page	134
1	removing used fuel from commercial nuclear		
2	power plant sites more than 12 years ago.		
3	During your stop at Columbia this		
4	morning you saw our used fuel storage area.		
5	It was built in 2001 to temporarily store our		
6	used fuel because of the delay in opening a		
7	national repository.		
8	This fuel is stored in a dry		
9	configuration in above-ground stainless steel		
10	and concrete cast, and all of it can remain		
11	stored in a safe and secure manner for		
12	decades.		
13	It will not delay decisions to		
14	bring future commercial nuclear plants online.		
15	A decade's more delay is not in the best		
16	interest of our nation's ratepayers and our		
17	independent energy future.		
18	As nuclear power grows to play a		
19	larger role in supplying clean power for		
20	America's increasing energy needs, we look		
21	forward to the vital work of this Commission		
22	to recommend policies and programs that will		

		Page 135
1	manage this commercial used fuel as required	
2	by the Nuclear Waste Policy Act of 1982.	
3	In all the work that you do as a	
4	part of this Commission, public trust and	
5	confidence is paramount. This is not my view	
б	alone but that of the nuclear industry as a	
7	whole.	
8	In running a nuclear power plant	
9	we deal day to day with the complex issues of	
10	used fuel management. We do all of those	
11	activities while protecting public health and	
12	safety.	
13	The report you ultimately produce	
14	should help citizens see clearly the issues	
15	involved regarding safety and security of	
16	transportation, safety and security of	
17	storage, and what recycling actually means in	
18	terms of the use of plutonium as an energy	
19	fuel. The industry believes that there are	
20	positive answers to these questions that	
21	ensure continued public health and security.	
22	As such, we urge that your report	

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	Page 136
1	provide actionable recommendations for moving
2	forward with used fuel management in a way
3	that enhances public trust and confidence.
4	The following key principles are
5	offered to this Commission by the nuclear
6	industry, speaking with one voice to ensure
7	that a stable used nuclear fuel management
8	policy is created.
9	I know this Commission is familiar
10	with these principles. But for the benefit of
11	those in attendance, I think it is important
12	to state them again so the industry
13	perspective is represented.
14	Such a policy must be durable, and
15	it must include a plan for the ultimate
16	disposal of the byproducts from commercial
17	nuclear power generation.
18	Policy makers should recognize
19	that an ideal technical solution is not
20	required to begin implementation of a new
21	policy direction. Advances in technology
22	improvements can be incorporated over time,

	Page 137
1	without deferring decisions until decades of
2	research are completed.
3	The policy must be designed and
4	operated to ensure that non-proliferation
5	goals are met.
6	The successes and failures of the
7	past must be understood to help guide future
8	innovation, and build public trust and
9	confidence in nuclear power generation.
10	The nuclear energy industry also
11	offered some recommendations to the Commission
12	to help evaluate various policies,
13	technologies, and systems that are available
14	now or might be in the future.
15	U.S. policy for the management of
16	high-level waste material should recognize
17	that an integrated management system must
18	include both near and long-term programs, must
19	be operated over decades, and cannot be
20	successful if policies regarding used fuel and
21	high-level waste are continually subject to
22	change.

	Page 138
1	Policies should also be
2	implemented in a manner such that the costs of
3	a long-term management strategy are not an
4	undue burden to commercial and private
5	entities in the industry, or to our society,
6	the beneficiaries of this nuclear technology.
7	Geologic disposal will be
8	necessary in any used fuel management
9	scenario. The nation's policies must
10	establish a clear and achievable path to
11	disposal. Geologic disposal is required for
12	the multiple waste forms including defense
13	material that already exist and may not be
14	suitable for recycling or other advanced fuel
15	cycle technologies.
16	Future disposal efforts should
17	endeavor to build broad-based public support,
18	and should consider a stepwise approach that
19	would demonstrate the viability of final
20	disposal and cultivate public confidence.
21	The licensing process for Yucca
22	Mountain should be completed, even if the

		Page
1	facility is not ultimately used, just to	
2	demonstrate the regulatory process and provide	
3	lessons for future repository programs.	
4	Centralized interim storage should	
5	be considered as a strategic element of used	
6	fuel management to provide a safe near-term	
7	solution for consolidating used fuel from	
8	shutdown commercial reactor sites, and storing	
9	used fuel away from current and future	
10	operating sites.	
11	The centralized interim storage	
12	facility should be licensed by the Nuclear	
13	Regulatory Commission, take advantage of past	
14	projects as warranted, and be deployed in a	
15	region where it has broad public and political	
16	support.	
17	In addition, centralized interim	
18	storage could be used by the federal	
19	government to meet its statutory and	
20	contractual obligations to accept and remove	
21	used nuclear fuel from reactor sites, while	
22	reducing or eliminating the liability for	

139

Page 140

1	taxpayers.
2	This interim site could also be a
3	complementary near-term element of disposal,
4	recycling, and other advanced fuel cycle
5	technologies.
6	Such an interim storage site would
7	likely reduce public concern regarding the
8	accumulation of used nuclear fuel at operating
9	and shutdown reactor sites, and increase
10	public confidence by demonstrating the ability
11	of the federal government to effectively
12	manage commercial used fuel.
13	America's used fuel program should
14	be transferred to an entity with a management
15	and financing structure that is able to
16	function in the presence of the inevitable
17	political and policy changes that will occur
18	over the coming decades.
19	The industry recommends that such
20	an entity be empowered to act on behalf of the
21	United States for entering into and
22	administering contracts to provide used

	Page 141
1	nuclear fuel management and related products
2	and services. And have access to the Nuclear
3	Waste Fund and be held accountable for using
4	those monies for actions that directly support
5	the ability of the government to meet its
6	statutory and contractual obligations.
7	Both current and advanced
8	recycling and related nuclear fuel
9	technologies will not provide the sole
10	solution for used fuel management, but can be
11	a strategic element for used fuel management
12	under the following conditions.
13	Consistent, sustained political
14	and policy support is a must. Providing
15	significant value is required to justify the
16	investment in any technology, and this
17	includes enhanced economical nuclear fuel
18	supply and sustainability, and the need to
19	reduce heat, volume, and radiotoxicity of the
20	material to be placed in the disposal
21	facility.
22	Research, development, and

	Page
1	demonstration of advanced technology should be
2	pursued to improve the benefits from
3	recycling. But real, practical approaches
4	that the private sector would be willing to
5	develop, finance, and that can be successful
6	in the marketplace are needed.
7	Different technologies can be
8	developed to handle fuels from different types
9	of reactors to gain greater benefit. Systems
10	must be developed and operated in a manner
11	that meet non-proliferation goals.
12	As everyone knows, recycling has
13	been carried out safely on an industrial scale
14	in European facilities for decades without any
15	diversion of plutonium for unauthorized use.
16	That said, international nuclear fuel supplies
17	and used fuel take-back programs should be
18	explored.
19	Our last recommendation is that
20	the approached management and disposal of
21	commercial used nuclear fuel should be
22	integrated to the extent practical with the

142

Page 143 management and disposal of used fuel and high-1 2 level waste currently stored at Department of 3 Energy sites in South Carolina, Idaho, Washington, and elsewhere. 4 5 In closing, I will be retiring 6 tomorrow after more than 14 years as CEO of 7 Energy Northwest. That's 44 years after I did 8 my first reactor start-up. I've had a lot of 9 time to reflect, and it's sort of natural that 10 you do that. 11 In looking back over my entire career, the greatest lesson I've learned was 12 13 very early on as a nuclear naval officer. 14 Our nation's greatest achievements started with a singular vision. President 15 16 Kennedy captivated the world when he announced 17 we would put a man on the moon within a 18 decade. President Reagan's vision of a 19 unified and free Europe brought down what 20 seemed to be once an immovable wall. 21 That same singular vision from 22 Admiral Rickover built our nation's nuclear

	Page 144
1	navy, which revolutionized naval strategy; a
2	game-changer that allowed submarines and
3	surface ships to travel farther and be at sea
4	longer without refueling.
5	None of these efforts were easy
6	and all required vision, persistence, and
7	solid leadership. They were hard challenges
8	we were willing to accept because they
9	provided immeasurable benefits to society.
10	In that same fashion, this
11	Commission can set the vision for our nation's
12	used fuel management policies and programs by
13	developing a program that will endure.
14	Again, I appreciate the
15	opportunity to speak to you today and look
16	forward to your questions. At this point I
17	conclude my remarks.
18	CHAIR HAMILTON: Mr. Parrish, we
19	thank you for your statement and especially
20	for your detailed recommendations.
21	I wanted to ask you about your
22	statement recommendation up there about quasi-

Page 145 independent program management. Can you spell 1 2 that out? 3 I gather from that you don't want 4 the DOE to do it and you don't want a 5 government entity. You want some kind of a 6 public/private combination that manages the 7 process? 8 MR. PARRISH: That's correct. 9 That's the recommendation. 10 CHAIR HAMILTON: Okay. Very good. Further questions? 11 12 Jonathan and then Al. 13 MEMBER LASH: I want to thank you 14 again for the tour this morning. Ι 15 appreciated the clear answers and the openness 16 in response to a deluge of questions. 17 I particularly appreciated your 18 very succinct summary of what you see as the 19 crucial considerations, criteria, principles 20 as we look at how to site a long-term disposal 21 solution. 22 I was curious, and I may have

1	Page 146 misunderstood as you were summarizing, you
1	misunderstood as you were summarizing, you
2	mentioned the importance of durability. You
3	mentioned that we need to be adaptive to new
4	knowledge but we couldn't stop to wait for
5	research and the importance of guarding
б	against proliferation, and public confidence.
7	I didn't see any specific
8	principle on the kind of environmental
9	standard the solution should meet or how we
10	achieve fairness, both fairness among regions
11	of the country and fairness among generations.
12	I'm interested in your thoughts on both of
13	those.
14	MR. PARRISH: There were some
15	comments earlier in some of the presentations
16	talking about our grandchildren. I think, and
17	this is my personal belief, that we have a
18	significant responsibility to have our
19	decisions based today on the impact in the
20	future.
21	One of the things that needs to be
22	considered very clearly and is the tough part

	Page 147	
1	of that is really getting something happening,	
2	have some actions and some steps taken. If	
3	it's not necessary to talk about it, it's best	
4	to be moving.	
5	I use the example with my	
б	employers that the car has to be moving before	
7	you can drive it. There has to be some	
8	mobility and you plan to check-adjust as you	
9	go through. But there needs to be some	
10	definite action taken and some movement taking	
11	place to start dealing with the issues of how	
12	we're going to handle the fuel.	
13	CHAIR HAMILTON: I have Al, then	
14	Allison, then Per.	
15	Al?	
16	MEMBER CARNESALE: I have a few	
17	but maybe they can be very brief.	
18	Just to follow up on the quasi-	
19	independent program management, can you give	
20	us an example of an agency or entity you know	
21	of that does something well that's a public-	
22	private partnership?	

	Dage 149
1	Page 148 MR. PARRISH: A public-private
2	agency that does something well? I can tell
3	you that I think Energy Northwest is an
4	example of a public-private organization
5	that
6	MEMBER CARNESALE: I mean
7	involving the United States government.
8	MR. PARRISH: You gave me a chance
9	and I had to get that in.
10	MEMBER CARNESALE: Okay. Well, I
11	was just wondering because it's hard to do.
12	MR. PARRISH: I think that if you
13	look at how we handle our U.S. Enrichment
14	Corporation and things like that, that's a
15	good starting point for it. It's obviously a
16	complicated environment. But that would be
17	one example I would look for.
18	MEMBER CARNESALE: I'll just stick
19	with two. On the proliferation piece you
20	spoke to in Europe, I presume nobody is
21	worried that the United States is going to
22	divert plutonium from its civilian program to

Page 149 1 its weapons program? 2 MR. PARRISH: Right. 3 MEMBER CARNESALE: That doesn't 4 seem to be the problem. What we do worry 5 about is the example it might set for other 6 nations that we would rather not see have 7 reprocessing plants. 8 The other thing we would worry 9 about within the United States is that the material might be stolen and sold to others, 10 whether they be terrorists or others. 11 12 Could you spin out just a little 13 bit more for me what you meant by it being 14 done well elsewhere? MR. PARRISH: Well, obviously you 15 16 need controls. When you're doing a 17 reprocessing and recycling you need to have 18 controls to inventory and maintain your 19 material. 20 In reality, my position and my 21 thinking is that really, the true way to 22 prevent proliferation is to gain control of

	Page 150
1	the material that's already out there, and
2	burn it in nuclear reactors to get rid of it.
3	It's clear that globally, as you allow people
4	or countries start to reprocess, there needs
5	to be provisions like IAEA to maintain and
6	monitor what's happening there to prevent that
7	diversion.
8	I agree with you. I don't think
9	the US, Canada, France, or any of them would.
10	MEMBER CARNESALE: Thank you.
11	CHAIR HAMILTON: Allison?
12	MEMBER MacFARLANE: I'm interested
13	in a couple of things. Who should pay for
14	this reprocessing program?
15	MR. PARRISH: That's a discussion
16	that I was having earlier.
17	MEMBER MacFARLANE: Right.
18	MR. PARRISH: To my mind, it's a
19	model where you have to look at what it costs.
20	It's a matter of finances. If there's a
21	desire to do that then you have to look at
22	what is the cheapest, most efficient way of

1	Page 151 putting a construct together to finance and do
2	that. I think a good example is
3	MEMBER MacFARLANE: The industry
4	should pay?
5	MR. PARRISH: No. I think the
6	industry and government.
7	MEMBER MacFARLANE: The utilities
8	should pay; taxpayers should pay?
9	MR. PARRISH: Right. Taxpayers,
10	ratepayers, whatever. If the goal is to
11	recycle fuel and the goal is to burn
12	plutonium, as an example, in mixed oxide
13	fueling reactors, then we have to come up with
14	a model that works for everyone to be able to
15	finance and make that happen.
16	MEMBER MacFARLANE: Would you
17	recommend the French kind of program using
18	PUREX?
19	MR. PARRISH: I'm sorry. I
20	couldn't understand.
21	MEMBER MacFARLANE: Would you
22	recommend the French type of reprocessing
ļ	

using the PUREX method? 1 2 MR. PARRISH: I was looking 3 specifically at the French program. I will 4 tell you the reason the French continue to do 5 it is because they started a long time ago. 6 As a government they decided, "This is the way 7 we're going to do business. We're going to 8 recycle our fuel." They put it in place. 9 If you did the economics on it 10 right now, you can't make the economics work in building a facility to do it. 11 12 MEMBER MacFARLANE: That's right. 13 MR. PARRISH: But they had a 14 reason to make it work. And I think if as a nation we decide we want to look 100 years 15 16 into the future, then one has to make a decision now to start moving in that direction 17 18 and put the things in place to do it. 19 CHAIR HAMILTON: Per? 20 MEMBER PETERSON: Following up on 21 Allison's question, our Commission has also 22 been tasked with the job of examining the

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Page 152

		Page 153
1	current state of nuclear reactor and fuel	2
2	cycle technologies. In particular, the	
3	potential to make substantive advances with	
4	respect to economics, security, safety, non-	
5	proliferation, and so on.	
б	In looking at that problem, we	
7	have been examining technologies. I'd	
8	appreciate having your perspective as a	
9	utility CEO.	
10	It appears currently that perhaps	
11	the nearest-term innovative new technologies	
12	for reactors will be small modular reactors.	
13	Here in the Northwest, of course, there has	
14	been some interest at least in terms of	
15	developing these technologies.	
16	Have you been looking at these	
17	technologies; what would you say is the	
18	potential and what would we need to do in	
19	order to perhaps better facilitate the	
20	development of better reactor and fuel cycle	
21	technologies?	
22	MR. PARRISH: As far as the small	

	Page
1	modular, at Energy Northwest that is an active
2	effort on our part, looking at the
3	technologies that are out there as far as
4	small modular.
5	I think obviously there are a
6	number of reasons to drive whether you would
7	build a large reactor or a small reactor. I
8	think there are needs and reasons to build
9	both, depending on where the location is and
10	the energy demand.
11	For us here in the Pacific
12	Northwest, we're looking literally from a low
13	generation point of view at probably 4,000
14	megawatts long. In other words, resources
15	that we won't need for 4, 8, maybe even 10
16	years.
17	Secondly, we don't create big
18	hunks of energy demand up here. At least,
19	typically not. It comes in smaller bites. So
20	we have a tendency to look at the small
21	reactors because they more fit the way our
22	load growth is going to be. That's why we're

154

		Pag
1	looking at them as a potential option.	
2	Now, the design of the small	
3	reactors from a safety perspective and from an	
4	operational perspective are much better than	
5	what we have in the current generation of	
6	reactors, for obvious reasons. We've learned	
7	a lot of things over the last 40 or 50 years.	
8	There are reasons for both. I	
9	think as you develop the technology and you	
10	look at the small modular, there are obviously	
11	things you can do with the fuel and the fuel	
12	configuration to optimize performance; and in	
13	looking ahead to the future to how you would	
14	manage the fuel in some circumstances.	
15	CHAIR HAMILTON: All right. Pete?	
16	MEMBER DOMENICI: I wanted to	
17	personally thank you, not just for your	
18	testimony but for the years you've served. It	
19	would appear to me that as a business	
20	executive, you have learned all sides and	
21	everybody's side to this problem. I think	
22	that's what we need and I commend you for	

Page 155

	Page 156
1	that.
2	Now that you're retired, I guess
3	tomorrow you don't have anything to do. You
4	could probably help us. So if you don't mind,
5	I would feel free in writing you and asking
6	you for answers to some of our questions. If
7	you don't think that would be inappropriate I
8	would do that.
9	What is your thinking about that?
10	MR. PARRISH: I am very inclined
11	to do that. I remind people just because I'm
12	retiring it doesn't mean I'm going to be
13	silent. I've been writing letters to the
14	editor that will all of a sudden come out of
15	my word processor here tomorrow.
16	MEMBER DOMENICI: Also, I was
17	going to follow up with a question that the
18	Chairman asked about quasi-independent
19	management. Because I think we have a problem
20	that might end up with us looking for that, in
21	that we may have a solution for the first time
22	through and for temporary storage that comes

Page 157 from that. 1 2 But we have to convince the public 3 that, later on, the next steps will take 4 place. It would appear to me that we need 5 more than the statement that that's going to 6 be the case. We need something innovative and 7 different. 8 In that context, it might be that 9 your suggestion is the right one. I would say for the Commission it may be one example. 10 I'm 11 not sure. 12 But the Tennessee Valley Authority 13 might be one, Mr. Chairman. It might be more 14 independent than you would need but it clearly 15 is close to a quasi-independent agency. 16 I thank you for your testimony 17 again. 18 CHAIR HAMILTON: Mr. Parrish, I 19 think the Commission is mighty impressed with 20 the fact that you'd spend the last day on the 21 job with us. We appreciate that and thank you 22 for the recommendations you have made.

Page 158 I guess we have additional 1 2 questions. 3 I'm sorry I missed you, John. 4 MEMBER ROWE: Just one question, 5 Vic. One of our earlier speakers today 6 commented on the amount spent on Yucca 7 Mountain, and then said the search for a new 8 site might cost another \$8 billion. 9 Do you think the industry can 10 afford to do it that way? 11 MR. PARRISH: No, sir. Me neither. 12 MEMBER ROWE: 13 CHAIR HAMILTON: Okay. Thank you 14 very, very much, Mr. Parrish. We appreciate your recommendations and your contribution to 15 the Commission. 16 The final item will be a statement 17 18 from the Office of the Senator Jeff Merkley of 19 the United States Senate. I think Elizabeth 20 Scheeler is here to make that statement and we 21 welcome her here. 22 This will conclude the work of the

Page 159 afternoon after her statement. 1 2 Thank you very much for appearing. I might say to members of the 3 Commission that several other congressional 4 5 offices will be appearing tomorrow morning. 6 This is from Senator Merkley's Office. 7 Thank you. 8 MS. SCHEELER: Thank you very much 9 for letting me read his statement this 10 afternoon. We do appreciate it. Mr. Co-Chairs, I ask to submit the 11 following statement into your meeting record. 12 I am pleased that the President's 13 Blue Ribbon Commission on America's Nuclear 14 15 Future has taken the opportunity to visit the Hanford Nuclear Reservation in Eastern 16 17 Washington. 18 For over 60 years the Pacific 19 Northwest has had the opportunity to witness 20 Hanford's operations, keenly aware that our 21 security, environmental future, and economic 22 opportunities were tied closely to its

1 management of nuclear waste.

2	The people of the Pacific	
3	Northwest have also had the opportunity to	
4	witness the complications of politics and	
5	bureaucracy in dealing with nuclear waste and	
6	the problems that are created when waste is	
7	poorly handled. This region will be dealing	
8	with the reality of Hanford's nuclear waste	
9	legacy for decades as we work to protect our	
10	communities and environment.	
11	I cannot stress enough the	
12	importance of the cleanup effort that is	
13	necessary for the region and how it affects	
14	the entire Pacific Northwest. This cleanup	
15	effort continues to be a priority for me and	
16	for the area.	
17	The news that even more plutonium	
18	has been stored underground at the Hanford	
19	site than previously reported will make the	
20	cleanup challenge even more difficult. Our	
21	efforts must be redoubled.	
22	I understand the complex and tough	

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1	policy decisions that are in front of your
2	Blue Ribbon Commission. However, please
3	recognize how important the nuclear waste
4	disposal and subsequent cleanup efforts are
5	for the nation, and especially the regions
6	affected.
7	Hanford is a prime example of how
8	the cleanup efforts must be at the forefront
9	of your minds as you develop policies for
10	America's new nuclear developments.
11	Again, I understand there are no
12	easy answers when it comes to dealing with our
13	nuclear past or deciding our nuclear future.
14	But please, understand the importance of the
15	cleanup of the Hanford site. The
16	environmental health of the Pacific Northwest
17	and the Columbia River are closely linked to
18	the nuclear waste at Hanford. I look forward
19	to a toxic-free Hanford future.
20	Thank you for your commitment to
21	the future of our region. I applaud the study
22	you are doing and wish you well in your work.

		Page	162
1	Thank you, again, for letting me		
2	read this this afternoon.		
3	CHAIR HAMILTON: Ms. Scheeler, we		
4	are very pleased to have you. Express our		
5	appreciation to the Senator for your		
6	appearance. Your statement, of course, will		
7	be part of the record of the Commission.		
8	There's no further business that		
9	the Chair is aware of for the afternoon.		
10	We will assemble tomorrow morning		
11	at 8:30 in this room and proceed throughout		
12	the morning, aiming for an adjournment around		
13	1:00 p.m.		
14	We are adjourned. Thank you.		
15	(Whereupon, at 4:26 p.m. the		
16	meeting was adjourned)		
17			
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21			
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	1/2.1/	adjournad 162.14	158:10	32:7 46:2
A	143:14	<b>adjourned</b> 162:14		
<b>abandon</b> 130:14	acknowledged	162:16	<b>afforded</b> 49:20	allows 26:16 37:18
ability 29:5 35:5	116:5	adjournment	afraid 83:5 117:8	alternative 45:15
140:10 141:5	acknowledging	162:12	117:10	102:10,11,17
<b>able</b> 8:16,17 11:12	28:7	administering	<b>afternoon</b> 4:12	Alyssa 2:10 3:9
31:1,13 45:16	acres 17:6 25:1	140:22	6:17 7:19 8:4,12	56:8,15
106:7 140:15	106:2 111:19	administration's	10:19 12:14 13:7	amendments 100:4
151:14	acronyms 96:18	5:6	21:13 56:12 61:22	<b>America</b> 2:16,17
aboriginal 24:22	act 98:5 99:22	administrative	71:22 86:5 96:6	3:13 42:4 108:12
57:1 59:9	100:5 115:12	10:15	96:13,15 113:12	113:15 118:1
above-entitled	135:2 140:20	Administrator	159:1,10 162:2,9	122:21 128:14
85:16	action 27:14	62:6	agencies 15:20 26:1	American 18:17
above-ground	147:10	Admiral 143:22	29:9 58:13 86:17	20:2 28:4 56:21
134:9	actionable 136:1	<b>adopt</b> 67:14	agency 26:9 34:14	80:14
above-regulatory	actions 19:11 26:9	adopted 23:8 101:9	147:20 148:2	Americans 29:1
67:1	60:17 87:13,18	Adrian 2:14 3:12	157:15	34:10,18 105:19
abrogate 26:10	141:4 147:2	96:3,5,7,16 105:6	AGENDA 3:1	106:15 107:21
absolutely 79:3,4	active 63:15 99:7	105:11,17 107:5	agents 35:21	<b>America's</b> 1:1 4:14
81:11 122:5	154:1	107:11 108:4,7	<b>ago</b> 36:21 66:14	13:12 28:1 134:20
academic 22:8	actively 58:16	adult 109:21	82:3 134:2 152:5	140:13 159:14
Academy 82:2	activities 6:3 18:7	advance 37:2	agree 122:7 150:8	161:10
accept 30:1 139:20	19:9,11,15 44:10	advanced 37:1	agreeable 18:20	<b>amount</b> 10:3 47:13
144:8	135:11	138:14 140:4	agreed 130:8	69:6 70:16 73:7
acceptable 111:10	actual 129:5	141:7 142:1	agreement 18:9	95:1 102:14
acceptance 66:19	adaptability 32:19	advances 136:21	90:6 105:16	125:14 158:6
91:12 92:11 93:1	adaptive 146:3	153:3	ahead 24:17 61:9	<b>amounts</b> 15:14
93:5,10	<b>add</b> 4:5 72:3	advantage 129:14	101:22 103:2	46:22 111:12
accepted 66:15	124:19	139:13	115:22 155:13	<b>analyses</b> 120:21,22
access 25:18 26:17	added 10:7 43:8	<b>adverse</b> 26:6,20	<b>aid</b> 9:2	121:3
28:10 29:16 45:22	65:20 125:3	<b>advice</b> 86:16 88:17	aiming 162:12	<b>analysis</b> 68:21
49:15 106:5 141:2	adding 65:1 112:22	88:18 89:19 90:2	<b>air</b> 26:14 49:9	<b>ancestors</b> 43:1 44:1
accessible 44:13	addition 25:13 87:5	90:7 92:8 127:20	60:21 89:5	57:16
accident 67:2 74:7	100:15 139:17	127:21	Al 145:12 147:13	ancestral 17:6 41:6
accidents 72:16,17	additional 45:19	Advisory 2:12 3:11	147:15	and/or 90:15
73:12,18	63:17 64:17 65:1	85:14,22 86:11	Alaskan 20:2	angles 22:4
accommodate 24:7	72:3 78:10 97:12	88:14 89:11,18	ALBERT 1:15	animals 25:8
68:22	113:22 114:17	91:20 127:18	Allison 1:17 81:18	announced 143:16
account 28:7 45:20	115:3,3 116:11	128:15	82:19 106:19	answer 34:21 37:16
95:10	158:1	advocate 38:8,11	123:14 147:14	80:7 83:6 107:6
accountable 141:3	address 13:22	121:3	150:11	109:5 117:13
accumulated 42:21	14:11 50:13 62:20	advocated 76:15	Allison's 152:21	126:7
accumulation	75:4 76:2 129:7	97:11	allocated 10:3	answered 78:21
140:8	addressed 85:3	advocating 103:15	allotted 8:1	126:19
accustomed 25:21	adequacy 52:18	122:8	allow 58:15 70:20	answers 127:5
achievable 138:10	adequate 68:22	affairs 49:13	150:3	135:20 145:15
<b>achieve</b> 146:10	89:10 97:18	affect 17:17 58:17	allowed 9:17 144:2	156:6 161:12
	Adjourn 3:22	afford 104:15	allowing 20:19	anticipation 19:10
achievements				annupation 17.10

appeal 131:3	areas 25:9 26:17	B	<b>believe</b> 6:8 10:13	50:9 56:17 101:6
Appeals 5:5	128:17,20	<b>back</b> 4:20 5:2 30:16	38:22 48:6 55:16	102:10,21 159:14
appear 12:22	<b>Army</b> 59:6	31:18,19 32:1	78:22 94:5 98:16	161:2
155:19 157:4	arrived 126:18	35:15 48:16 56:6	99:10,11,19 101:2	<b>board</b> 2:12 3:11
appearance 21:13	<b>art</b> 43:2	63:7 80:12 93:4	101:14 102:9	85:14,22 86:11,12
108:9 131:20	<b>aside</b> 10:16	102:18 105:21	104:6 107:16	86:21 88:14 89:11
162:6	asked 50:13 104:18	107:11 114:18	118:16 121:15	89:18 90:3 91:20
appearing 40:8	114:22 115:15	143:11	122:6 127:1,12	95:21 114:21
131:21 159:2,5	156:18	background 109:6	129:2,9	121:2 127:18,20
appears 12:22	asking 156:5	<b>bad</b> 39:1 74:9,9	believes 26:12	128:15
153:10	aspect 45:13 83:8	<b>BAILEY</b> 1:14	106:3 122:7	<b>boat</b> 39:18
applaud 161:21	83:10	<b>Bands</b> 2:6 3:4	135:19	boat-load 46:18
<b>Apple</b> 114:21	aspects 49:9	13:14 16:9	beneath 42:3	<b>Bob</b> 114:21
application 5:7	assemble 162:10	<b>bank</b> 41:8	beneficial 21:20	border 80:14
appreciate 8:7 12:9	assemblies 46:9	Baptiste 2:7 3:6	beneficiaries 138:6	<b>born</b> 48:13 57:18
31:14 34:1 40:19	64:9	21:7,9,11,15	<b>benefit</b> 136:10	58:5
54:8,21 55:8 56:4	assembly 47:2	23:19 32:9 34:19	142:9	<b>borrow</b> 91:18
56:5,12 61:4 72:9	assessment 18:12	37:15 38:14,16	<b>benefited</b> 48:8 60:9	<b>boss</b> 56:6
92:8 95:20 131:18	18:14	39:1,22	<b>benefits</b> 50:7 142:2	<b>bottom</b> 111:17
133:5 144:14	assets 20:14	Basalt 50:11	144:9	Boulevard 1:10
153:8 157:21	Association 68:14	<b>based</b> 20:4 23:9	<b>Benton</b> 96:21	boundaries 17:18
158:14 159:10	75:6 76:14	28:12 31:21 74:2	best 24:7 28:18	71:9
appreciated 11:3	associations 75:7	75:18 82:22	29:18 32:4 34:16	boundary 41:5
32:11 52:7 75:2	<b>assume</b> 59:10	107:13 146:19	34:21 35:3,10	bounties 57:11
145:15,17	128:16	<b>baseline</b> 44:10	37:15,16,21 38:7	break 61:7,12
appreciation 95:21	assumptions 77:22	128:9	40:16 132:10	85:12
162:5	<b>assure</b> 101:6	basement 51:11	134:15 147:3	breathe 89:5
approach 138:18	assured 123:7	basically 113:21	<b>better</b> 38:10 81:8	Brent 1:11,14 7:18
approached 71:2	attendance 136:11	<b>basis</b> 67:19 94:15	153:19,20 155:4	105:9
142:20	Attorney 7:3	99:16	beyond 17:18	brief 9:13 81:18
approaches 19:16	audience 9:16	BBXBY 47:16	67:16 76:12	104:22 147:17
34:16 142:3	author 91:19	<b>bear</b> 45:22 48:13	<b>big</b> 122:3 154:17	<b>bring</b> 31:17 32:1
appropriate 34:2,5	authority 123:2	49:18 52:10	<b>bigger</b> 81:22	86:18 134:14
64:16 66:8 115:6	157:12	<b>beat</b> 120:2	<b>billion</b> 102:16	<b>bringing</b> 31:19
<b>approval</b> 76:13	<b>available</b> 7:16 10:1	<b>began</b> 63:6 77:1,11	110:16 133:19	broad 139:15
<b>approved</b> 23:14 105:21	27:9,13 37:14	133:16	158:8	broadcast 119:20
	97:19 104:3 131:8 137:13	beginning 94:7	<b>biologic</b> 47:22 <b>bit</b> 22:1 32:18 95:3	broader 97:8 broad-based
<b>approximately</b> 17:6,9 88:2 97:4	<b>avoid</b> 26:6 111:14	106:12	149:13	138:17
99:6 113:4 133:17	avoid 20.0 111.14 avoided 27:20	beginnings 87:2	<b>bites</b> 154:19	Brockman 2:3 3:3
	111:1	begins 78:7	<b>bi-county</b> 97:3	10:22 11:6
<b>April</b> 14:16 <b>aquatic</b> 43:14	<b>await</b> 104:12	begun 133:22	blamed 43:18	Brooklyn 2:7 3:6
aquatic 45:14 arduous 28:17	aware 62:19 159:20	<b>behalf</b> 11:9 13:13	blending 44:22	21:7 23:19 55:2
area 58:21 60:22	162:9	14:16 40:2 56:18	blood 42:16	brought 32:12
97:3,7 99:5	aways 115:21	62:8 104:19	<b>Blue</b> 1:1 4:14 13:11	70:17 143:19
113:19 121:9	<b>a.m</b> 10:2,3	108:22 133:1	20:18 21:17 27:22	Buck 2:10 3:9 56:8
134:4 160:16	<b>u.111</b> 10.2,3	140:20	28:15 36:8 49:22	56:14,15 61:3,5
1.57.7 100.10		<b>belief</b> 146:17	20.13 30.0 TJ.22	50.17,15 01.5,5
				I

Page	165

<b>budget</b> 110:17	canister 78:8 91:10	139:4,11,17	chance 11:18 148:8	cleaned 44:7 55:12
<b>build</b> 46:2 90:15	canisters 78:6,9,11	<b>CEO</b> 96:16 132:7	<b>change</b> 5:19 26:9	99:3 112:7 114:15
94:2,18 137:8	88:6 117:9	143:6 153:9	29:6 45:2 137:22	cleaning 43:19
138:17 154:7,8	<b>canyon</b> 87:6	ceremonial 25:19	changes 91:9	118:17
building 48:12	<b>cap</b> 111:19 113:9	certain 39:11	140:17	<b>cleanup</b> 6:3 19:16
51:20,20 78:8	128:17 130:13	certainly 6:4 71:20	change-out 53:2	27:7 37:11 52:1
88:1 92:2 152:11	capability 34:9	72:1 73:3,9 74:19	characterization	53:15 54:7 62:18
buildings 87:7	capacity 21:20	80:9 81:12 92:2	54:19 128:21	63:15 64:19,22
<b>built</b> 53:6 58:11	22:10 90:16	94:9 97:21 98:7	characterized	65:9,19 77:11
74:12 134:5	100:21 117:3	99:21,21 132:9	41:20	88:13,16,22 89:1
143:22	capped 112:7	<b>cetera</b> 53:16	characterizing	89:10 90:9,18
<b>burden</b> 45:21	<b>capping</b> 47:7,8	<b>Chair</b> 1:13,14 4:10	128:11	99:1 103:1 111:20
48:13 52:9 60:20	128:9	4:12 7:17 12:11	charged 42:5	118:4 121:3
87:17 90:14 138:4	captivated 143:16	20:21 21:6,12	120:16	129:18 160:12,14
<b>burdened</b> 28:16	<b>car</b> 147:6	23:22 32:9 33:7	<b>chart</b> 112:17	160:20 161:4,8,15
burdens 48:10	<b>cards</b> 98:17	36:12 38:12,18	<b>charter</b> 6:2,7 123:5	<b>clear</b> 104:5 130:15
bureaucracy 160:5	<b>care</b> 7:6 38:7 49:12	39:21 40:12,17	<b>chat</b> 22:1	138:10 145:15
<b>burial</b> 111:4,6	58:18	50:17,22 51:3,7	<b>Che</b> 57:3	150:3
131:6	career 143:12	52:3 53:8 55:22	cheapest 150:22	<b>clearly</b> 69:20
<b>buried</b> 19:2 28:10	carefully 93:9	56:7 59:15 60:3	check-adjust 147:8	135:14 146:22
57:17 116:18	caretakers 57:18	61:1,6 71:17	<b>chemical</b> 47:19,21	157:14
117:11	<b>Carl</b> 2:14 3:12 96:3	74:21 79:5 81:14	Chief 132:19	<b>close</b> 91:16 100:13
<b>burn</b> 150:2 151:11	96:15	82:19 83:13 85:8	<b>children</b> 29:11 44:4	103:5 132:20
<b>burned</b> 99:15	Carlsbad 81:3	85:19,21 91:22	58:4 91:18 109:22	157:15
<b>bus</b> 12:5 22:1 75:3	CARNESALE	93:16 95:6,13,16	114:8	closed 44:7
business 51:19	1:15 147:16 148:6	95:20 96:2 105:5	<b>Chu</b> 14:19 16:8	<b>closely</b> 66:21 67:3
132:21 152:7	148:10,18 149:3	105:10 106:17	Chuck 1:16 9:9	88:16 159:22
155:19 162:8	150:10	108:2,8 117:15	74:21 126:12	161:17
businessmen 51:18	Carolina 143:3	123:9,13 126:10	<b>chunks</b> 69:14	closing 10:2 103:13
<b>busy</b> 122:13	carried 142:13	127:18 131:19	Circuit 5:4	143:5
<b>buy-in</b> 71:3	<b>carriers</b> 74:15	132:4 144:18	circumstances	Closure 112:1
<b>BWIP</b> 50:12	carries 133:6	145:10 147:13	155:14	Coalition 131:13
byproducts 136:16	<b>cars</b> 73:22	150:11 152:19	citations 123:19	Cold 87:3 99:1
	case 53:6 99:11	155:15 157:18	citizens 89:8	collective 88:9
$\frac{C}{1}$	120:18,18 157:6	158:13 162:3,9	135:14	collectively 25:12
cake 44:21	<b>cases</b> 95:4	chairman 14:17	<b>city</b> 114:22 115:5	Columbia 15:11
calculate 53:5	<b>cask</b> 47:4	21:10 23:20 60:2	<b>civil</b> 84:11,13	25:11 29:19 41:7
calculated 27:19	<b>cast</b> 134:10	61:20,20 72:8	civilian 44:20	46:15 54:4 57:3,9
calculating 111:1	cause 77:18	123:12 126:13	148:22	58:1,21 63:3,5
<b>calculator</b> 86:19	<b>caused</b> 73:19	132:15,17 156:18	<b>cladding</b> 46:8 47:4	65:16 77:10 89:6
call 61:9 111:18	causing 116:19	157:13	<b>claim</b> 105:14	90:13 97:14
<b>called</b> 89:3 107:2	<b>ceded</b> 16:11,21	Chairs 8:4	clarify 84:9	109:10 113:6
campaign 74:20	<b>center</b> 1:10 59:6	challenge 42:6	classification 102:6	121:4 133:9,10,16
<b>Canada</b> 150:9	central 58:22 99:5	101:5 102:22	classified 45:3	134:3 161:17
<b>canceled</b> 63:12	111:19 112:20	160:20	<b>clean</b> 36:16 44:8	<b>Columbia's</b> 133:14
cancer 109:21	130:5,10	challenges 110:19	92:19 97:19	combination 145:6
110:1,6	centralized 71:5	144:7	114:12,12 134:19	<b>come</b> 12:16,20
L				

		1	1	1
13:11 22:16 23:2	36:8 52:5 56:3,18	compartmentaliz	64:3 74:10 141:12	151:1
28:19 30:9 63:1	61:21 62:4 64:15	54:13	conduct 4:19 6:10	construction 59:5
74:20 86:1,9 89:9	69:11 71:19 75:18	complaint 113:17	18:13	87:22 89:15 97:13
93:4,13 104:22	76:1 85:11,19	complementary	<b>Confederated</b> 2:4,8	consult 26:5
126:3 151:13	96:12 101:6	140:3	3:4,7 13:14 16:9	consultation 14:20
156:14	102:11,21 108:22	complete 54:7	40:3 41:2	16:3 18:18
comes 51:20 60:5	115:2 126:18	64:21 84:10 87:19	confidence 72:19	consume 39:8
124:8 154:19	131:16 132:18	completed 137:2	73:1 101:4 135:5	consumed 39:9
156:22 161:12	133:6,14 134:21	138:22	136:3 137:9	contact 31:5,10
comfortable 37:9	135:4 136:5,9	completely 41:20	138:20 140:10	116:8
37:19	137:11 139:13	completes 10:12	146:6	containers 64:11
coming 4:13 13:3	144:11 152:21	completing 9:3	configuration	73:4,8
55:13 71:14 73:22	157:10,19 158:16	65:19 104:7	134:9 155:12	containing 87:10
86:4 90:6 96:5	159:4,14 161:2	completion 19:17	confluence 41:6	contains 17:14
122:17 126:15	162:7	110:18	Congress 95:9	contaminants 27:8
140:18	<b>Commissioners</b> 4:3	<b>complex</b> 19:14	97:18	47:15 63:4
<b>commend</b> 155:22	10:17 33:3 38:21	101:2 103:5 135:9	congressional 7:2	contaminate 117:6
commended 92:3	52:12 60:1 61:9	160:22	100:4 159:4	contaminated
<b>comment</b> 9:14,18	81:17 92:5	complexity 62:15	Congressman 4:7	16:19 19:2 43:5,6
10:1 95:9	Commission's 5:19	65:2	conjunction 106:13	contaminates
commented 9:20	6:1	compliance 14:6	consensus 90:3	117:1
158:6	commitment 105:2	18:10 19:19	92:2 115:16	contaminating
comments 7:14	161:20	complicated 55:9	127:19	117:11
8:12 10:18,20	Committee 1:9	76:22 148:16	<b>consent</b> 71:10	contamination
13:1,21 23:4	13:11 23:21	complications	79:10	15:14 27:12 29:21
28:12 31:2,8	common 74:5	160:4	consequences 42:9	39:9,14 43:13
33:11 34:20 52:16	common-sense	compliment 12:3	43:7 101:11	49:1,14 63:13
71:13 75:2 88:18	67:15 74:3,11	component 25:20	consider 34:7	111:8 114:13
92:8 95:14 117:14	communicate	composition 92:15	138:18	123:17
122:10 127:15	35:15	comprehensive	considerable 83:1	context 157:8
146:15	communication	4:19 18:12 19:1	consideration	continually 137:21
commercial 46:6	34:17	67:6	66:12	<b>continue</b> 5:14 17:2
65:3 69:19 70:10	communities 6:9	concentrate 89:22	considerations	23:17 37:1 57:7
84:21 100:12,16	16:1 79:22 98:21	<b>concern</b> 14:11 15:3	102:9 145:19	58:7 59:8 76:18
103:6,12,20 104:1	99:9 105:2 160:10	19:20 140:7	considered 82:8	130:16 152:4
133:2 134:1,14	community 6:19	concerned 41:14	139:5 146:22	continued 19:10
135:1 136:16	10:10 39:17 49:3	52:20 89:12 90:10	Consistent 141:13	45:21 46:5,10
138:4 139:8	56:20,22 80:5	concerns 29:9	consolidated 41:15	135:21
140:12 142:21	81:11 92:2 96:19	52:17 63:18 91:14	66:5 70:12	continues 77:4
commission 1:1	97:2 98:9,20 99:8	concise 71:18	consolidating	102:3 160:15
4:14,16,18 5:4,12	99:20 104:11	<b>conclude</b> 144:17	139:7	contract 79:15
5:14,22 6:6,21 7:7	106:3,9,11 107:15	158:22	consolidation	contracts 140:22
7:13,15,16 8:3,19	107:19 115:16	concludes 5:15	68:12	contractual 97:5
8:20 9:1,3 10:8	community's 79:16	20:17 71:13 105:4	constant 94:22	139:20 141:6
11:8 12:4 13:12	105:18	concrete 134:10	<b>Constitution</b> 20:4	contrast 130:6
13:16 14:4 20:19	companies 94:17	condition 17:21	22:22	contribute 124:15
21:18 27:22 28:15	97:5	conditions 44:11	construct 90:18	contribution 56:3

٦

106 5 150 15	120 11 12		42 12 152 6	104.12
126:5 158:15	<b>cover</b> 130:11,13	currently 5:3 27:9	42:12 152:6	104:13
contributions	131:1	64:12 88:10 89:15	deciding 128:21	delighted 61:17
132:11	covering 129:19	101:17 102:20	161:13	<b>deluge</b> 145:16
control 149:22	130:19	133:12 143:2	<b>decision</b> 5:6 14:21	demand 154:10,18
controls 27:17	<b>coverup</b> 111:20	153:10	15:3 26:6 48:18	demolition 87:13
92:18 149:16,18	129:17,19 130:18	<b>curves</b> 27:18	58:16 76:9 113:18	demonstrate
convened 1:9	Co-Chairmen 11:7	<b>custom</b> 16:12 25:7	113:21 122:3	138:19 139:2
Convention 1:10	<b>Co-Chairs</b> 1:11 3:2	<b>customs</b> 22:20	152:17	demonstrating
convert 88:2	9:11 159:11	<b>cycle</b> 4:21 5:2 9:4	decisions 20:5 28:5	140:10
convince 157:2	craton 28:4	76:6 103:6,13	30:19 42:7 53:22	demonstration
convinced 123:8	<b>create</b> 36:18	138:15 140:4	54:6 55:13,15	142:1
cooperative 82:14	154:17	153:2,20	60:14 76:5 78:2	Department 2:11
<b>core</b> 10:13	created 15:15 32:4	<b>cyclic</b> 94:14	88:13,22 103:4	11:1,10 13:13
Corporation	37:8,11 88:7 97:1		111:11,14 134:13	14:2,4,22 15:13
148:14	136:8 160:6	<u>D</u>	137:1 146:19	18:9 19:12 20:1
<b>correct</b> 72:22 92:13	creation 37:4	daily 49:12 99:16	161:1	21:17 23:11 36:10
93:5 145:8	Creator 58:19	damage 30:13	decommissioned	40:1 41:1 53:13
correctly 93:8	creatures 57:15	116:20	70:11 84:4	53:19 55:16 58:13
correspond 105:13	credentials 28:20	<b>dark</b> 113:4	<b>deemed</b> 71:6	61:10,16 62:7
<b>corridor</b> 63:20	cribs 87:8 128:19	date 9:13 88:17	<b>deep</b> 28:2 34:1,5	65:4,8 67:5 68:3
130:6	128:19	dated 16:14	37:4 38:5 41:16	69:4,16 70:3
<b>cost</b> 46:10,14 48:12	criteria 34:4 91:12	Dave 2:3 3:3 10:22	44:18 45:11 48:4	82:15 88:20 97:2
50:8 102:13 111:1	92:11 93:2,6,10	11:2 12:11	51:10 76:15,18	97:17 110:21
158:8	145:19	<b>day</b> 135:9,9 157:20	77:6 100:6 111:14	111:11 112:2
costly 91:9	critical 16:3 19:19	<b>days</b> 80:12	115:18 116:2	113:8 116:5,8,13
<b>costs</b> 50:1,5 138:2	101:15,22	<b>DC</b> 5:4	121:20 129:2	118:12,20 120:7
150:19	crowd 114:7	<b>de</b> 89:12	130:2	124:12 128:9
<b>Council</b> 2:15 3:12	crucial 145:19	<b>deal</b> 32:13 33:20	deeper 75:11,16	130:8 131:4,5,11
12:15 13:9 14:21	crushed 47:5	37:8 39:14 54:17	deeply 7:6	143:2
96:4,17 108:5	crystalline 51:11	68:16 69:12 94:10	defense 44:19	departments 15:19
114:22	<b>CTUIR</b> 42:20 43:9	98:8 135:9	69:17 84:7,22	18:19
Counties 96:22	43:21 46:2 49:19	dealing 32:15	95:10 97:19,22	Department's
countless 42:8	<b>CTUIR's</b> 44:5	147:11 160:5,7	138:12	111:18 112:18
countries 94:3	<b>cubic</b> 118:11	161:12	deferring 137:1	120:21 129:12,21
150:4	124:20	dealt 69:18	definite 147:10	depend 10:4 43:15
<b>country</b> 7:6 37:6	cultivate 138:20	decade 69:22	definitely 21:20	depending 154:9
48:8 60:9 75:13	cultural 14:13 15:8	143:18	degradation 46:8	deployed 139:14
79:13 119:20	17:14 26:19	decades 37:7 90:17	<b>degree</b> 27:15 49:14	derived 20:11
146:11	culturally 25:17	102:19 134:12	101:19	describing 88:10
<b>couple</b> 67:12 73:20	culturally-based	137:1,19 140:18	<b>delay</b> 134:6,13,15	description 93:18
117:21 150:13	22:16	142:14 160:9	delaying 118:14	design 91:9 155:2
course 5:1 7:8 8:10	<b>culture</b> 18:15 49:2	decade's 134:15	<b>Delays</b> 91:7	designate 123:2
10:4 28:13 32:20	curious 52:19	<b>December</b> 110:22	delegation 7:3	designated 2:2 97:1
34:7 37:19 52:16	145:22	decide 54:15	deliberate 59:17	98:3 100:5 115:10
83:22 153:13	current 47:12 48:5	102:19 123:1	125:15	designates 105:22
162:6	129:12 139:9	152:15	deliberation 59:20	113:18
<b>Court</b> 5:4 20:5	141:7 153:1 155:5	<b>decided</b> 6:7 11:17	deliberations 62:11	designating 123:6
<b>Court</b> <i>J</i> . <b>T</b> <i>2</i> 0. <i>J</i>	171.7 155.1 155.5		4011001 attorig 02.11	acoignanng 123.0
			l	I

				<b>F I</b> 10110
designation 69:2	dilute 45:1	disproportionate	dramatic 99:7	<b>Ecology</b> 124:13
designed 27:1	dimension 92:10	45:21 49:18	<b>drawn</b> 66:3	125:22
137:3	direct 83:11 86:20	dissolved 47:15	<b>dress</b> 49:11	economic 46:3
designing 94:20	direction 4:17	distinct 48:19	drinking 39:10	86:14 96:20 97:8
<b>desire</b> 150:21	136:21 152:17	distinguished	49:6 109:17,19	104:10 159:21
despite 81:7	directive 131:15	61:21 132:18	112:21 113:5	economical 141:17
detailed 109:3	directives 18:5	distraction 65:22	drive 91:8 120:2	economics 152:9
117:14 144:20	directly 22:16	distractions 65:20	147:7 154:6	152:10 153:4
details 6:2 63:12	24:12 141:4	distressed 90:21	driven 111:11,14	ecosystem 98:2,5
98:18	<b>Director</b> 40:1 41:1	distributed 117:14	drivers 73:19,20	98:10
determined 94:18	53:12 108:11	123:20	74:7,14	editor 156:14
determines 73:6	directs 5:20	disturbed 106:6	driving 74:7	<b>effect</b> 30:7
devastating 16:2	discharge 128:19	ditches 87:8 130:1	<b>drunk</b> 73:20	effective 119:2
develop 18:18 34:8	128:20 130:5	diversion 142:15	<b>dry</b> 47:4 64:10	effectively 46:1
67:5 68:10 101:9	discharged 125:16	150:7	134:8	140:11
107:1 142:5 155:9	128:10	divert 148:22	<b>due</b> 43:13 112:5	efficient 150:22
161:9	discharges 112:6	divested 16:16	<b>dug</b> 128:22	effort 8:8 19:1
developed 20:2	118:19 125:14,19	Division 62:6	<b>dump</b> 113:20	62:18 82:14 99:19
68:8 74:18 142:8	discuss 114:2	<b>doctrine</b> 20:10	118:11	106:12 118:18,20
142:10	discussion 8:2	documented 87:1	dumped 114:1	154:2 160:12,15
developing 34:13	53:14 70:1 106:16	<b>DOE</b> 3:3,10 4:5	durability 146:2	efforts 58:11 93:20
50:15 144:13	107:14 150:15	24:6 31:18 34:12	durable 136:14	138:16 144:5
153:15	discussions 128:4	34:14,22 45:6,16	<b>duty</b> 26:5,7	160:21 161:4,8
development 2:14	disposal 9:8 10:12	82:20,21 98:1	dynamic 20:7	<b>EIS</b> 110:22 112:17
3:12 44:12 66:19	13:18 19:3 24:14	99:21 105:21	dynamics 22:8 28:9	116:13 127:16
82:12 96:4,17,21	26:14 27:3,5,8	106:14 113:17	127:7	either 45:13 71:6
97:9 104:10	33:18 34:2,5,9	118:7 124:2,4		84:15 85:6 96:12
105:12 106:2	36:20 45:4 50:15	126:7,21 127:11	<u> </u>	123:3
141:22 153:20	59:18 62:11 64:18	129:18 145:4	earlier 79:6 105:14	elder 29:15 56:19
developments	68:12,17 70:5	<b>DOE's</b> 47:14 128:6	107:14 110:2	electricity 99:17
161:10	75:4,5,8,11,14	<b>DOE-RL</b> 2:3	115:15 127:18	133:19
dialogue 11:19	76:10,15,19 77:6	<b>doing</b> 40:20 54:22	146:15 150:16	element 139:5
88:19 133:6	78:12 79:1 84:13	72:20 112:15	158:5	140:3 141:11
<b>die</b> 109:21	87:15 89:20 93:12	127:12 149:16	early 60:11 106:13	elements 67:15
<b>diesel</b> 99:14	97:22 98:17 111:9	161:22	143:13	eliminate 65:10
different 45:1	116:14 118:22	<b>Domenici</b> 1:15 9:5	earn 120:6	70:19
46:14 71:15 82:6	136:16 138:7,11	117:20 118:6	Earth 47:11 49:12	eliminating 139:22
86:12 91:11	138:11,16,20	119:1,6,9,12,16	easier 103:3	<b>Elizabeth</b> 2:19 3:19
105:19 127:6	140:3 141:20	119:21 120:4,8,12	easily 100:22	158:19
129:6 142:7,8	142:20 143:1	121:7,16,22 122:9	Eastern 159:16	eloquent 52:6
157:7	145:20 161:4	122:12 123:11	easy 12:7 38:19	eloquently 110:2
difficult 55:9 65:1	disposals 123:3	155:16 156:16	55:12 80:20 144:5	<b>EM</b> 24:13
93:4 94:15 127:6	dispose 27:1 30:10	<b>door</b> 119:22,22	161:12	emphasis 52:8
160:20	88:7	<b>dose</b> 110:1	easy-going 120:14	59:16 72:2 92:1
difficulty 60:16	disposed 28:2 32:3	downriver 63:3	eat 39:13	employee 120:15
<b>dig</b> 48:2	45:11 88:4 130:2	Draft 65:6 110:21	ecological 26:18	employers 147:6
digging 47:11	disposing 115:3	111:22 123:21	27:15	empowered 140:20
L				

		I	1	-
emptying 118:14	enhanced 141:17	established 100:1	exercised 16:22	facilitate 31:13
enacted 18:4	enhances 136:3	establishing 18:8	115:13	35:10 153:19
encompass 24:22	enjoyed 128:3	18:22	exercising 56:22	facilities 6:14 26:22
encompasses 69:9	enormous 15:14	establishment	exist 138:13	87:6 90:20 93:13
70:3	Enrichment 148:13	26:22	existed 26:21	142:14
encompassing 41:9	ensure 18:10 66:18	estimates 46:14	existing 20:6 26:10	facility 66:9 71:7
encourage 7:12	97:18 107:1	47:14	65:11	79:8,22 80:2
endeavor 138:17	135:21 136:6	<b>et</b> 53:15	expanding 15:5	84:17,17 85:4
ended 118:18	137:4	etcetera 109:6	expect 36:11 74:19	94:9,19 99:18
<b>endure</b> 144:13	ensuring 17:22	112:11 116:21	expected 65:12	139:1,12 141:21
end-state 31:6 44:5	19:18	eternal 48:9	117:5	152:11
52:8	entails 45:19	Europe 46:21	expeditiously 92:18	facing 11:16
<b>energy</b> 2:11,18	entering 109:15	143:19 148:20	92:21	fact 79:12 94:13,16
3:16 4:17 5:18	140:21	European 142:14	experience 59:4	99:4 106:12
11:1,10 13:13	entire 45:8 48:8	evaluate 54:1	64:4 68:21 72:13	157:20
14:4,18 18:9,19	49:8 98:9 115:17	137:12	75:19 80:10 83:1	<b>facto</b> 89:12
19:13 20:1 21:17	143:11 160:14	evaluated 50:2	83:11 84:12 86:20	factors 28:7
23:11 30:22 32:3	entirely 85:4	<b>event</b> 71:5	expert 122:19	<b>fade</b> 91:5
36:10 53:19 55:16	entities 138:5	eventual 78:12	experts 120:17	<b>fails</b> 53:7
57:2 58:13 59:13	entity 140:14,20	eventually 59:11	explained 30:7	failure 15:20 94:9
61:10,16 62:7	145:5 147:20	76:5 78:20	50:3	<b>failures</b> 137:6
65:5,8 67:5 68:3	entrance 73:22	everybody 12:8	explored 142:18	<b>fair</b> 59:17
69:5,17 82:15	enumerated 16:16	13:8 46:4	<b>exposed</b> 26:20	fairly 8:5 45:15
88:20 97:2,18	environment 14:14	everybody's 155:21	48:14	73:12 81:16
99:11,12 100:15	33:22 41:21 48:21	<b>evolve</b> 43:12	exposure 49:14	fairness 146:10,10
104:2,9,19 111:10	72:18 148:16	evolving 24:9	express 22:6,15	146:11
111:18 112:2,18	160:10	exactly 30:3 35:1	132:9 162:4	<b>fall</b> 106:13
113:8 116:5,7,12	environmental	36:8 93:14	expressed 41:11	<b>false</b> 94:7
118:12,20 120:7	14:9 24:3 43:2,9	examination 70:2	exquisite 43:2	<b>familiar</b> 136:9
120:21 128:8	65:6,15 86:14	80:16	<b>extend</b> 25:9 71:20	families 29:12 89:7
129:12,21 130:8	87:3 112:1 123:22	examine 130:4	108:5 133:14	<b>famine</b> 42:22
131:4,5,11 132:5	146:8 159:21	examining 63:9	extended 9:18	<b>far</b> 24:13 111:9
132:7,20 133:8	161:16	128:18 152:22	extensive 64:4	114:10 123:6
134:17,20 135:18	envisioned 77:11	153:7	83:16 102:13	153:22 154:3
137:10 143:3,7	<b>EPA</b> 130:7	<b>example</b> 54:3 70:1	extensively 127:14	farther 144:3
148:3 154:1,10,18	equal 102:14	147:5,20 148:4,17	128:1	<b>fashion</b> 31:11
Energy's 14:2,22	equals 110:13	149:5 151:2,12	extent 62:15 63:12	60:18 144:10
15:13 70:4 110:21	equation 76:4	157:10 161:7	126:5 142:22	faster 118:16
Enforceable 45:9	<b>equity</b> 48:11	examples 98:15	extraordinary	129:11
enforcing 8:5	Ernie 1:18 53:10	excess 99:10	17:11 19:8	<b>fatal</b> 110:6
<b>engage</b> 88:19	81:18,20	excluded 17:5	<b>eyes</b> 59:19	<b>favor</b> 118:8
engaged 80:5	<b>especially</b> 32:10	excused 108:8	<b>F</b>	feat 90:7
engagement 60:10	75:19 76:21 97:21	executive 15:19	fabrication 46:19	<b>federal</b> 2:2 6:5
90:8	144:19 161:5	20:5 23:20 108:11	<b>fabulous</b> 131:17	15:19 17:4 19:9
<b>Engineering</b> 40:2	essentially 113:19	132:19 155:20	face 63:1 65:22	20:6,9 26:22 29:8
41:2 53:13	116:10	<b>exercise</b> 17:2,21	faces 114:7	35:21 58:12 63:8
engineers 22:11	<b>establish</b> 138:10	59:8	1400 117./	67:12 71:6 80:2
				l

	1	1	1	
88:20 133:21	flexibility 32:18	founded 31:20	<b>fund</b> 133:18,20	64:18 114:6,11
139:18 140:11	<b>flood</b> 42:22	fraction 120:6	141:3	136:17 137:9
federally 14:5	<b>floor</b> 10:16	France 102:5 150:9	funding 91:3 94:14	154:13 155:5
16:21 20:15 24:20	flowing 109:13	Franklin 96:22	95:2 97:18	generations 17:16
26:3	127:7	<b>frankly</b> 76:10	<b>funds</b> 133:21	29:12 32:15 42:8
federal-tribal 16:4	<b>flows</b> 57:6	101:12	<b>further</b> 24:10	50:5 63:1 89:7,9
feel 24:18 31:5,10	focus 63:16 65:18	FRAZIER 2:2 4:3	27:11 38:12 51:8	112:15 114:6
39:1 103:11 156:5	72:10 77:3,15	4:11	53:9 61:2 81:14	121:5 146:11
feels 31:8 91:20	78:18 83:8 87:22	free 24:19 31:5,10	95:6,13 106:17	genie 48:15
feet 118:11 124:20	113:16	143:19 156:5	108:2 123:9	gentleman 22:18
130:2	focused 89:16 99:5	Freedom 131:12	126:10 145:11	geographic 71:9
fiduciary 25:22	focuses 68:19	French 94:17	162:8	geologic 28:3 34:2
<b>field</b> 31:3 44:16	folks 81:4,5	151:17,22 152:3,4	future 1:1 4:15	34:5 37:4 38:5
figure 78:19	follow 8:17 33:1	friendly 58:8	13:12 17:16 28:1	41:17 44:18 45:4
<b>figures</b> 123:16	72:11 88:16 103:9	front 29:8 36:8	28:8,9,10 29:11	45:11 48:4 50:11
<b>figuring</b> 106:22	115:1 121:12,13	48:15 123:20	30:19,21 32:15	51:10 70:5 76:10
<b>filing</b> 113:16	147:18 156:17	161:1	47:10 52:1 85:2	76:15,18 77:6
filling 12:7	following 9:1 69:2	fuel 4:20 5:2 6:16	89:6 93:11 105:12	78:1 85:4 93:3,12
final 83:13 87:15	136:4 141:12	9:4 46:6,8,19 47:1	112:15 114:5	93:20 100:6
102:18 138:19	152:20 159:12	47:15 64:9,11	121:5 123:3 133:3	111:14 115:18
158:17	<b>food</b> 49:4	65:2,4 66:17	134:14,17 137:7	116:2 121:20
<b>finalist</b> 115:11	<b>footnotes</b> 109:6	67:18 68:20 69:19	137:14 138:16	138:7,11
finally 10:6 12:2	footprint 99:7	70:1,10 77:9 82:5	139:3,9 146:20	geological 19:3
63:14	forefront 161:8	84:4 99:14 100:12	152:16 155:13	geologists 22:11
<b>finance</b> 142:5	<b>foremost</b> 50:16	100:17 103:6,12	159:15,21 161:13	Georgia 53:1
151:1,15	64:15	103:13 104:1,9	161:19,21	Gerald 2:16 3:13
<b>finances</b> 150:20	forever 30:9 43:13	133:3 134:1,4,6,8	G	108:10
financial 90:14	<b>form</b> 77:5 88:3	135:1,10,19 136:2		getting 35:18 38:21
financing 140:15	formal 7:22 14:19	136:7 137:20	gain 84:12 142:9	78:16,16 99:3
<b>find</b> 28:17,21 33:20	71:13	138:8,14 139:6,7	149:22	147:1
38:4	formally 11:8	139:9,21 140:4,8	<b>gained</b> 64:3	giant 80:8
<b>finding</b> 35:4 83:19	format 22:4	140:12,13 141:1,8	gallons 88:2 99:14	<b>give</b> 6:13 11:15,18
130:12	<b>formed</b> 4:16 9:2	141:10,11,17	110:11 game 78:4	83:6 95:21 114:1
<b>finish</b> 51:6	former 64:7 95:8	142:16,17,21	game-changer	122:1 147:19
<b>firm</b> 114:14,15	95:12	143:1 144:12	144:2	<b>given</b> 31:15 72:13
<b>first</b> 7:20 12:14	forms 87:13 138:12	147:12 151:11	garner 66:18	<b>glad</b> 117:12 119:11
21:16 36:16 50:16	formulated 23:4,6	152:8 153:1,20	gather 25:7 145:3	119:18
64:15 76:8 77:1	formulating 15:22	155:11,11,14 fueling 151:12	general 4:7,8 7:3	glass 88:4 92:15
80:15 84:11 85:5 98:22 103:8 110:9	<b>forth</b> 35:15 <b>forward</b> 7:10,11	<b>fueling</b> 151:13 <b>fuels</b> 142:8	83:19	globally 150:3 GNEP 110:22
143:8 156:21	8:11 12:17 79:14	fulfilled 69:5	generally 67:9	<b>GNEP</b> 110:22 <b>go</b> 24:17 36:9 37:21
<b>firsthand</b> 6:14	80:1,8 84:6 86:2	<b>full</b> 7:16 8:3 17:21	generated 15:11	<b>go</b> 24:17 36:9 37:21 47:7 50:14 61:9
11:15	104:6,6,13 132:13	42:6 78:17 80:4	33:17	64:12 67:15 75:10
<b>fish</b> 25:6 39:8 110:4	134:21 136:2	42.0 78.17 80.4	generating 15:12	75:15 78:19 98:11
<b>fit</b> 154:21	134.21 130.2	<b>fully</b> 44:7 65:19	46:22 97:14 133:9	107:11 109:7
fix 127:5	forwarded 126:17	full-time 120:15	generation 43:4	115:22 129:2
<b>fleece</b> 96:11	foundation 23:10	function 140:16	57:21 62:10,15	147:9
1000 70.11	100110011011 23.10	<b>101101011</b> 140.10		17/.7
	I	I	I	I

gool 26:12 151:10	62.9 71.10 21	22:21 29:3	handled 160:7	125:19
<b>goal</b> 26:13 151:10 151:11	62:8 71:10,21 79:10 115:13			
	<b>Governors</b> 68:14	guarantees 25:5	Hanford 2:12 3:11	happening 35:19 35:22 88:10 147:1
<b>goals</b> 137:5 142:11 <b>goes</b> 22:6 41:6 53:3	70:22 71:11 75:6	<b>guarding</b> 146:5 <b>guess</b> 34:20 81:5	6:3,7 11:11 14:2 15:13 16:18 17:1	150:6
<b>goes</b> 22.0 41.0 55.5 126:1	76:13 79:8	156:2 158:1	17:10,11,12,17,20	
<b>going</b> 7:11 30:15				happens 107:18
36:5 47:7 51:21	grandchildren 114:8 146:16	<b>guide</b> 53:21 54:6 137:7	18:6,13 19:16 24:13 25:10,11,12	happy 96:14 104:20
55:14 64:20 77:2		<b>guy</b> 120:14	25:16 27:4,6	
77:20 79:1 80:12	<b>Grandridge</b> 1:10	guys 28:16 31:22	29:18 30:12 33:19	hard 22:7 30:1,1,16 55:12,14 144:7
81:3 84:6 91:16	granite 121:21 graphics 109:5	39:3 40:19	36:15 41:10,19	148:11
94:18 95:1 107:17	great 1:9 15:3 24:4	39.3 40.19	42:19 43:5,8,22	Harris 2:8 3:8 40:1
109:4 114:12	37:8 80:9 94:10	Н	44:6,6 45:5 46:14	40:5,8,9,16,18,22
117:6 119:13	greater 49:1,14	HAB 86:9	48:7 49:1 50:2,10	50:17,20 51:1,5,9
123:1 126:19	116:11 142:9	Hagel 1:16 9:9	52:19 58:22 59:5	52:4,14,21 53:11
127:5 130:11,13	Greater-Than-Cl	74:22 78:22 95:11	52:19 58:22 59:5 59:10 62:13,16	54:8 56:2,5
147:12 148:21	27:3	126:13 128:6	63:6,9,15,17,20	Harry 14:17
152:7,7 154:22	Greater-Than-Cl	129:4,13 130:17	63:22 64:16,22	hasten 95:5
156:12,17 157:5	27:4	130:21	65:18 66:8 69:21	hazard 47:19 73:6
<b>good</b> 4:12 7:19	greatest 27:15 55:5	half-life 91:2	72:4 75:20 76:6	73:15
11:19 13:7 31:3	143:12,14	<b>Hall</b> 1:9	76:21 77:1,3,21	hazardous 13:10
31:19 32:18 46:6	greatly 11:4	Hamilton 1:10,13	78:13,20 83:9	13:19
55:17,17 61:8,21	green 12:19	4:7 7:17 12:11	85:13,22 86:11,13	headed 9:5,7,8
66:7 72:11 74:7	Gregoire 9:11	20:21 21:6,12	86:20,22 87:15,18	heading 113:6
83:6 96:15 102:3	grew 35:14	32:9 33:7 36:12	88:11,14,16,21	115:5
113:12 121:12,14	grip 114:14,15	38:12,18 39:21	89:1,11,12,18	Headquarters 4:5
121:19 122:2,8	ground 17:13 38:8	40:12,17 50:17,22	90:9 91:4,20	heads 15:18,19
128:3,4 145:10	47:3,9 111:16	51:3,7 52:3 53:8	97:10,21 98:3,14	health 14:14 15:7
148:15 151:2	grounds 29:19	55:22 56:7 59:15	98:19 99:3 100:10	18:1 27:15 33:21
gotten 83:7	131:6	60:3 61:1,6,20	103:14 104:3	49:2 89:8,21
government 6:19	groundwater 26:15	71:17 74:21 79:5	105:12 108:22	121:5 135:11,21
10:10 14:7,20,20	49:6 63:13 65:13	81:14 82:19 83:13	109:10 110:10	161:16
16:4 17:19 19:9	90:13 110:5,7	85:8,19 91:22	111:5,20 113:19	hear 6:8,22 7:8
20:3,9 23:10,15	112:4,13,20 113:3	93:16 95:6,13,16	114:1,4,12,17	9:16 11:4 71:15
24:21 35:13,16	116:21 117:1,6,11	95:20 96:2 105:5	115:4,9,9 116:4,7	85:20 100:20
48:10 51:16 63:8	125:2,7	106:17 108:2,8	116:14,19 117:5	119:16 122:6
67:13 80:3 82:7	group 118:3	117:15 123:9,13	118:4,7,10,21	127:9
86:13 94:14,20	groups 6:20 7:11	126:10 131:19	127:2,17 128:17	heard 75:6 77:19
97:7 139:19	86:15 107:21	132:4,16,17	131:9 159:16	87:20 100:17
140:11 141:5	131:13	144:18 145:10	160:18 161:7,15	105:14 110:2
145:5 148:7 151:6	grow 35:11 36:4,11	147:13 150:11	161:18,19	127:8
152:6	112:21	152:19 155:15	Hanford's 62:20	hearing 6:18 7:10
governments 14:5	growing 15:4	157:18 158:13	111:8 159:20	Heart 2:16,17 3:13
19:5,13 35:20	grown 25:21	162:3	160:8	108:11 113:14
48:20 51:14	grows 24:8,8 35:12	handful 68:1	happen 77:7 82:18	118:1 128:14
government-to-g	134:18	handle 101:1	85:7 107:17 111:2	heat 141:19
19:22	growth 154:22	103:21 142:8	151:15	heavily 76:12 83:7
governor 7:1 9:11	guaranteed 17:3	147:12 148:13	happened 46:9	<b>heel</b> 126:6,8

Г

	1	1	1	1
heels 126:3	31:13,15,17	26:6 27:19 49:18	49:21 58:13	157:6
held 141:3	hoping 28:21 30:18	50:3 81:12 90:12	110:21 112:8	<b>input</b> 7:13
hello 56:6,14	host 66:8	impediment 93:11	138:12	insight 64:4
help 66:17 83:11	hosting 11:3	imperative 31:9	incorporate 66:22	insights 83:17
99:20,21 135:14	house 98:17	implanting 19:7	incorporated	inspections 74:15
137:7,12 156:4	huge 47:13 87:5,19	implement 19:21	136:22	instance 69:15
helpful 22:4 33:14	122:21	67:5	increase 140:9	112:19
hiding 130:18,22	human 27:15 33:21	implementation	increased 90:22	institution 83:3
high 13:18 47:3	65:15	129:5 136:20	increasing 134:20	institutional 27:16
72:19 84:7 103:9	hunks 154:18	implemented 68:9	indebted 53:17	integrated 137:17
126:8 143:1	hunt 25:7	101:10 138:2	indefinitely 64:10	142:22
highly 66:16 67:9	hydrogeologists	implications 66:13	independence	Integration 54:16
73:13 131:14	121:1	113:11	84:10	integrity 31:19
high-level 6:16	hydrologists 22:11	implore 29:10	independent 18:12	32:1
11:14 15:1,15	hypothetical	implying 130:17	120:22 134:17	intend 44:3
27:6 28:1 41:14	111:13	importance 6:4	145:1 147:19	intended 19:19
42:1 44:18 45:3		33:15 146:2,5	157:14	<b>intent</b> 84:16
45:10 47:8 48:7	I	160:12 161:14	<b>Indian</b> 2:9 3:7 14:6	interaction 60:7
63:9 65:3 66:11	<b>IAEA</b> 150:5	important 5:10	20:2,8 40:3 41:3	97:10
68:16,20 69:17,20	<b>Idaho</b> 25:1 98:13	20:10 46:11 59:19	56:21 58:2 105:13	interactions 34:17
74:20 82:5 84:22	143:3	62:12 78:13,15	indicated 52:17	interest 6:9 7:12
86:10 88:6 89:13	<b>idea</b> 37:9 46:7 66:7	84:1 92:10 102:9	65:8	15:5 86:14 106:9
90:1,11,15,16	80:19 84:3,18,19	106:22 136:11	indigenous 17:1	118:3 127:7
91:4,8,10,14	93:1 115:2	161:3	individual 98:2	134:16 153:14
98:11 100:2,7,11	<b>ideal</b> 136:19	importantly 72:16	individuals 7:5	interested 79:19
100:14 103:17	identification 91:7	<b>impose</b> 48:9	75:7	83:2 93:22 123:15
110:11,14 137:16	identified 25:15	imposition 79:17	industrial 106:1	146:12 150:12
137:21	identify 34:5 100:1	impositions 59:4	142:13	interesting 101:15
hiring 10:13	identifying 34:4	impossible 103:16	industry 48:12	interests 18:4,6
history 15:20 87:1	<b>II</b> 60:14 98:22	impressed 11:20	133:2 135:6,19	86:12 90:6
97:10	<b>illegal</b> 47:9	157:19	136:6,12 137:10	intergovernmental
hitters 125:6	illuminating 62:14	impressions 36:14	138:5 140:19	19:20
hold 100:22	imagine 90:4	improve 142:2	151:3,6 158:9	<b>interim</b> 27:14
home 58:1,20 64:7	immeasurable	improvements	inevitable 140:16	37:10 45:18 51:21
homeland 30:20	144:9	136:22	information 22:2	70:13 71:1,5
42:18	immemorial 17:2	inappropriate 5:12	31:6 54:11 55:20	90:11,16,20 91:5
homelands 41:5	17:14 25:15 58:2	128:16 156:7	126:17,20 131:12	139:4,11,17 140:2
56:18	immobilize 48:3	incidents 68:1	infrastructure	140:6
honored 11:12 31:1	immobilized 41:15	inclined 156:10	46:13	Interior 18:19
hope 29:5 30:19	immovable 143:20	include 6:2 15:21	ingredient 16:3	intermediate-term
31:3 43:11,14	<b>impact</b> 34:10 49:1	18:8 46:7 136:15	inherent 73:3	66:6
78:21 81:5,8	65:6 92:14 112:1	137:18	inherit 91:17	international
99:13 106:15	123:22 125:1	included 36:1 50:5	initially 19:6	142:16
107:18 110:9	146:19	51:14	initiate 18:11	interning 108:17
122:19 124:12	impacted 15:10	includes 26:4 49:8	<b>inject</b> 5:12	interrupt 120:9
hoped 69:21	62:9 63:4 89:10	110:5 141:17	innovation 137:8	129:15
hopefully 30:8,9	impacts 19:8,10	including 42:18	innovative 153:11	interstate 64:1
	-	-	-	-

			l	
intertwined 48:21	J	know 5:10 9:1 28:8	large-scale 69:1	lessons 81:9 139:3
introducing 23:18	jacket 96:12	28:19 30:6 40:17	Lash 1:17 9:9	letters 31:8 156:13
inventory 47:12	jackets 96:11	42:11 55:10 64:11	36:12,13 79:6	letting 159:9 162:1
149:18	January 23:8	69:15 82:10 83:2	93:17 95:8,15	let's 101:4 115:21
invested 46:17	<b>Japan</b> 102:5	91:18 96:13 100:9	145:13	120:1
investigate 119:13	Jeff 2:20 3:19	119:1 120:5,8	late 65:7 105:21	level 13:19 22:13
investigating 42:5	158:18	122:2 125:8 126:4	Laughter 107:10	39:13 47:4,6
investment 141:16	<b>Jim</b> 14:8	129:15 131:12	<b>law</b> 23:1 26:10 29:2	72:20 73:6 80:17
invitation 133:1	<b>job</b> 12:7 31:19	136:9 147:20	36:2 49:8,10	83:21 84:8 100:3
<b>involve</b> 36:3 62:3	55:17 120:19,20	knowing 78:3	103:9,9 108:17	103:10 109:20
66:21	131:17 152:22	knowledge 11:16	113:14	143:2
<b>involved</b> 6:14	157:21	36:22 43:3 63:14	laws 20:7 30:2	levels 27:11 39:8,11
23:12 55:3 81:11	jobs 50:8	75:19 83:22 146:4	31:21	45:1
88:11 107:16,22	<b>John</b> 1:20 158:3	known 25:10 28:7	<b>lead</b> 96:20	liability 139:22
115:17 135:15	joining 56:11	58:21 70:15 96:17	leader 39:2 56:8	liaison 10:10,11
involvement 39:15	108:15 132:12	knows 142:12	97:17	license 133:12,15
63:6	joke 127:21	Kulongoski 62:8	leaders 41:11	licensed 139:12
<b>involves</b> 11:14	<b>joking</b> 29:16	K-basins 46:9	leadership 144:7	licensing 101:21
24:12	<b>Jonathan</b> 1:17 9:9		<b>leads</b> 46:13	138:21
involving 148:7	36:12 79:5 92:6	L	<b>leak</b> 47:16	<b>lies</b> 30:19
<b>in-site</b> 110:16	93:16 95:17	lack 46:10,12	leaking 92:20	life 25:21 43:14
<b>iodine</b> 113:3	145:12	lady 122:18 123:8	leap 80:8	57:9 59:2
116:20 125:5	journalist 131:13	Lalique 41:9	<b>learn</b> 37:8 84:5	lifestyles 48:20
iodine-129 124:8	<b>Jr</b> 3:5 13:8	land 17:1 23:1 25:9	learned 31:4 68:2	life-cycle 50:1,6
irradiated 64:9	<b>July</b> 1:6	29:13,17 30:15	92:9 132:6 143:12	life-ways 44:10
isolated 41:16,20	jump 115:22	33:18 51:22 57:5	155:6,20	light 12:19,19,22
isolating 48:4	<b>June</b> 16:14	57:14,16,17,19	learning 79:12	12:22 15:4 49:9
Isolation 50:12	jurisdiction 105:15	58:3 59:1,4,7	leave 39:5 111:16	liked 93:17
67:8	justify 141:15	60:21 91:17 99:10	leaving 50:1	likelihood 67:2
<b>issue</b> 55:4 71:1,12		105:20 106:15	Leckband 2:12	74:6
75:5,8,10,12 76:2	K	111:4,6,9	3:11 85:13,21	likewise 72:3 78:5
76:11 81:22 102:1	keenly 159:20	landfill 116:14	86:1,7 93:14 94:5	limited 70:15 78:9
103:18 104:4	keep 7:21 32:1	landfills 112:8	95:19,22	81:16
127:8	74:16 102:20	113:7 116:19	led 16:1 118:18	<b>limits</b> 8:6
issued 90:2 110:22	keeping 6:6	lands 16:11,21 17:7	Lee 1:10,13	<b>lines</b> 22:7
124:3 127:19	<b>Ken</b> 2:11 3:10	20:14 25:16,18	left 12:21 33:17	linked 161:17
issues 7:7 13:22	61:11 62:5	41:6,10 42:19	43:1 45:4 47:13	liquid 46:22 47:2
14:11 62:3 68:2	Kennedy 143:16	49:15	87:17 109:11	110:11,13 118:19
77:19 78:5,12,18	Kennewick 1:10	landscape 29:22	legacy 15:6 43:1,8	128:20 130:5
83:21 88:22 89:21	kept 29:4	49:9	48:16 62:21 97:19	list 83:17 126:1
106:15 135:9,14	<b>key</b> 136:4	language 32:7	160:9	127:11
147:11	kidding 120:5	40:21 43:2	legal 45:16	<b>listen 57:14</b>
issuing 14:19	kind 22:6 29:15	large 46:22 63:7	legally 45:6	literally 129:20
item 3:1 89:17	145:5 146:8	67:11 86:15	length 94:6	130:19,20 131:1
158:17	151:17	103:21 154:7	lengthy 69:3	154:12
<b>items</b> 104:8	kindly 21:4	larger 134:19	lesson 110:9 111:5	little 21:22 22:1
	<b>knew</b> 6:12	largest 118:3	143:12	75:11,16 103:3
L			•	

1.40.10				
149:12	looking 36:19	83:3 135:1 140:12	66:15 73:5,10,13	124:1,5,7,17,22
live 29:12 57:7,15	70:14 75:21 76:20	155:14	73:15 84:13 93:12	125:4,8,18 126:2
57:22 59:2 89:4,7	143:11 152:2	manageable 69:13	matter 42:1 85:17	126:9,13 127:17
110:4	153:6,16 154:2,12	managed 44:1	119:10 150:20	128:6 129:4,13
lived 42:15 57:6	155:1,13 156:20	management 13:18	matters 5:1,5 6:21	130:17,21 145:13
livelihoods 89:8	<b>looks</b> 64:20	14:10 18:21 24:3	10:15	147:16 148:6,10
living 42:8 43:6	look-ups 11:22	48:17 54:11,14,17	<b>mean</b> 84:10,11	148:18 149:3
load 91:1 154:22	<b>loss</b> 49:15	55:1,19 59:18	92:22 129:17	150:10,12,17
local 6:19 49:3	lot 24:2 29:8 32:19	60:11 64:5 112:1	130:19,21 148:6	151:3,7,16,21
51:13 58:12 71:3	35:8,17 38:10	123:22 127:15	156:12	152:12,20 155:16
71:15 86:13 97:6	46:17 53:14 73:3	128:4 133:4	meaningful 33:1	156:16 158:4,12
<b>locate</b> 93:20	96:10,18 125:12	135:10 136:2,7	means 33:19 39:16	<b>members</b> 1:12 3:2
located 16:20 17:9	125:13 143:8	137:15,17 138:3,8	44:8 57:4 83:22	10:7 17:5,16 18:2
42:2 71:8 79:9	155:7	139:6 140:14	93:8 109:19	18:15 26:18 39:17
104:2 121:21	love 51:9	141:1,10,11	135:17	44:13 61:21 86:15
133:10	low 47:5 100:2	142:20 143:1	meant 149:13	95:9,12 105:8
location 58:22	154:12	144:12 145:1	measured 109:16	108:21 109:1
64:16 66:8 154:9	low-activity 44:22	147:19 156:19	measures 18:15	114:21 117:18
locations 8:17	116:17,22 117:10	160:1	medicines 49:5	118:4 127:20
<b>lodges</b> 49:7	124:9	manager 11:1 14:8	meet 45:16 78:1	132:18 159:3
logistics 82:4	low-level 98:13	manages 51:15	139:19 141:5	memorandum
long 28:17 33:22	124:20 131:6	145:6	142:11 146:9	15:18
36:16,17 42:14		managing 4:20	meeting 1:4 4:13	<b>memories</b> 43:16
44:2 45:22 66:14	M	mandate 5:17	8:14,16 9:19 10:9	mention 69:16
72:20 83:17 91:1	MacFARLANE	45:10 133:7	131:14 159:12	mentioned 22:22
91:6 97:9 114:10	1:17 82:22 106:20	Manhattan 17:4	162:16	83:7 84:7 100:9
152:5 154:14	107:8 123:15	48:9 87:2	meetings 8:15,19	102:4 122:10
longer 32:21 42:16	124:1,5,7,17,22	manner 23:17	9:21 81:3	146:2,3
43:8 127:22 144:4	125:4,8,18 126:2	26:16 28:6 30:11	megawatts 99:17	mere 43:16
long-term 32:11	126:9 150:12,17	32:4 67:17 134:11	154:14	Merkley 2:20 3:19
53:21 54:6 65:10	151:3,7,16,21	138:2 142:10	melters 53:3	158:18
90:15,19 93:20	152:12	mantra 121:13	112:11	Merkley's 159:6
106:14 117:3	main 13:22 113:16	map 125:9	member 9:16 33:5	Meserve 1:18 9:7
137:18 138:3	124:10	maps 123:16,18	33:9 36:13 52:14	52:14
145:20	maintain 59:8	131:6	53:11 55:21 60:2	message 87:19
look 7:10 8:11 55:7	90:19 149:18	marathon 89:2	60:4 72:8 74:22	<b>met</b> 137:5
69:11,13 70:9	150:5	93:19	78:22 79:6 81:21	method 152:1
74:4 84:19 93:8	maintained 74:8	marketplace 142:6	82:20,22 83:15	methodology 37:21
106:14 121:20	maintaining 56:22	<b>Mary</b> 10:9	92:7 93:17 95:8	<b>Mexico</b> 98:12
122:19 129:22	<b>major</b> 62:18 68:6	massive 110:19	95:11,15 97:5	microphone 10:22
132:13 134:20	115:20	match 91:10	106:20 107:8	33:8 40:13,14
144:15 145:20	makers 48:18	material 28:10,11	114:22 117:20	<b>midst</b> 87:21
148:13,17 150:19	136:18	41:17 68:7 137:16	118:6 119:1,6,9	mighty 157:19
150:21 152:15	making 26:6 43:19	138:13 141:20	119:12,16,21	migration 54:18
154:20 155:10	58:17 122:4	149:10,19 150:1	120:4,8,12 121:7	miles 17:9 47:17
161:18	<b>man</b> 143:17	materials 13:20	121:16,22 122:9	59:7 63:2,22
looked 80:19	manage 46:2 49:12	33:12 49:5,19	122:12 123:11,15	67:22 87:7,9 99:6
		, ,	, í	· ·
	1	1	1	1

		-		•
100:19 105:22	money 36:18 46:18	17:12,13,22 18:4	57:1 59:12 65:20	80:6 82:10,21
109:11,13 110:4	55:4 90:18 94:21	19:4,8 20:19	67:17 78:1 79:16	83:5,16 84:14
125:21 128:10	95:1	46:17 47:9 68:5	84:22 90:14 93:8	85:8
129:22,22	monies 141:4	70:12 73:11 81:1	96:12 100:1	<b>non</b> 153:4
milestones 45:9	monitor 150:6	82:16 99:21	107:19 116:2,10	Non-English 40:21
million 25:1 67:22	<b>MONIZ</b> 1:18 53:11	103:11 104:12	116:16 117:5,7	non-proliferation
88:2 110:10	55:21 81:21 82:20	152:15 161:5	141:18 146:3	137:4 142:11
118:11 124:20	Montana 25:2	national 68:10	149:16,17 153:18	North 28:4
133:18	<b>moon</b> 143:17	79:16 82:2 88:5	154:15 155:22	Northwest 2:18
mind 64:13 150:18	morning 6:18,22	91:3,8 98:1,21	157:4,6,14	3:13,16 39:17
156:4	10:2 11:3,13	102:8 118:10	needed 59:2 67:13	62:1,22 71:15
mindful 32:14	21:18 36:15 61:17	131:12 134:7	67:14 91:9 142:6	89:9 100:15
minds 55:5 98:8	62:14 75:2 77:20	nationally 46:12	needs 24:7 28:10	108:12 109:1,9
161:9	86:3 97:15 104:18	nations 20:8 102:4	44:17 51:12 65:18	113:15 118:2
mind-set 60:19	132:6,12 134:4	149:6	66:22 77:15 79:17	128:14 132:5,8,20
<b>mine</b> 120:13	145:14 159:5	nationwide 133:20	81:10,12 92:3,15	133:8 143:7 148:3
<b>minimize</b> 67:1	162:10,12	nation's 14:9 15:9	92:17,20 103:11	153:13 154:1,12
111:11	Mountain 5:8 15:1	100:1,6,14 101:1	128:21 129:2	159:19 160:3,14
minimized 47:5	45:14 69:5 98:6	103:1,4,6 133:3	134:20 146:21	161:16
<b>minimum</b> 102:13	98:12 100:6,21	134:16 138:9	147:9 150:4 154:8	noted 15:17 72:1
mining 46:19 48:15	101:12,18 102:12	143:14,22 144:11	negative 27:19	84:2
<b>Minkler</b> 2:17 3:14	103:20 106:8	Native 18:17 20:3	negotiating 79:21	<b>notes</b> 83:16
108:16 113:12,13	111:13 115:11	28:22 34:10,18	negotiation 79:15	<b>notice</b> 88:9
<b>minor</b> 68:1	138:22 158:7	80:13 105:19	Negotiator 80:13	notion 122:2
• • 10.01	00 00 100 1	106 15 107 01		
<b>minute</b> 12:21	move 80:22 103:1	106:15 107:21	neighborhood	November 15:18
109:18	104:6 130:16	natural 18:11,13	102:15	NRC 45:10 101:21
109:18 <b>minutes</b> 7:22 12:21	104:6 130:16 <b>moved</b> 63:14 79:13	<b>natural</b> 18:11,13 23:21 43:21,22	102:15 neighbors 39:7	<b>NRC</b> 45:10 101:21 <b>nuclear</b> 1:1 4:15,20
109:18 <b>minutes</b> 7:22 12:21 85:12	104:6 130:16 <b>moved</b> 63:14 79:13 <b>movement</b> 54:18	<b>natural</b> 18:11,13 23:21 43:21,22 44:1 46:1 48:22	102:15 neighbors 39:7 neither 158:12	<b>NRC</b> 45:10 101:21 <b>nuclear</b> 1:1 4:15,20 5:3,7 13:12,20
109:18 minutes 7:22 12:21 85:12 missed 158:3	104:6 130:16 <b>moved</b> 63:14 79:13 <b>movement</b> 54:18 147:10	<b>natural</b> 18:11,13 23:21 43:21,22 44:1 46:1 48:22 49:8 57:20 143:9	102:15 neighbors 39:7 neither 158:12 neutral 41:18	NRC 45:10 101:21 nuclear 1:1 4:15,20 5:3,7 13:12,20 15:5,6,12 16:18
109:18 minutes 7:22 12:21 85:12 missed 158:3 mission 65:21	104:6 130:16 moved 63:14 79:13 movement 54:18 147:10 moving 37:6 47:16	<b>natural</b> 18:11,13 23:21 43:21,22 44:1 46:1 48:22 49:8 57:20 143:9 <b>nature</b> 28:14 30:17	102:15 neighbors 39:7 neither 158:12 neutral 41:18 Nevada 5:8 15:2	NRC 45:10 101:21 nuclear 1:1 4:15,20 5:3,7 13:12,20 15:5,6,12 16:18 24:14 26:13 27:1
109:18 minutes 7:22 12:21 85:12 missed 158:3 mission 65:21 missions 64:18	104:6 130:16 <b>moved</b> 63:14 79:13 <b>movement</b> 54:18 147:10 <b>moving</b> 37:6 47:16 61:7 82:4 84:16	<b>natural</b> 18:11,13 23:21 43:21,22 44:1 46:1 48:22 49:8 57:20 143:9 <b>nature</b> 28:14 30:17 <b>naval</b> 143:13 144:1	102:15 neighbors 39:7 neither 158:12 neutral 41:18 Nevada 5:8 15:2 107:18	NRC 45:10 101:21 nuclear 1:1 4:15,20 5:3,7 13:12,20 15:5,6,12 16:18 24:14 26:13 27:1 28:1 30:6,21
109:18 minutes 7:22 12:21 85:12 missed 158:3 mission 65:21 missions 64:18 97:12 98:22 99:2	104:6 130:16 moved 63:14 79:13 movement 54:18 147:10 moving 37:6 47:16 61:7 82:4 84:16 101:22 136:1	<b>natural</b> 18:11,13 23:21 43:21,22 44:1 46:1 48:22 49:8 57:20 143:9 <b>nature</b> 28:14 30:17 <b>naval</b> 143:13 144:1 <b>navy</b> 98:14 144:1	102:15 neighbors 39:7 neither 158:12 neutral 41:18 Nevada 5:8 15:2 107:18 never 69:5	NRC 45:10 101:21 nuclear 1:1 4:15,20 5:3,7 13:12,20 15:5,6,12 16:18 24:14 26:13 27:1 28:1 30:6,21 41:14 44:16 47:15
109:18 minutes 7:22 12:21 85:12 missed 158:3 mission 65:21 missions 64:18 97:12 98:22 99:2 mistake 43:19	104:6 130:16 moved 63:14 79:13 movement 54:18 147:10 moving 37:6 47:16 61:7 82:4 84:16 101:22 136:1 147:4,6 152:17	natural 18:11,13 23:21 43:21,22 44:1 46:1 48:22 49:8 57:20 143:9 nature 28:14 30:17 naval 143:13 144:1 navy 98:14 144:1 near 137:18	102:15 neighbors 39:7 neither 158:12 neutral 41:18 Nevada 5:8 15:2 107:18 never 69:5 new 4:21 65:20	NRC 45:10 101:21 nuclear 1:1 4:15,20 5:3,7 13:12,20 15:5,6,12 16:18 24:14 26:13 27:1 28:1 30:6,21 41:14 44:16 47:15 47:19 48:12,14
109:18 minutes 7:22 12:21 85:12 missed 158:3 mission 65:21 missions 64:18 97:12 98:22 99:2 mistake 43:19 89:17	104:6 130:16 moved 63:14 79:13 movement 54:18 147:10 moving 37:6 47:16 61:7 82:4 84:16 101:22 136:1 147:4,6 152:17 multiple 138:12	natural 18:11,13 23:21 43:21,22 44:1 46:1 48:22 49:8 57:20 143:9 nature 28:14 30:17 naval 143:13 144:1 navy 98:14 144:1 near 137:18 nearby 133:10	102:15 neighbors 39:7 neither 158:12 neutral 41:18 Nevada 5:8 15:2 107:18 never 69:5 new 4:21 65:20 70:1 91:11 97:13	NRC 45:10 101:21 nuclear 1:1 4:15,20 5:3,7 13:12,20 15:5,6,12 16:18 24:14 26:13 27:1 28:1 30:6,21 41:14 44:16 47:15 47:19 48:12,14 62:6,9 63:10,18
109:18 minutes 7:22 12:21 85:12 missed 158:3 mission 65:21 missions 64:18 97:12 98:22 99:2 mistake 43:19 89:17 mistakes 73:19	104:6 130:16 moved 63:14 79:13 movement 54:18 147:10 moving 37:6 47:16 61:7 82:4 84:16 101:22 136:1 147:4,6 152:17 multiple 138:12 mutual 58:14	natural 18:11,13 23:21 43:21,22 44:1 46:1 48:22 49:8 57:20 143:9 nature 28:14 30:17 naval 143:13 144:1 navy 98:14 144:1 near 137:18 nearby 133:10 nearest-term	102:15 neighbors 39:7 neither 158:12 neutral 41:18 Nevada 5:8 15:2 107:18 never 69:5 new 4:21 65:20 70:1 91:11 97:13 98:12 136:20	NRC 45:10 101:21 nuclear 1:1 4:15,20 5:3,7 13:12,20 15:5,6,12 16:18 24:14 26:13 27:1 28:1 30:6,21 41:14 44:16 47:15 47:19 48:12,14 62:6,9 63:10,18 64:8 65:3 68:20
109:18 minutes 7:22 12:21 85:12 missed 158:3 mission 65:21 missions 64:18 97:12 98:22 99:2 mistake 43:19 89:17 mistakes 73:19 misunderstood	104:6 130:16 moved 63:14 79:13 movement 54:18 147:10 moving 37:6 47:16 61:7 82:4 84:16 101:22 136:1 147:4,6 152:17 multiple 138:12 mutual 58:14 mutually 18:20	natural 18:11,13 23:21 43:21,22 44:1 46:1 48:22 49:8 57:20 143:9 nature 28:14 30:17 naval 143:13 144:1 navy 98:14 144:1 near 137:18 nearby 133:10 nearest-term 153:11	102:15 neighbors 39:7 neither 158:12 neutral 41:18 Nevada 5:8 15:2 107:18 never 69:5 new 4:21 65:20 70:1 91:11 97:13 98:12 136:20 146:3 153:11	NRC 45:10 101:21 nuclear 1:1 4:15,20 5:3,7 13:12,20 15:5,6,12 16:18 24:14 26:13 27:1 28:1 30:6,21 41:14 44:16 47:15 47:19 48:12,14 62:6,9 63:10,18 64:8 65:3 68:20 69:19 76:6 77:9
109:18 minutes 7:22 12:21 85:12 missed 158:3 mission 65:21 missions 64:18 97:12 98:22 99:2 mistake 43:19 89:17 mistakes 73:19 misunderstood 146:1	104:6 130:16 moved 63:14 79:13 movement 54:18 147:10 moving 37:6 47:16 61:7 82:4 84:16 101:22 136:1 147:4,6 152:17 multiple 138:12 mutual 58:14	natural 18:11,13 23:21 43:21,22 44:1 46:1 48:22 49:8 57:20 143:9 nature 28:14 30:17 naval 143:13 144:1 navy 98:14 144:1 near 137:18 nearby 133:10 nearest-term 153:11 nearly 59:7 103:16	102:15 neighbors 39:7 neither 158:12 neutral 41:18 Nevada 5:8 15:2 107:18 never 69:5 new 4:21 65:20 70:1 91:11 97:13 98:12 136:20 146:3 153:11 158:7 161:10	NRC 45:10 101:21 nuclear 1:1 4:15,20 5:3,7 13:12,20 15:5,6,12 16:18 24:14 26:13 27:1 28:1 30:6,21 41:14 44:16 47:15 47:19 48:12,14 62:6,9 63:10,18 64:8 65:3 68:20 69:19 76:6 77:9 80:13 87:5,10
109:18 minutes 7:22 12:21 85:12 missed 158:3 mission 65:21 missions 64:18 97:12 98:22 99:2 mistake 43:19 89:17 mistakes 73:19 misunderstood 146:1 mitigation 45:20	104:6 130:16 moved 63:14 79:13 movement 54:18 147:10 moving 37:6 47:16 61:7 82:4 84:16 101:22 136:1 147:4,6 152:17 multiple 138:12 mutual 58:14 mutually 18:20 myriad 125:12	natural 18:11,13 23:21 43:21,22 44:1 46:1 48:22 49:8 57:20 143:9 nature 28:14 30:17 naval 143:13 144:1 navy 98:14 144:1 near 137:18 nearby 133:10 nearest-term 153:11 nearly 59:7 103:16 near-term 78:14	102:15 neighbors 39:7 neither 158:12 neutral 41:18 Nevada 5:8 15:2 107:18 never 69:5 new 4:21 65:20 70:1 91:11 97:13 98:12 136:20 146:3 153:11 158:7 161:10 news 160:17	NRC 45:10 101:21 nuclear 1:1 4:15,20 5:3,7 13:12,20 15:5,6,12 16:18 24:14 26:13 27:1 28:1 30:6,21 41:14 44:16 47:15 47:19 48:12,14 62:6,9 63:10,18 64:8 65:3 68:20 69:19 76:6 77:9 80:13 87:5,10 88:3 97:13 98:4
109:18 minutes 7:22 12:21 85:12 missed 158:3 mission 65:21 missions 64:18 97:12 98:22 99:2 mistake 43:19 89:17 mistakes 73:19 misunderstood 146:1 mitigation 45:20 mixed 98:14 100:2	104:6 130:16 moved 63:14 79:13 movement 54:18 147:10 moving 37:6 47:16 61:7 82:4 84:16 101:22 136:1 147:4,6 152:17 multiple 138:12 mutual 58:14 mutually 18:20 myriad 125:12 <u>N</u>	natural 18:11,13 23:21 43:21,22 44:1 46:1 48:22 49:8 57:20 143:9 nature 28:14 30:17 naval 143:13 144:1 navy 98:14 144:1 near 137:18 nearby 133:10 nearest-term 153:11 nearly 59:7 103:16 near-term 78:14 139:6 140:3	102:15 neighbors 39:7 neither 158:12 neutral 41:18 Nevada 5:8 15:2 107:18 never 69:5 new 4:21 65:20 70:1 91:11 97:13 98:12 136:20 146:3 153:11 158:7 161:10 news 160:17 Nez 2:7 3:6 21:7	NRC 45:10 101:21 nuclear 1:1 4:15,20 5:3,7 13:12,20 15:5,6,12 16:18 24:14 26:13 27:1 28:1 30:6,21 41:14 44:16 47:15 47:19 48:12,14 62:6,9 63:10,18 64:8 65:3 68:20 69:19 76:6 77:9 80:13 87:5,10 88:3 97:13 98:4 98:14 100:5,7,12
109:18 minutes 7:22 12:21 85:12 missed 158:3 mission 65:21 missions 64:18 97:12 98:22 99:2 mistake 43:19 89:17 mistakes 73:19 misunderstood 146:1 mitigation 45:20 mixed 98:14 100:2 124:20 151:12	104:6 130:16 moved 63:14 79:13 movement 54:18 147:10 moving 37:6 47:16 61:7 82:4 84:16 101:22 136:1 147:4,6 152:17 multiple 138:12 mutual 58:14 mutually 18:20 myriad 125:12 <u>N</u> name 40:22 56:14	natural 18:11,13 23:21 43:21,22 44:1 46:1 48:22 49:8 57:20 143:9 nature 28:14 30:17 naval 143:13 144:1 navy 98:14 144:1 near 137:18 nearby 133:10 nearest-term 153:11 nearly 59:7 103:16 near-term 78:14 139:6 140:3 necessarily 78:3	102:15 neighbors 39:7 neither 158:12 neutral 41:18 Nevada 5:8 15:2 107:18 never 69:5 new 4:21 65:20 70:1 91:11 97:13 98:12 136:20 146:3 153:11 158:7 161:10 news 160:17 Nez 2:7 3:6 21:7 23:7,20 24:20	NRC 45:10 101:21 nuclear 1:1 4:15,20 5:3,7 13:12,20 15:5,6,12 16:18 24:14 26:13 27:1 28:1 30:6,21 41:14 44:16 47:15 47:19 48:12,14 62:6,9 63:10,18 64:8 65:3 68:20 69:19 76:6 77:9 80:13 87:5,10 88:3 97:13 98:4 98:14 100:5,7,12 100:17,22 102:1
109:18 minutes 7:22 12:21 85:12 missed 158:3 mission 65:21 missions 64:18 97:12 98:22 99:2 mistake 43:19 89:17 mistakes 73:19 misunderstood 146:1 mitigation 45:20 mixed 98:14 100:2 124:20 151:12 mobility 147:8	104:6 130:16 moved 63:14 79:13 movement 54:18 147:10 moving 37:6 47:16 61:7 82:4 84:16 101:22 136:1 147:4,6 152:17 multiple 138:12 mutual 58:14 mutually 18:20 myriad 125:12 <u>N</u> name 40:22 56:14 96:15 113:13	natural 18:11,13 23:21 43:21,22 44:1 46:1 48:22 49:8 57:20 143:9 nature 28:14 30:17 naval 143:13 144:1 navy 98:14 144:1 near 137:18 nearby 133:10 nearest-term 153:11 nearly 59:7 103:16 near-term 78:14 139:6 140:3 necessarily 78:3 95:5	102:15 neighbors 39:7 neither 158:12 neutral 41:18 Nevada 5:8 15:2 107:18 never 69:5 new 4:21 65:20 70:1 91:11 97:13 98:12 136:20 146:3 153:11 158:7 161:10 news 160:17 Nez 2:7 3:6 21:7 23:7,20 24:20 25:13,20 26:2,11	NRC 45:10 101:21 nuclear 1:1 4:15,20 5:3,7 13:12,20 15:5,6,12 16:18 24:14 26:13 27:1 28:1 30:6,21 41:14 44:16 47:15 47:19 48:12,14 62:6,9 63:10,18 64:8 65:3 68:20 69:19 76:6 77:9 80:13 87:5,10 88:3 97:13 98:4 98:14 100:5,7,12 100:17,22 102:1 103:2,6,7,12,16
109:18 minutes 7:22 12:21 85:12 missed 158:3 mission 65:21 missions 64:18 97:12 98:22 99:2 mistake 43:19 89:17 mistakes 73:19 misunderstood 146:1 mitigation 45:20 mixed 98:14 100:2 124:20 151:12 mobility 147:8 model 82:12,17	104:6 130:16 moved 63:14 79:13 movement 54:18 147:10 moving 37:6 47:16 61:7 82:4 84:16 101:22 136:1 147:4,6 152:17 multiple 138:12 mutual 58:14 mutually 18:20 myriad 125:12 <u>N</u> name 40:22 56:14 96:15 113:13 names 42:11,13,13	natural 18:11,13 23:21 43:21,22 44:1 46:1 48:22 49:8 57:20 143:9 nature 28:14 30:17 naval 143:13 144:1 navy 98:14 144:1 near 137:18 nearby 133:10 nearest-term 153:11 nearly 59:7 103:16 near-term 78:14 139:6 140:3 necessarily 78:3 95:5 necessary 18:16	102:15 neighbors 39:7 neither 158:12 neutral 41:18 Nevada 5:8 15:2 107:18 never 69:5 new 4:21 65:20 70:1 91:11 97:13 98:12 136:20 146:3 153:11 158:7 161:10 news 160:17 Nez 2:7 3:6 21:7 23:7,20 24:20 25:13,20 26:2,11 26:12 27:2,9,21	NRC 45:10 101:21 nuclear 1:1 4:15,20 5:3,7 13:12,20 15:5,6,12 16:18 24:14 26:13 27:1 28:1 30:6,21 41:14 44:16 47:15 47:19 48:12,14 62:6,9 63:10,18 64:8 65:3 68:20 69:19 76:6 77:9 80:13 87:5,10 88:3 97:13 98:4 98:14 100:5,7,12 100:17,22 102:1 103:2,6,7,12,16 104:9 110:11,14
109:18 minutes 7:22 12:21 85:12 missed 158:3 mission 65:21 missions 64:18 97:12 98:22 99:2 mistake 43:19 89:17 mistakes 73:19 misunderstood 146:1 mitigation 45:20 mixed 98:14 100:2 124:20 151:12 mobility 147:8 model 82:12,17 150:19 151:14	104:6 130:16 moved 63:14 79:13 movement 54:18 147:10 moving 37:6 47:16 61:7 82:4 84:16 101:22 136:1 147:4,6 152:17 multiple 138:12 mutual 58:14 mutually 18:20 myriad 125:12 <u>N</u> name 40:22 56:14 96:15 113:13 names 42:11,13,13 Natalia 10:11	natural 18:11,13 23:21 43:21,22 44:1 46:1 48:22 49:8 57:20 143:9 nature 28:14 30:17 naval 143:13 144:1 navy 98:14 144:1 near 137:18 nearby 133:10 nearest-term 153:11 nearly 59:7 103:16 near-term 78:14 139:6 140:3 necessarily 78:3 95:5 necessary 18:16 34:16 69:7 70:5	102:15 neighbors 39:7 neither 158:12 neutral 41:18 Nevada 5:8 15:2 107:18 never 69:5 new 4:21 65:20 70:1 91:11 97:13 98:12 136:20 146:3 153:11 158:7 161:10 news 160:17 Nez 2:7 3:6 21:7 23:7,20 24:20 25:13,20 26:2,11 26:12 27:2,9,21 nice 53:7 120:10	NRC 45:10 101:21 nuclear 1:1 4:15,20 5:3,7 13:12,20 15:5,6,12 16:18 24:14 26:13 27:1 28:1 30:6,21 41:14 44:16 47:15 47:19 48:12,14 62:6,9 63:10,18 64:8 65:3 68:20 69:19 76:6 77:9 80:13 87:5,10 88:3 97:13 98:4 98:14 100:5,7,12 100:17,22 102:1 103:2,6,7,12,16 104:9 110:11,14 115:12 133:2,3,9
109:18 minutes 7:22 12:21 85:12 missed 158:3 mission 65:21 missions 64:18 97:12 98:22 99:2 mistake 43:19 89:17 mistakes 73:19 misunderstood 146:1 mitigation 45:20 mixed 98:14 100:2 124:20 151:12 mobility 147:8 model 82:12,17 150:19 151:14 modes 69:3	104:6 130:16 moved 63:14 79:13 movement 54:18 147:10 moving 37:6 47:16 61:7 82:4 84:16 101:22 136:1 147:4,6 152:17 multiple 138:12 mutual 58:14 mutually 18:20 myriad 125:12 <u>N</u> name 40:22 56:14 96:15 113:13 names 42:11,13,13 Natalia 10:11 nation 2:6 3:5	$\begin{array}{c} \textbf{natural} 18:11,13\\ 23:21 43:21,22\\ 44:1 46:1 48:22\\ 49:8 57:20 143:9\\ \textbf{nature} 28:14 30:17\\ \textbf{naval} 143:13 144:1\\ \textbf{navy} 98:14 144:1\\ \textbf{near} 137:18\\ \textbf{nearby} 133:10\\ \textbf{nearest-term}\\ 153:11\\ \textbf{nearly} 59:7 103:16\\ \textbf{near-term} 78:14\\ 139:6 140:3\\ \textbf{necessarily} 78:3\\ 95:5\\ \textbf{necessary} 18:16\\ 34:16 69:7 70:5\\ 71:7 128:12 138:8\\ \end{array}$	102:15 neighbors 39:7 neither 158:12 neutral 41:18 Nevada 5:8 15:2 107:18 never 69:5 new 4:21 65:20 70:1 91:11 97:13 98:12 136:20 146:3 153:11 158:7 161:10 news 160:17 Nez 2:7 3:6 21:7 23:7,20 24:20 25:13,20 26:2,11 26:12 27:2,9,21 nice 53:7 120:10 Niles 2:11 3:10	NRC 45:10 101:21 nuclear 1:1 4:15,20 5:3,7 13:12,20 15:5,6,12 16:18 24:14 26:13 27:1 28:1 30:6,21 41:14 44:16 47:15 47:19 48:12,14 62:6,9 63:10,18 64:8 65:3 68:20 69:19 76:6 77:9 80:13 87:5,10 88:3 97:13 98:4 98:14 100:5,7,12 100:17,22 102:1 103:2,6,7,12,16 104:9 110:11,14 115:12 133:2,3,9 133:13,18 134:1
109:18 minutes 7:22 12:21 85:12 missed 158:3 mission 65:21 missions 64:18 97:12 98:22 99:2 mistake 43:19 89:17 mistakes 73:19 misunderstood 146:1 mitigation 45:20 mixed 98:14 100:2 124:20 151:12 mobility 147:8 model 82:12,17 150:19 151:14 modes 69:3 modular 153:12	$104:6\ 130:16$ <b>moved</b> 63:14 79:13 <b>movement</b> 54:18 147:10 <b>moving</b> 37:6 47:16 61:7 82:4 84:16 101:22 136:1 147:4,6 152:17 <b>multiple</b> 138:12 <b>mutual</b> 58:14 <b>mutually</b> 18:20 <b>myriad</b> 125:12 $\boxed{ N} \\ name\ 40:22\ 56:14 \\ 96:15\ 113:13 \\ name\ 42:11,13,13 \\ Natalia\ 10:11 \\ nation\ 2:6\ 3:5 \\ 12:15\ 13:9,15 \\ \hline{ Marcelock} \\ 13:15\ 13:15 \\ \hline{ Marcelock} \\ 13:15\ 13:15 \\ \hline{ Marcelock} \\ 13:15\ 13:15 \\ \hline{ Marcelock} \\ 14:15\ 13:15 \\ \hline{ Marcelock} \\ 14:15\ 13:15 \\ \hline{ Marcelock} \\ 14:15\ 14:15 \\ \hline{ Marcelock} \\ 14:15\ 14:15 \\ \hline{ Marcelock} \\ 14:15\ 14:15 \\ \hline{ Marcelock} \\ 15:15\ 14:15 \\  Marc$	natural 18:11,13 23:21 43:21,22 44:1 46:1 48:22 49:8 57:20 143:9 nature 28:14 30:17 naval 143:13 144:1 navy 98:14 144:1 near 137:18 nearby 133:10 nearest-term 153:11 nearly 59:7 103:16 near-term 78:14 139:6 140:3 necessarily 78:3 95:5 necessary 18:16 34:16 69:7 70:5 71:7 128:12 138:8 147:3 160:13	102:15 neighbors 39:7 neither 158:12 neutral 41:18 Nevada 5:8 15:2 107:18 never 69:5 new 4:21 65:20 70:1 91:11 97:13 98:12 136:20 146:3 153:11 158:7 161:10 news 160:17 Nez 2:7 3:6 21:7 23:7,20 24:20 25:13,20 26:2,11 26:12 27:2,9,21 nice 53:7 120:10 Niles 2:11 3:10 61:11,13,14,19	NRC 45:10 101:21 nuclear 1:1 4:15,20 5:3,7 13:12,20 15:5,6,12 16:18 24:14 26:13 27:1 28:1 30:6,21 41:14 44:16 47:15 47:19 48:12,14 62:6,9 63:10,18 64:8 65:3 68:20 69:19 76:6 77:9 80:13 87:5,10 88:3 97:13 98:4 98:14 100:5,7,12 100:17,22 102:1 103:2,6,7,12,16 104:9 110:11,14 115:12 133:2,3,9 133:13,18 134:1 134:14,18 135:2,6
109:18 minutes 7:22 12:21 85:12 missed 158:3 mission 65:21 missions 64:18 97:12 98:22 99:2 mistake 43:19 89:17 mistakes 73:19 misunderstood 146:1 mitigation 45:20 mixed 98:14 100:2 124:20 151:12 mobility 147:8 model 82:12,17 150:19 151:14 modes 69:3 modular 153:12 154:1,4 155:10	104:6 130:16 moved 63:14 79:13 movement 54:18 147:10 moving 37:6 47:16 61:7 82:4 84:16 101:22 136:1 147:4,6 152:17 multiple 138:12 mutual 58:14 mutually 18:20 myriad 125:12 <u>N</u> name 40:22 56:14 96:15 113:13 names 42:11,13,13 Natalia 10:11 nation 2:6 3:5 12:15 13:9,15 14:17 15:4 16:10	natural 18:11,13 $23:21 43:21,22$ $44:1 46:1 48:22$ $49:8 57:20 143:9$ nature 28:14 30:17naval 143:13 144:1navy 98:14 144:1near 137:18nearby 133:10nearest-term153:11nearly 59:7 103:16near-term 78:14139:6 140:3necessarily 78:395:5necessary 18:1634:16 69:7 70:571:7 128:12 138:8147:3 160:13need 31:12 32:18	102:15 neighbors 39:7 neither 158:12 neutral 41:18 Nevada 5:8 15:2 107:18 never 69:5 new 4:21 65:20 70:1 91:11 97:13 98:12 136:20 146:3 153:11 158:7 161:10 news 160:17 Nez 2:7 3:6 21:7 23:7,20 24:20 25:13,20 26:2,11 26:12 27:2,9,21 nice 53:7 120:10 Niles 2:11 3:10 61:11,13,14,19 62:5 71:17 73:1	NRC 45:10 101:21 nuclear 1:1 4:15,20 5:3,7 13:12,20 15:5,6,12 16:18 24:14 26:13 27:1 28:1 30:6,21 41:14 44:16 47:15 47:19 48:12,14 62:6,9 63:10,18 64:8 65:3 68:20 69:19 76:6 77:9 80:13 87:5,10 88:3 97:13 98:4 98:14 100:5,7,12 100:17,22 102:1 103:2,6,7,12,16 104:9 110:11,14 115:12 133:2,3,9 133:13,18 134:1 134:14,18 135:2,6 135:8 136:5,7,17
109:18 minutes 7:22 12:21 85:12 missed 158:3 mission 65:21 missions 64:18 97:12 98:22 99:2 mistake 43:19 89:17 mistakes 73:19 misunderstood 146:1 mitigation 45:20 mixed 98:14 100:2 124:20 151:12 mobility 147:8 model 82:12,17 150:19 151:14 modes 69:3 modular 153:12	$104:6\ 130:16$ <b>moved</b> 63:14 79:13 <b>movement</b> 54:18 147:10 <b>moving</b> 37:6 47:16 61:7 82:4 84:16 101:22 136:1 147:4,6 152:17 <b>multiple</b> 138:12 <b>mutual</b> 58:14 <b>mutually</b> 18:20 <b>myriad</b> 125:12 $\boxed{ N} \\ name\ 40:22\ 56:14 \\ 96:15\ 113:13 \\ name\ 42:11,13,13 \\ Natalia\ 10:11 \\ nation\ 2:6\ 3:5 \\ 12:15\ 13:9,15 \\ \hline{ Marcelock} \\ 13:15\ 13:15 \\ \hline{ Marcelock} \\ 13:15\ 13:15 \\ \hline{ Marcelock} \\ 13:15\ 13:15 \\ \hline{ Marcelock} \\ 14:15\ 13:15 \\ \hline{ Marcelock} \\ 14:15\ 13:15 \\ \hline{ Marcelock} \\ 14:15\ 14:15 \\ \hline{ Marcelock} \\ 14:15\ 14:15 \\ \hline{ Marcelock} \\ 14:15\ 14:15 \\ \hline{ Marcelock} \\ 15:15\ 14:15 \\  Marc$	natural 18:11,13 23:21 43:21,22 44:1 46:1 48:22 49:8 57:20 143:9 nature 28:14 30:17 naval 143:13 144:1 navy 98:14 144:1 near 137:18 nearby 133:10 nearest-term 153:11 nearly 59:7 103:16 near-term 78:14 139:6 140:3 necessarily 78:3 95:5 necessary 18:16 34:16 69:7 70:5 71:7 128:12 138:8 147:3 160:13	102:15 neighbors 39:7 neither 158:12 neutral 41:18 Nevada 5:8 15:2 107:18 never 69:5 new 4:21 65:20 70:1 91:11 97:13 98:12 136:20 146:3 153:11 158:7 161:10 news 160:17 Nez 2:7 3:6 21:7 23:7,20 24:20 25:13,20 26:2,11 26:12 27:2,9,21 nice 53:7 120:10 Niles 2:11 3:10 61:11,13,14,19	NRC 45:10 101:21 nuclear 1:1 4:15,20 5:3,7 13:12,20 15:5,6,12 16:18 24:14 26:13 27:1 28:1 30:6,21 41:14 44:16 47:15 47:19 48:12,14 62:6,9 63:10,18 64:8 65:3 68:20 69:19 76:6 77:9 80:13 87:5,10 88:3 97:13 98:4 98:14 100:5,7,12 100:17,22 102:1 103:2,6,7,12,16 104:9 110:11,14 115:12 133:2,3,9 133:13,18 134:1 134:14,18 135:2,6

## 139:12,21 140:8 offices 159:5 **opinion** 75:13 outcomes 42:7 154:2 162:7 **Official** 2:2 131:5 **opinions** 122:20 outside 22:3 82:7 participants 88:12 141:1.2.8.17 participate 19:6 142:16,21 143:13 officials 6:19 15:21 opportunities overestimate 50:7 143:22 150:2 58:16 offspring 50:4 104:10 159:22 overlooked 74:4 off-site 113:1 overrides 78:18 participated 128:2 153:1 159:14,16 opportunity 6:13 participation 71:21 160:1,5,8 161:3 118:11 124:14,17 13:17 29:7 31:17 oversight 63:15 161:10,13,13,18 124:21 125:3 31:22 33:13 40:19 overstate 50:7 105:7 overwhelming particular 89:17 nuclear-fuel **Oh** 4:10 46:4 49:20 62:1 103:19 **Okay** 7:17 21:15 86:9 91:21 103:1 62:17 92:9 122:17 153:2 **number** 9:20 10:5 51:3 55:21 56:7 114:2 133:5 **owned** 71:8 particularly 11:14 owns 133:8 72:9 89:22 145:17 18:4 67:15 68:15 56:14 81:14 82:19 144:15 159:15.19 104:17 154:6 **oxide** 151:12 95:16 124:1,5,22 160:3 **partner** 51:17.19 NW 2:16.17 125:4 126:2.9 **opposed** 121:9 partners 67:14 Р 104:21 107:20 145:10 148:10 **opposes** 27:2 0 pace 37:5 61:8 158:13 opposition 66:4 partnership 147:22 **Obama** 14:18 **Pacific** 61:22 62:22 **old** 120:2 **parts** 106:4 81:7 15:17 16:7 71:14 89:9 154:11 **optimize** 155:12 **oldest** 118:2 **pass** 44:3 obligation 26:4 159:18 160:2,14 once 20:17 29:13 option 27:17 45:18 **passed** 68:15 32:22 35:11 161:16 78:6 94:21 143:20 47:10 155:1 passing 57:19 obligations 45:17 packaging 6:15 ones 49:17 55:14 oral 42:12.20 pasture 25:8 45:20 139:20 73:16 66:16 order 19:21 129:7 path 28:21 104:5 141:6 **PAGE** 3:1 ongoing 133:5 130:4 153:19 104:13 138:10 observation 96:9 pages 127:16 **online** 131:8 **Orders** 20:6 pause 84:19,22 paid 42:16 120:7 observations 94:1 134:14 **Oregon** 2:11 3:10 pay 119:7 150:13 **observe** 10:6 133:17.19 **on-site** 6:3 89:20 151:4,8,8 25:2 61:10,15 observed 54:9 panel 49:22 50:10 121:2 62:7,8,9,21 63:2 **pending** 5:3,13 observers 88:12 paramount 135:5 open 10:16 12:8 63:17,19 64:1,7 116:13 park 99:12 104:2,9 **obvious** 155:6 25:8 106:5,6 66:14 67:3 71:21 people 7:11 8:16 **obviously** 5:9 76:3 **parking** 96:10 133:5 72:14 76:17 82:1 9:20 10:5 14:1,15 parks 99:11 104:19 84:20 107:6 **opened** 59:19 100:17 118:5 15:8 16:22 18:11 114:14 148:15 105:1 25:18 41:5 42:10 opening 3:2 134:6 128:14 149:15 154:5 **Parrish** 2:18 3:16 openness 12:4 **Oregon's** 62:2 76:9 42:13 43:6,20 155:10 132:5,6,15,19 131:15.18 145:15 **Oregon-Nevada** 45:22 48:13 49:10 occur 53:2 140:17 144:18 145:8 operable 19:18 80:14 49:17 51:13,18 **occurred** 62:16 146:14 148:1,8,12 operate 37:18 organization 51:15 52:9 54:22 55:7 73:14 149:2.15 150:15 **operated** 133:11 96:21.22 97:3 55:14 57:4,6,10 **October** 112:3 150:18 151:5,9,19 137:4,19 142:10 117:22 118:18 58:2,6,9 60:21 **odd** 127:16 152:2.13 153:22 operates 90:3 119:4 148:4 83:20 115:6 118:8 offer 31:2 70:15 156:10 157:18 110:16 133:8 organizational 120:7 150:3 offered 12:4 136:5 158:11,14 operating 133:14 82:6 156:11 160:2 137:11 part 6:18 46:11 organizations 7:5 139:10 140:8 peoples 18:17 offering 86:8 49:21 57:5,6 operation 94:3 organization's **people's** 90:8 office 2:19 3:19 59:20 63:7 67:11 133:16 126:22 **Perce** 2:7 3:6 21:7 24:4 96:9 158:18 76:4,9 88:15 97:8 operational 100:8 **origin** 45:2 23:7,20 24:20 159:6 98:7 99:12.13 155:4 Oringer 11:9 25:13,20 26:2,11 officer 132:20 106:16 122:3 operations 87:11 outcome 89:4 26:12 27:2.9.22 143:13 135:4 146:22 159:20 104:12 108:1 percent 47:1

		1		
100:13 110:6	102:6 147:11	72:11 75:16 92:13	28:13 70:6 129:1	pressure 130:7
percentage 126:5	152:8,18 157:4	94:13 104:22	<b>position</b> 22:8 71:11	<b>presume</b> 148:20
performance 77:22	placed 59:17	144:16 148:15	79:7 149:20	pretty 38:4
155:12	141:20	154:13	positive 11:22	prevailing 115:4
period 9:18 10:1	places 16:12 25:7	pointing 34:1	135:20	<b>prevent</b> 149:22
12:6 65:13 68:9	<b>placing</b> 60:20	<b>points</b> 64:14	possible 37:17	150:6
permanent 30:11	<b>plan</b> 4:21 26:14	policies 4:19 15:22	41:21	previous 55:2
48:2 70:4 75:14	88:5 105:20	17:19 20:6 36:3	posted 7:15 8:20	previously 160:19
79:1 123:4	111:19,20 116:8	129:7 133:4	potential 26:20	Priest 41:8 57:10
permanentizing	136:15 147:8	134:22 137:12,20	28:9 63:9 70:19	57:22 58:6 59:3
121:9	planned 65:9 72:21	138:1,9 144:12	90:12,22 106:1	primarily 83:9
permanently 88:4	<b>planning</b> 68:6 69:8	161:9	153:3,18 155:1	primary 63:16,19
permit 18:20 131:3	72:11 116:9	policy 20:3,3 44:5	potentially 63:4	prime 161:7
permits 17:21	<b>plans</b> 48:5	66:15 68:15,18	84:7,14	principle 146:8
perpetual 16:10	plant 15:12 59:6	71:4 72:2 98:4	<b>power</b> 15:5,12 64:8	principles 74:3
48:16	64:8 67:8 78:7	99:22 100:5	97:13 133:9 134:2	136:4,10 145:19
persistence 144:6	88:1 89:15 94:2	115:12 135:2	134:18,19 135:8	prior 9:21 26:21
person 10:10	99:15 110:15	136:8,14,18,21	136:17 137:9	priorities 78:15
personal 146:17	133:10 134:2	137:3,15 140:17	PowerPoint 108:19	priority 84:8
personally 43:17	135:8	141:14 161:1	practical 142:3,22	160:15
155:17	plants 134:14	political 20:7 22:3	practice 58:7	pristine 30:17
perspective 32:11	149:7	98:17 101:11,18	<b>precise</b> 71:19	private 71:6 138:4
32:22 34:13 74:18	Plateau 99:5	101:19 107:3,9	preclude 47:10	142:4 147:22
76:16 78:14	112:20 130:6,10	139:15 140:17	predecessor 38:19	privately 71:8
136:13 153:8	<b>play</b> 134:18	141:13	predicament	119:15
155:3,4	<b>plays</b> 38:1	politics 38:1,3 55:3	104:16	privatize 94:8
perspectives 62:2	please 12:16 40:7	95:3,4 102:2	predominately	probably 38:7
71:16	50:19 56:10 69:6	160:4	23:2	44:17 76:22
Pete 1:15 9:5	86:2 89:17 108:5	Pollett 2:16 3:13	preparations 68:22	100:18 102:14,19
117:19 155:15	111:7 161:2,14	108:11,13,15	presence 140:16	154:13 156:4
Peterson 1:19 9:6	pleased 10:7 11:4	113:15 114:19,20	present 1:12 2:1	problem 6:10
33:5,9 83:15 92:7	11:11,17 13:4	117:16 118:1,9	62:2 86:18 109:4	32:12,16 52:10
152:20	86:3 108:13	119:5,8,11,14,18	presentation 7:22	54:12,20 66:11
phases 80:15	131:22 159:13	120:1,6,11,20	13:17 71:19	92:10 122:21
<b>Phil</b> 1:22 9:8 60:3	162:4	121:15,19 122:5	117:17 132:14	127:4,5 149:4
72:7	plethora 89:19	122:11 123:18	presentations 8:9	153:6 155:21
physical 27:16	<b>plus</b> 87:8 90:5	124:3,6,11,19	146:15	156:19
<b>pie</b> 70:8	plutonium 15:16	125:1,5,11,20	presents 62:21	problems 36:17
<b>piece</b> 70:8 90:2,6	19:2 59:5 112:19	126:4 127:14	preserve 58:3	53:2 127:13 131:9
148:19	116:4,6 125:9,10	128:8 129:8,20	President 4:18	160:6
pieces 69:13 88:18	125:12,21,22	130:20 131:1,19	14:18 15:17 16:7	procedures 129:6
127:20	135:18 142:15	132:2	96:16 143:15,18	proceed 5:16 10:19
<b>Pilot</b> 67:8	148:22 151:12	ponds 87:8 128:20	President's 131:15	21:14 40:8 56:13
piping 87:9	160:17	<b>pools</b> 46:6,15	159:13	61:18 86:6 96:6
place 32:13 33:20	point 6:1 7:14	<b>poorly</b> 160:7	President/CEO	108:14 162:11
51:21 60:19 64:12	10:13 12:18 22:16	population 28:8	96:3	proceedings 5:9,13
78:11 80:22 86:22	33:15 66:10 69:10	<b>portion</b> 11:13 28:4	presiding 1:11	8:18
	1	1	1	

7 14 19 20		06 15 00 11 16	156 10 157 15	72.22
process 7:14 18:20	<b>proliferation</b> 146:6	86:15 88:11,16	156:18 157:15	ramps 73:22
19:7 32:20 34:8	148:19 149:22	106:5,7 115:14	question 34:11,20	ran 125:16
37:11,12 59:17	153:5	118:3 119:10	42:1 54:9 82:1	ranging 89:19
69:3,4,8 70:17	promises 31:20	130:8 135:4,11,21	83:12,13 84:2	<b>Rapids</b> 41:8 57:10
79:14,14 93:18	32:2	136:3 137:8	86:10 92:11 93:9	57:22 58:7 59:3
94:12 95:5 101:5	promoting 55:17	138:17,20 139:15	115:15,18 121:8	rate 92:19 110:6
101:20 102:11	proper 19:2 34:14	140:7,10 146:6	126:18,20 127:10	rated 131:14
133:13 138:21	properly 110:19	147:21 157:2	129:14 152:21	ratepayers 133:17
139:2 145:7	proposal 94:8	publicly 71:7	156:17 158:4	133:20 134:16
processes 52:18	124:19 129:12,21	public-private	questionable 104:4	151:10
58:17 129:6	proposals 66:3	148:1,4	<b>questions</b> 8:2 11:21	rational 43:3
processing 46:19	110:20 118:7	public/private	13:2 21:2 24:18	Rattlesnake 106:8
87:6 104:1	128:5	145:6	31:10,12 33:2	<b>RCRA</b> 131:3
processor 156:15	proposed 5:7 14:22	Pump-and-treat	38:13,20 50:14	reach 25:11 29:18
produce 78:7	66:1 102:10 112:8	47:21	52:11 53:9 56:1	47:13
135:13	proposes 111:15	PUREX 151:18	59:22 61:2 72:6	reached 30:4
product 89:14	113:8 118:12	152:1	78:21 81:15 85:10	reactor 9:4 46:6
production 15:6,16	proposing 116:13	purpose 4:18 13:21	92:4 95:7,14	70:18 84:4 103:7
productive 16:4	<b>Prosser</b> 41:9	25:19 34:6 69:22	104:18 105:8	139:8,21 140:9
products 48:14	protect 18:5,10	purposes 60:14	106:18 108:3	143:8 153:1,20
141:1	20:12 26:7,14	pursuant 16:12	109:5 117:13,18	154:7,7
profile 50:6	33:21 58:3 109:9	18:3	117:21 123:10	reactors 65:3 70:11
profound 15:14	160:9	<b>pursue</b> 66:7	126:11 135:20	70:14 97:13 142:9
program 10:19	protected 22:17,21	pursued 142:2	144:16 145:11,16	150:2 151:13
14:10 53:21 54:2	29:2 44:12 59:11	put 8:8 52:9 58:3	156:6 158:2	153:12,12 154:21
66:20 67:6,8,20	protecting 135:11	58:18 108:19	quick 60:14 129:14	155:3,6
68:8,11 73:2,18	protecting 155.11 protection 14:13	112:10 121:17	quickly 37:2 94:4	read 24:17 126:16
74:5,13,17 82:11	18:1,16 27:16	143:17 152:8,18	quite 37:2 60:13	159:9 162:2
103:2,2 117:7	protects 121:4,4	puts 122:18	76:10 81:18	reading 23:3
133:22 140:13	protocols 74:15	puts 122.18 putting 74:8 151:1	/0.10 01.10	ready 45:15
144:13 145:1	protocols 74.15 proud 74:17	<b>P-R-O-C-E-E-D</b>	R	<b>Reagan's</b> 143:18
	provide 9:12 20:20	<b>4</b> :1	race 89:2	6
147:19 148:22	L		radically 105:18	real 80:7 90:8 101:5 107:12
149:1 150:14	27:14 34:21 35:3	<b>p.m</b> 1:9 4:2 85:17	radioactive 13:10	
151:17 152:3	35:8 81:9 86:16	85:18 162:13,15	13:19 15:1,11,15	142:3
programs 97:9	88:17 96:14 136:1	0	28:2 44:19 64:5	<b>reality</b> 149:20
102:6 103:7,16	139:2,6 140:22			160:8
133:4 134:22	141:9	<b>Qe'ci'yew'yew</b> 32:7	66:15,16 68:7	realize 77:2
137:18 139:3	provided 59:1	39:4	73:5,10,13 91:2	realized 35:17
142:17 144:12	89:18 144:9	quantify 22:7	109:14 113:19	really 12:9 22:7
progress 94:15	provides 63:19	<b>quantities</b> 111:16	114:3 116:20	30:16 54:6,6
project 17:5 48:9	providing 34:3	quantity 70:15	118:10 130:1	55:12,13,14 74:2
50:12 63:11 87:2	141:14	116:17 130:3	radioactivity 45:1	82:17 104:12
projected 99:17	provisions 150:5	quarter-mile 47:16	radionuclides 54:4	106:14 120:10
projection 112:3	proximity 46:15	77:10	72:17	147:1 149:21
112:19	prudent 58:10	<b>quasi</b> 144:22	radiotoxicity	rear-ended 73:21
projects 26:22	<b>public</b> 9:14,18,22	147:18	141:19	reason 152:4,14
139:14	63:14 66:18 67:10	quasi-independent	<b>raise</b> 64:14	reasonable 36:21

reasons 46:7 67:12	141:8 142:3,12	release 73:13	111:15 116:3	75:21
154:6,8 155:6,8	149:17	released 65:7 72:17	129:3	requires 45:4
<b>receive</b> 16:7 106:10	<b>red</b> 113:4	112:2	repository 5:8 15:2	research 106:2
received 8:9 33:12	redoubled 160:21	releases 73:14	19:3 28:3 35:4	137:2 141:22
67:10	reduce 27:11 74:6	112:5 113:7	37:5,7,10,14 38:5	146:5
recess 85:15	140:7 141:19	116:22	41:17 48:4 50:11	reservation 2:9 3:8
reclassification	reducing 139:22	reliably 133:11	51:11,20 63:10	16:11,18 17:8
44:21	reduction 99:7	religion 58:8	75:11,14 78:1	25:10 40:4 41:3
recognition 9:19	redundancy 53:6	remain 37:13 65:19	79:1 81:7 83:3,4,8	120:19 159:16
19:7 27:21	reference 121:17	77:16 134:10	88:5 89:13 90:1	<b>reserve</b> 30:12
<b>recognize</b> 6:4 7:4	referendum 115:9	remainder 8:1	90:11 91:5,8,12	reserved 20:15
60:20 81:17 89:1	<b>reflect</b> 143:9	remaining 103:22	91:15 93:3,21	25:6,9
127:4 136:18	refueling 144:4	remains 25:19	100:7 111:13	<b>reserves</b> 16:15
137:16 161:3	regard 8:13 32:21	41:19	115:19 116:10,16	residents 62:22
recognized 14:5	98:19	remarks 3:2 9:10	117:7 121:21	101:7,7
19:13 20:15 24:21	regarding 13:18	105:4 144:17	134:7 139:3	<b>resides</b> 70:10
26:3 67:13	14:12,21 63:18	remedial 19:11	represent 56:15	residual 27:11
recognizing 27:7	76:6 86:10 91:14	remediate 45:8	representation	48:22 49:19
33:16 75:22	104:19 113:17	remediation 47:21	51:13	residues 112:5
recommend 4:21	135:15 137:20	87:4,12,18	representatives 7:2	113:8
34:15 104:14	140:7	remember 42:10	60:8	<b>resistance</b> 80:16,18
134:22 151:17,22	region 7:5 66:4	42:13,13 43:20	represented 136:13	Resolution 68:18
recommendation	139:15 160:7,13	125:15	represents 61:15	71:4
107:4 142:19	161:21	remind 5:21 7:21	98:1	resolutions 68:15
144:22 145:9	<b>regional</b> 71:16	50:9 156:11	<b>reprocess</b> 103:12	76:14,17
recommendations	108:17	reminding 52:5	150:4	<b>resolve</b> 80:7
5:17 35:3 86:17	regions 146:10	removal 19:1	reprocessed 46:21	resolved 5:11 52:10
88:19 126:22	161:5	<b>remove</b> 91:3	reprocessing 65:21	resource 23:22
127:1,11 136:1	region's 118:2	139:20	68:13 70:2 84:20	35:8 43:22
137:11 144:20	regulators 88:21	removed 95:3	102:5 103:14	resources 14:13
157:22 158:15	regulatory 5:4	removing 70:18	104:8 110:13,13	15:8,10 17:14,15
recommended 37:4	67:16 94:12	134:1	110:20 111:2,3	17:17 18:11,13,17
129:5	133:13 139:2,13	rendered 41:18	149:7,17 150:14	18:21 20:14 26:7
recommends 103:8	reinterpret 26:10	renewable 57:2	151:22	26:19,19 44:1,2,8
140:19	rejected 50:10	59:12	request 14:19 16:8	44:12 46:1 48:22
recontaminate	relate 5:5	renewal 133:13	69:10	49:4,16 89:6
65:12	related 5:2 78:5	repackaging 87:14	requested 19:6	110:5 154:14
record 67:21 85:17	141:1,8	<b>repair</b> 30:16	requesting 21:18	respect 14:1 18:6
119:10 159:12	<b>relates</b> 34:11	repeatedly 128:15	require 69:1 73:16	49:11 58:8,14
162:7	relationship 16:5	replacing 99:13	75:14 87:12	153:4
<b>Records</b> 113:18	19:22 20:8,11	replicate 54:15	102:12	response 16:7
recovery 27:18	23:9,17 24:8,10	report 82:3 135:13	required 45:6,19	85:10 128:7
recycle 151:11	34:12 36:7,10	135:22	79:2 135:1 136:20	145:16
152:8	79:20 128:3	reported 160:19	138:11 141:15	responsibilities
recycled 103:20	relationships 58:12	reporter 101:15	144:6	14:3 32:13 58:18
recycling 135:17	58:15 97:6	repositories 34:14	requirements	76:2
138:14 140:4	relative 101:18	44:18 45:12 100:2	45:10 67:16 74:14	responsibility 6:5
L				

		1	1	l
20:12 26:2 42:6	<b>rides</b> 22:1	158:12	102:3 107:12,13	selection 102:18
44:3 52:6 79:18	right 21:10 33:8	running 109:10	121:12,14,17,17	self-determination
80:4 146:18	40:13,15 42:17	135:8	121:19 122:3,8	20:13
responsible 57:14	50:20 51:1 52:3	Russell 14:8 29:15	130:15	Sellafield 53:1
57:19 114:16	53:8 55:13 61:8		scientifically 28:6	Senate 158:19
responsibly 44:2	70:12 72:21 75:12	S	scientist 107:9	Senator 2:19 3:19
rest 11:10 123:7	83:3 93:15 95:1	<b>sacred</b> 25:16	scientists 22:12	122:15 158:18
restoration 14:9	106:21 109:11	safe 27:17 32:4	<b>scope</b> 5:18	159:6 162:5
19:11 24:3	117:8 119:8	45:18 51:21 64:4	Scowcroft 1:11,14	send 111:12
restored 17:20 44:7	123:13 149:2	67:22 77:5 121:5	4:8,10,12 61:20	sense 74:6 80:21
44:10 59:11	150:17 151:9	134:11 139:6	105:10 132:17	sensitive 40:14
restrictions 29:14	152:10,12 155:15	safely 44:9 46:1	<b>sea</b> 144:3	sent 31:6,7 127:10
result 110:12	157:9	66:17 101:1	search 158:7	131:3
resulting 65:14	rights 13:22 16:10	133:11 142:13	seat 49:21	sentence 51:8
results 16:2 58:15	16:15 17:1,3,22	safety 14:14 15:7	seats 4:4 12:5	separate 84:17
<b>resume</b> 85:20	18:5 20:16 25:6,9	18:1 62:6 66:18	Seattle 101:16	85:4 103:3
<b>resumed</b> 85:18	25:14 26:8,11	67:6 68:7 70:20	<b>second</b> 66:10	separately 69:18
retain 16:10 42:17	27:20 42:17 44:11	73:2,3 89:21	secondary 53:3	70:9 85:3
<b>retired</b> 156:2	57:1 59:9 110:3	135:12,15,16	112:9	<b>serious</b> 125:6
retirement 132:10	risk 28:7 50:6	153:4 155:3	Secondly 8:13	seriously 101:21
retiring 132:7	62:21 92:20	salary 119:7,9,19	154:17	serve 10:9,11 13:9
143:5 156:12	risks 18:14 26:20	salmon 39:12 43:15	secrecy 131:9	23:19,21
retrieval 87:14	65:10,11,15 70:20	salt 44:21	secretary 4:17 5:18	served 155:18
89:20	river 25:11 29:19	Saraeva 10:11	5:20 13:10 14:19	services 141:2
retrieve 45:7	43:14 46:16 47:14	Sarah 2:17 3:14	16:8	session 9:15 14:12
129:10 130:9	47:18 54:4 57:4,5	108:16 113:10,13 114:20 131:21	sector 142:4	set 45:9 102:18
retrieving 128:12	57:9 58:1,4,21		secure 134:11	109:20 144:11
return 81:21 85:12	59:1 63:3,5 65:16	satisfactory 37:12 saturated 30:14	<b>security</b> 46:10	149:5
reuse 70:21 97:2	77:10 89:6 90:13	saturated 30:14 saw 60:6 78:8	70:20 135:15,16	setting 23:14
reused 47:2	109:10,15 113:6	116:20 134:4	135:21 153:4	seven 108:16
<b>review</b> 4:19 5:19	121:4 130:6	saying 80:1 115:1	159:21	severe 64:2 73:12
33:13	161:17	130:11	see 6:13 10:17 12:6	severity 67:2
revolutionized	<b>Rivers</b> 1:9		23:9,12 24:10	shallow 33:18
144:1 <b>Dibb</b> ox 1:1 4:14	river's 57:8,11	<b>says</b> 32:17 113:21 <b>scale</b> 66:20 84:6	40:9,10 69:21	111:4,5,9 116:14
<b>Ribbon</b> 1:1 4:14	road 74:10,16	142:13	82:17 85:6 106:7	share 75:17
13:11 20:18 21:17	roam 29:13	scenario 138:9	113:5 114:6	shared 75:8
27:22 28:15 36:8	robust 73:16 robustness 73:7	schedule 8:4 45:9	120:19 128:13	<b>Sharp</b> 1:22 9:8
49:22 50:9 56:17		scheduled 61:6	131:7 135:14 145:18 146:7	60:2,4 72:8 shads 46:3
101:6 102:11,21 159:14 161:2	rock 51:12 rod 46:8 47:1	Scheeler 2:19 3:20	145:18 146:7 149:6	<b>sheds</b> 46:3 <b>sheet</b> 9:22
rich 43:1,14	rod 40:8 47:1 rods 46:20	158:20 159:8		
<b>Richard</b> 1:18 9:7	<b>role</b> 63:15 81:13	162:3	<b>seeing</b> 37:21 120:16	<b>shenanigans</b> 101:12 107:3
52:13	134:19	science 38:2,2 40:2	seeking 26:9	ship 114:17 116:9
<b>Richland</b> 11:1	room 12:7 78:9	41:1 53:13,21	seen 67:20 73:9,17	118:13
133:10	125:16 162:11	54:2,5,9,11,14,18	seeps 109:15	shipment 67:7
<b>Rickover</b> 143:22	routes 66:22 69:2	55:18 101:14,17	seeps 109.15 segment 88:15	shipments 63:21
rid 150:2	<b>ROWE</b> 1:20 158:4	101:19,20,21	selected 27:17	64:5 67:21 69:1
110 150.2	1.20 1.20 1.0.4		5010000 27.17	07.3 07.21 07.1
	I	I	I	I

	1		1	I
73:10	11:13,15,17,18	Smiskin 14:18	55:2 56:8 96:2	stable 28:4 43:3
shipped 114:3	14:2 15:13 16:19	<b>Snake</b> 41:7	108:10 132:4	88:3 136:7
<b>shipping</b> 69:3 73:4	17:10,20 24:5,14	<b>snide</b> 95:14	speakers 7:20,21	staff 10:8,11,14
73:7 74:20	36:15 37:13 43:20	society 138:5 144:9	8:8 12:14 158:5	24:4
<b>ships</b> 144:3	45:8 51:10 55:18	soil 26:15 42:3	speaking 40:2	stainless 134:9
Shirley 11:9	62:14 63:17,20	63:13 65:12 116:4	124:13 136:6	<b>stake</b> 89:4
<b>shop</b> 54:16	64:16 80:20 83:4	116:7 118:21	spearheaded	stakeholder 88:15
shoreline 65:16	87:16,18 88:8	125:17	118:19	stakeholders 89:3
109:16	91:1,5 99:4	soil-washing 47:11	special 18:16	stamped 131:5
shores 57:8	100:13 102:10,18	<b>sold</b> 149:10	specializes 35:1	stand 85:15
<b>short</b> 12:6 68:9	106:4 115:4,18	<b>sole</b> 141:9	specific 14:11	standard 109:17,20
90:15 129:16	116:15 125:22	solid 107:13 144:7	19:17 50:14 98:4	112:21 113:5
shortcuts 45:13	128:4 131:10	solution 34:3 48:2	126:22 146:7	146:9
short-sighted 48:1	140:2,6 145:20	49:21 51:18 52:2	specifically 15:9	standardized 46:12
<b>show</b> 11:12 68:22	158:8 160:19	66:6,11 101:9,22	52:20,21 152:3	standards 67:1
<b>showed</b> 125:2,9	161:15	103:17 136:19	specifications	117:2
showing 112:18	<b>sited</b> 81:6	139:7 141:10	91:11	standpoint 71:2
<b>shown</b> 15:20 125:2	sites 19:18 34:6	145:21 146:9	spectrum 88:21	start 84:3,11
shows 112:3	50:15 52:22 65:5	156:21	speech 122:1	147:11 150:4
<b>shut</b> 70:10	70:18,19,21 84:4	solutions 38:4 42:5	<b>spell</b> 145:1	152:17
shutdown 139:8	97:20 98:1,2	107:1	<b>Spencer</b> 2:4 3:5	started 133:20
140:9	100:10 101:8	<b>solve</b> 104:16	12:15,16 13:4,6,8	143:15 152:5
<b>shut-down</b> 70:14	104:21 123:3	<b>solved</b> 104:5	20:22 21:3,5	starting 10:2 84:15
<b>side</b> 155:21	128:10 130:5,9	<b>solving</b> 6:10	22:18 38:19	148:15
sides 122:20 155:20	134:2 139:8,10,21	<b>soon</b> 45:16	<b>spend</b> 6:17 157:20	starts 94:7
sideswiping 74:1	140:9 143:3	sorry 50:22 120:11	spending 36:15	<b>start-up</b> 143:8
<b>signed</b> 82:15	site's 17:18 86:22	129:15 151:19	<b>spent</b> 64:11 65:2,4	Stat 16:14 25:4
significance 17:12	siting 5:22 51:12	158:3	66:16 67:18 68:19	state 23:7 29:8 36:3
significant 25:17	75:22 79:14 80:10	<b>sort</b> 143:9	69:19 70:10 77:9	58:12 62:2 63:18
49:20 76:1,4	sitting 85:20 86:20	<b>sound</b> 16:4 28:6	82:5 84:3 100:12	64:6 66:14 71:2,9
116:17 125:14	90:4 110:12	54:10 101:14	100:16 102:15	74:18 76:11 79:9
129:1 141:15	situation 11:16	<b>source</b> 124:10,12	103:12 104:1,9	79:21 80:4,5,17
146:18	24:13 74:9 75:20	124:14 125:10	158:6	81:8,10 83:21
<b>signing</b> 76:16	76:22 102:2	sources 125:11	<b>spin</b> 149:12	88:21 107:19
<b>sign-up</b> 9:22	<b>slide</b> 109:7,12	south 41:9 143:3	spiritual 58:6	115:17 128:13
silent 156:13	110:8 111:7,21	sovereign 18:3	splendid 28:20	130:7 131:4
simple 87:13 89:19	112:12,16 113:2	24:21	Spokane 114:22	136:12 153:1
<b>simply</b> 91:13	115:21,22 116:1	sovereigns 20:1	115:5,6	stated 101:16
110:22 113:9	125:2	35:21	<b>spoke</b> 127:18	statement 20:17
115:10 130:9	<b>slides</b> 115:22	sovereignty 20:13	148:20	32:10,21 50:19
single-shell 118:15	<b>slow</b> 120:13	spawning 29:18	<b>spoken</b> 22:19 40:21	52:7,15 65:7 85:9
129:10	<b>slowly</b> 113:7	speak 9:17 10:5	sprint 89:2 93:18	91:17,19 92:1
<b>singular</b> 143:15,21	small 90:7 153:12	29:7 31:15 32:8	square 59:7 99:6	112:2 123:22
<b>sir</b> 4:9 21:4 61:18	153:22 154:4,7,20	33:8 40:13 86:9	105:22	144:19,22 157:5
120:3 158:11	155:2,10	109:14 133:1	stabilization 47:22	158:17,20 159:1,9
sit 39:18	smaller 69:14 84:5	144:15	stabilize 77:9	159:12 162:6
site 6:7,12 7:15	87:6 154:19	<b>speaker</b> 10:4 39:22	stabilizing 77:4,16	statements 8:10,10
	l		l	l

٦

10.10	4 95 1 104 5	0.00.0.10		4 <b>U 22</b> 14 40 14
10:18	store 27:1 134:5	8:22 9:2,12	supporting 87:7	talk 22:14 40:14
states 13:13 14:2,7	stored 30:8 47:3,5	subject 64:1 107:2	supportive 55:1	41:12 49:11 83:20
14:22 16:13,17,20	64:10 77:10 117:9	137:21	supposed 35:2,2	98:18 101:4
17:19 19:5 20:4	134:8,11 143:2	subjected 101:13	100:8 133:22	113:10 122:14
20:12 23:1 25:3	160:18	submarines 144:2	<b>supreme</b> 20:5 23:1	147:3
26:1 27:10 28:22	storehouse 43:9	submit 7:13 159:11	<b>sure</b> 30:5 32:2 51:9	<b>talked</b> 39:10
30:21,22 44:17	storing 65:2 115:2	submitted 126:21	62:13 76:8 93:10	talking 40:10,10,11
66:21 67:4,14	139:8	subsequent 161:4	94:22 100:8 107:5	81:4 122:13
68:4,4,20,21 71:4	straight 125:17	subsequently 14:10	122:11 157:11	146:16
80:11 82:14,16	stranded 64:12	73:6	surely 37:1	tank 42:2,3 45:7
107:15 140:21	strategic 139:5	substantial 6:9	surface 26:15	111:22 112:6
148:7,21 149:9	141:11	substantive 26:5	144:3	125:13,15 126:3,6
158:19	strategy 138:3	153:3	Susan 2:12 3:11	126:8 129:8,11
statewide 115:8	144:1	succeeded 67:11	85:13,21	tanks 33:18 45:8
station 15:12 97:14	stream 70:6 84:21	success 72:12	susceptible 101:10	47:8 78:16 87:9
120:3 133:9	strengthened 35:16	successes 137:6	110:1	92:19 110:12
status 54:2 105:1	strenuous 58:10	successful 67:9	sustain 42:21	111:17 112:6
statute 23:14	stress 28:14 160:11	137:20 142:5	sustainability	118:15
statutes 20:6	stretch 64:20	successfully 58:11	141:18	Tank-Closure
statutory 139:19	strict 8:5 74:13	68:8 79:13 81:6	sustained 141:13	123:21 127:15
141:6	strife 42:22	succinct 145:18	sweat 49:6	task 5:16 28:16
stay 31:16 43:12	striking 36:14	sudden 156:14	system 12:19 35:16	103:3
steam 99:16	stringent 94:11	<b>sufficient</b> 48:6 65:9	53:6,7 137:17	tasked 152:22
steel 134:9	strong 66:3 92:14	suggest 81:5	systems 54:14,17	taxpayers 140:1
step 78:10 85:5	<b>stronger</b> 36:1,11	suggested 82:3	60:11 112:7	151:8,9
stepping 80:1	strongest 41:13	suggesting 75:13	137:13 142:9	teaches 49:10
steps 77:16 147:2	53:20	suggestion 157:9	T	teachings 42:20
157:3	strongly 37:3 60:5	suitable 45:15	table 28:20 90:5	43:10,11 57:13,20
stepwise 138:18	101:3 107:17	138:14		technetium-99
stewards 51:22	129:10	summaries 8:9	98:7 tog 20:20	116:21 125:6
stewardship 48:17	strontium-90	summarize 92:12	tag 29:20	technical 22:3,13
stick 148:18	109:15	summarizing 93:7	<b>take</b> 4:4 21:19 25:6	28:13 136:19
<b>stolen</b> 149:10	structure 82:7	146:1	36:17 38:7 42:6	technologies 28:9
<b>stop</b> 134:3 146:4	140:15	summary 109:4	49:12 54:14 61:11	36:20 37:20 53:15
stopped 115:9	struggle 94:22	145:18	64:17 66:12 68:10	137:13 138:15
storage 6:15 9:6	Stuart 2:8 3:8 40:1	summer 106:13	78:11 80:8 85:11	140:5 141:9 142:7
27:18 45:18 46:3	40:22	108:18	88:5 95:9 98:13 109:18 110:10	153:2,7,11,15,17
46:5,15 47:4	students 108:17	<b>supplies</b> 142:16		153:21 154:3
51:21 62:10 64:10	113:14	supply 141:18	115:20 120:12,13	technology 9:4
64:17 65:21 66:6	study 102:13	supplying 134:19	129:13 139:13	24:8 27:8,12
66:9 68:12,17	161:21	support 44:11 66:5	157:3	35:11 37:18
70:13 71:1,6 78:6	stuff 55:12	68:11 76:13,18	<b>taken</b> 60:18 90:18	136:21 138:6
78:8 90:16,17,19	stumped 11:21	122:2 138:17	98:6 147:2,10	141:16 142:1
90:20 98:3 117:3	subcommittee 9:5	139:16 141:4,14	159:15 tokog 26:16 04:1 5	155:9
134:4 135:17	9:7,8 10:12 23:22	supported 57:11	takes 36:16 94:1,5	tectonically 28:3
139:4,11,18 140:6	75:5	76:17 97:12 98:21	94:10 taka baak 142:17	<b>Ted</b> 62:8
156:22	subcommittees	supporters 53:20	take-back 142:17	tell 57:13 92:13

94:16 119:14,18	108:7,9,21 109:1	148:3,12 150:8	32:8 60:7 77:1	83:10 84:5 135:16
119:21 122:22	109:2 114:18,20	151:2,5 152:14	87:21 103:15	transported 66:17
127:21 148:2	117:12,15 122:16	154:5,8 155:9,21	108:15 109:14	73:5 113:22
152:4	122:17 123:11	156:7,19 157:19	110:3 121:8 127:2	transuranic 67:7
temporarily 134:5	126:13,15 131:18	158:9,19	127:8,12 132:7,21	116:6,11
temporary 123:4	131:20,21,22	thinking 149:21	133:1 144:15	travel 28:17 63:22
156:22	132:2,11,12,15,22	156:9	146:19 158:5	144:3
<b>ten</b> 109:22	144:19 145:13	<b>third</b> 69:10	today's 9:15	traveling 40:19
<b>tendency</b> 154:20	150:10 155:17	<b>thought</b> 46:11	tomorrow 6:18,22	63:21 64:6
Tennessee 157:12	157:16,21 158:13	54:10 106:21	10:1 96:13 124:13	treated 128:22
<b>tens</b> 47:20	159:2,7,8 161:20	thoughtful 117:16	127:9 143:6 156:3	treaties 14:6 20:5
term 32:21 33:22	162:1,14	thoughts 34:12	156:15 159:5	29:4
terminated 19:17	<b>thanks</b> 71:20 82:22	75:18 79:20	162:10	treatment 6:15
terms 34:15 41:13	108:5 126:9	105:12,18 146:12	tomorrow's 9:10	87:14 88:1 89:15
76:9,20 77:19	Than-Class-C-W	thousand 65:17	9:15,19 14:12	99:15 110:15
78:18 87:3 128:3	116:12	114:9	tons 82:5 100:16,18	treatments 47:22
131:14,17 135:18	thing 12:1 55:9	thousands 47:20	<b>top</b> 106:7	treaty 13:22 15:10
153:14	106:20 149:8	57:12 65:14	total 90:22	16:13,16 17:3,17
territories 24:22	things 22:14 24:9	<b>three</b> 1:9 9:2,12	<b>Touche</b> 95:15	17:22 18:10 19:18
terrorists 149:11	29:3 32:2 33:19	64:14 81:17 98:15	tough 29:14 38:4	20:15 22:17,21
testament 36:6	35:17,22 43:20	109:22 116:3	146:22 160:22	25:3 26:7,11
testifying 36:7	58:9,18 74:12	120:22	tour 11:3 21:19,19	27:19 31:21 110:3
testimony 20:20	83:8 106:22 120:9	<b>throw</b> 82:11	62:13 77:20 86:3	treaty-defined
21:1 60:6 72:5	122:20 146:21	tied 159:22	104:18 132:13	18:21
79:7 90:8 109:3	148:14 150:13	<b>tightly</b> 48:20	145:14	treaty-reserved
123:8,19 155:18	152:18 155:7,11	<b>TIM</b> 2:2	touring 6:12	25:14 26:8 42:17
157:16	think 21:19 22:5	<b>time</b> 5:10 8:2,5,7	108:22 109:2	tremendous 102:22
<b>thank</b> 4:4,8,13 7:17	23:11 24:6,9	10:3 12:6 17:2,13	<b>toxic</b> 15:6	104:10
11:2,6 12:10,11	29:10,11 30:13	19:12 20:20 21:22	toxic-free 161:19	tremendously
13:3,6,16 20:18	31:18 33:14 34:22	22:9 25:15 30:9	tradition 42:12	124:15
20:20,21,22 21:4	35:1,5,7,7,8,9,11	31:14 37:17 42:14	traditional 44:9,13	trenches 87:8
21:5,12,15,16	35:13,19,21,22	58:2 63:8,11	<b>tragic</b> 16:2	118:21 125:21
24:19 32:6,10	36:4,4,9 37:15,16	64:21 68:9 69:7	training 59:6	128:11,18
33:6,10 34:19	37:19,22 38:1,6,9	77:1,12,18 81:16	transcript 8:18	tribal 6:18 12:15
38:14,16 39:20,21	38:18 53:14 74:3	86:18 87:22 91:2	transferred 140:14	13:9 14:5 15:21
40:7,18 51:3 52:3	77:15 78:13 80:6	91:6 94:6,10	transparency 12:3	18:5,14 19:5,13
52:4,14 53:12	81:10 83:2,18	105:3 114:10	32:20 131:17	20:1,3,7,13,14
55:21 56:2,11	85:5 92:9 95:4	119:4 122:18	transport 54:3	22:5,20 23:15
59:15,16,20 61:1	101:5 104:11	125:13 129:15	83:21	26:16,18 35:13
61:3,5,14,19 62:1	105:21 106:8,11	136:22 143:9	transportation 9:6	39:2 44:13 48:10
71:14,18 72:4	107:12,16 109:19	152:5 156:21	62:10 63:19 66:12	tribe 2:7,10 3:6,9
74:22 75:1 76:7	110:6 112:14	timely 60:18	66:20,22 67:6,18	14:12 21:8 22:12
83:15 85:9 86:2,4	114:5,13,16 115:7	times 16:2 109:16	67:22 68:6,7,11	22:15 23:5,7,9,20
86:7,8 91:21,22	120:17 121:19	109:22 112:21	68:17,19 69:8	23:22 24:20 25:5
92:3,7 95:16,18	122:9 126:8	113:5 116:3,6	72:2,10,14,20	25:14,17,20 26:2
95:19,22 96:5,7	127:16,19 128:13	today 5:22 22:6	73:2,18,21 74:5	26:5,11,12 27:2,5
105:5,6,10 108:4	100 11 140 10	0416207212	74 12 01 22 02 11	27.10.22.20.0
105.5,0,10 100.1	136:11 146:16	24:16 30:7 31:3	74:13 81:22 82:11	27:10,22 29:9

		1		
31:8,11,11 39:6	77:22 151:22	16:19 19:5 20:4	valuable 6:13	117:10 124:9
56:9 80:14	<b>types</b> 98:4 142:8	20:12 23:1 25:3	value 17:15 69:22	<b>vitrify</b> 77:21
<b>tribes</b> 2:4,8 3:4,7	typically 53:1	25:22 27:10 28:22	141:15	<b>voice</b> 136:6
13:14 14:7 16:9	63:22 154:19	30:20,22 44:16	<b>values</b> 60:10	<b>voices</b> 15:21
22:9,10 26:3 29:1		80:11 140:21	variety 6:14 71:15	<b>volume</b> 141:19
35:20 36:3 40:3	<u> </u>	148:7,21 149:9	<b>various</b> 25:16 59:4	voluntary 80:10
41:2 48:19 53:17	ultimate 26:13	158:19	98:1 105:1 137:12	<b>volunteer</b> 86:21
53:20 60:8 86:14	136:15	<b>units</b> 19:18 97:6	varying 90:5	<b>vote</b> 115:13
105:13 110:3	ultimately 135:13	university 108:16	<b>vast</b> 111:16 128:17	
128:15	139:1	unlined 118:21	130:2	W
<b>tribe's</b> 24:7 25:14	<b>Umatilla</b> 2:9 3:7	125:21 128:10	<b>vaults</b> 47:6	wagon 120:3
25:18 35:9 36:9	40:3 41:3	130:1	<b>vehicle</b> 73:21	wait 104:15 146:4
<b>TRIDEC</b> 96:18,20	unacceptable 27:7	unpredictable 64:2	vehicles 23:16	waivers 45:12
97:4,9,11,16	65:15 111:6	unraveling 127:13	<b>veto</b> 115:12	wall 143:20
103:8 104:19	unauthorized	unreasonable	viability 138:19	Wana 57:4
tried 29:10	142:15	36:22	viable 50:10	<b>Wanapum</b> 2:10 3:9
<b>tries</b> 24:6	uncertainty 93:2	unrestricted 26:16	<b>Vic</b> 2:18 3:16 132:5	56:9,15,19,19
<b>trip</b> 31:3	unclaimed 25:8	update 9:13	132:6,9,19 158:5	57:4,10,13,18,22
<b>Tri-Cities</b> 101:7	underestimate 50:8	<b>upfront</b> 94:20	Vice 21:10 23:19	58:7,11,16,20
Tri-City 2:14 3:12	69:6	upsets 98:9	<b>VICKY</b> 1:14	59:3,7
96:3,17	underground 87:9	uranium 112:13	<b>video</b> 8:18	want 8:15 11:8
tri-party 86:17	129:2 160:18	uranium-238 112:4	<b>view</b> 22:5,17 28:20	12:3 30:5 36:1,9
<b>Trojan</b> 64:8	underneath 130:14	<b>urge</b> 135:22	35:9 75:8 105:17	39:5 40:12 43:18
<b>TRU</b> 27:6 44:19	understand 21:9	urged 129:9	111:10 135:5	51:7 54:15 71:20
98:13 100:3 116:8	28:15 30:2,3 33:9	urgently 44:17	154:13	75:4 113:10
<b>trucks</b> 74:8	44:15 54:3 57:1	<b>use</b> 44:9 49:4,5	views 6:20 22:3	121:11,13 122:1,1
true 48:1 50:1	59:12 66:5 81:2	53:7 84:12 85:1	27:5 82:9 106:9	122:16 145:3,4,5
75:15,15 149:21	93:4 101:20	88:9 89:5 96:18	virtue 25:2	145:13 152:15
trumped 38:3	104:17 124:8	105:20 106:1,2,15	vision 23:7 31:7	wanted 60:4 72:10
trust 14:3 17:15	151:20 160:22	110:4,7 120:20	44:6 52:8 143:15	89:22 144:21
20:11 23:9 26:1,4	161:11,14	121:2 131:5	143:18,21 144:6	155:16
35:10,21 58:14	understandable	135:18 142:15	144:11	wanting 72:3
135:4 136:3 137:8	60:13,15 79:11	147:5	visit 6:7 7:9 11:17	wants 111:12
trustee 43:22	understanding	useful 33:11 72:12	29:20 159:15	war 60:14,17 87:3
<b>try</b> 28:17 34:21	54:5 58:8,14	<b>uses</b> 44:14	visited 52:22 97:15	98:22 99:1
35:10 54:15 62:19	understood 75:9	usual 16:12 25:6	<b>visitor's</b> 29:20	warmed 39:3
70:17 80:22 121:3	137:7	utilities 151:7	vital 25:19 115:16	warning 43:12
trying 30:3 31:18	underway 52:19	utility 153:9	134:21	warranted 139:14
40:9 78:19 109:9	62:19	<b>utilize</b> 23:16	vitrification 37:12	Warren 2:4 3:5
<b>turn</b> 4:6 13:2 30:16	undesirable 16:1	utilized 29:13	41:16 48:3,5	12:15 13:8 38:19
114:18 120:13	<b>undue</b> 138:4	<b>U.S</b> 124:3 126:7	52:18,22 53:15	Washington 1:10
turned 98:16 99:10	unestimated 17:15	137:15 148:13	77:13,14 78:7	7:1 25:2 118:5
<b>two</b> 10:7 13:22 19:4	<b>Unfortunately</b> 16:6		94:2,8,19 112:10	143:4 159:17
51:8 53:7 80:15	unified 143:19	V	vitrified 47:3 69:20	Washington's 7:2
92:6 94:6 103:4	<b>unique</b> 18:14	<b>V</b> 1:15	78:6,17 88:6	wasn't 94:21 98:7
104:8 148:19	<b>United</b> 13:13 14:1	vadose 90:12	89:13 91:10	waste 5:7 6:10,16
true 21.9 70.1				
<b>type</b> 34:8 70:4	14:7,22 16:13,17	Valley 157:12	116:18,22 117:4,9	11:15 13:10,19

14:10 15:1,11,15	161:18	weren't 35:18	wish 10:5,18 13:16	wound 38:21
19:2,17 24:3,14	wastes 33:16 37:13	<b>West</b> 1:10	64:14 161:22	wrap 13:1 50:18
24:15 26:13 27:1	77:17 87:10,12	western 41:7 67:4	wishes 9:17 132:10	write 127:21
27:4,6,6 28:2 30:6	111:3,15 112:9,10	68:4,14,21 70:22	withdraw 5:6	writing 156:5,13
41:14,19 42:1	125:15 129:9,11	71:9,11 75:6	<b>witness</b> 21:6	written 7:13 33:12
44:19,19,22 45:2	130:1	76:13 79:8 82:14	159:19 160:4	71:10 79:9
45:3,7,11 47:1,2,4	water 26:15 39:10	we'll 22:5,14 24:15	witnesses 121:8	wrong 47:9
47:8,12 48:2,7	39:11 49:10 57:15	31:13 37:8 61:11	wonder 72:13	wrote 14:18 101:16
50:2,11 53:3,4	60:21 89:5 109:17	81:16 85:13,20	105:11	115:8
54:19 59:18 62:9	109:20 112:21	127:9	wondering 37:3	<b>WTP</b> 88:7
62:16,20,20 63:10	113:5	we're 4:22 11:4,11	54:1 119:3 148:11	
63:18,21 64:5,17	way 25:20 28:18	11:16,17 13:4	Woollen 10:9	Y
64:17,18 65:4,11	32:14 33:20 37:16	28:21 30:18 37:20	word 7:20 8:21	<b>Yakama</b> 2:6 3:4
66:11 67:7,8	37:17 38:7 39:12	39:7,18 48:17	9:14 156:15	12:15 13:9,15
68:16,20 69:12,18	41:8 52:6 73:4	49:13 51:21 54:22	words 31:16 121:11	14:1,9,15,17 15:4
69:21 70:4,6,15	74:6 76:12 80:20	61:6,17 64:18	154:14	15:7,9 16:10,15
70:16 72:4 74:20	82:12 98:5 102:3	74:17 75:22 77:13	work 5:15 6:11	16:20,22 17:5,8
76:20 77:4,21	103:19 120:19	77:14 90:10,21	7:12 9:1,3,13	17:12,13,16,19,22
78:16 80:13,22	136:2 149:21	95:11 108:13	22:12 24:2 27:10	18:1,4,10 19:4,8
82:6 84:8,21,22	150:22 152:6	109:8 117:8 118:9	43:17 54:21 62:3	20:19
86:10 87:17 88:1	154:21 158:10	123:1 127:4	62:11 79:20 80:3	<b>year</b> 47:17 65:7
88:3,6 89:13,14	ways 54:5 69:11	131:22 147:12	104:7 107:20	67:21 95:2,2
89:14,20 90:1,11	weapon 103:5	152:7,7 154:12,22	110:19 119:3	112:14 118:15
90:22 91:4,12,15	weapons 15:6	we've 8:9,15 9:17	121:1 134:21	years 36:21 42:11
92:11,15 93:1,5,9	19:14 101:1 149:1	25:21 31:5 42:15	135:3 152:10,14	42:15 43:7 47:20
93:13 97:19,22	weapons-complex	42:16 53:14 54:9	158:22 160:9	53:22 55:11 57:12
98:4,11,13,14,15	97:20 98:20 99:1	55:11,11 61:7	161:22	60:12,17 64:3,19
98:17 99:15,22	99:9 100:11,14	64:3 65:22 73:17	worked 67:3 83:20	64:21 65:14,17
100:2,3,5,7,12,14	101:8 103:22	73:20,22 80:9	94:17	66:2 68:5,10,16
100:22 101:2	104:21	83:19 92:9 117:4	worker 89:21	69:1 73:11 76:14
102:1 103:5,10,17	wear 29:20	127:8 155:6	workforce 86:13	77:8,12,13,14
103:20,22,22	weather 64:2 74:9	WGA 68:18	121:6	82:3 86:20 94:1
104:4 110:11,14	<b>Web</b> 7:15	<b>who've</b> 83:20	working 4:22 43:18	98:5,19 102:18
111:12,16 112:1	webcasting 8:14,14	wide 88:21	44:15 55:6,11	104:15 110:18
113:1,20,22 114:3	website 8:20	widely 46:13	68:3 84:7,13	112:4,22 113:4
114:17 115:3,4,12	WEDNESDAY 1:6	wide-scale 67:18	97:17 101:17	114:9,9 117:2
116:6,11,18,22	week 75:5	wife 120:2	102:7 113:14	133:12,15 134:2
117:4,10 118:10	weighed 70:22	willing 79:22 80:2	118:3	143:6,7 152:15
118:12,19 123:3	76:11	142:4 144:8	works 151:14	154:16 155:7,18
123:21 124:9,15	welcome 3:3 4:6	win 119:2	world 55:6 57:20	159:18
124:18,21 125:3	10:21 11:8 12:10	winds 115:5	60:14 98:22	<b>yellow</b> 12:21
127:15 128:20	13:7 41:4 56:16	<b>winter</b> 64:2	143:16	young 122:18
130:3,5,9,14,15	56:17,20 61:22	wintering 17:13	worried 39:7 123:1	123:8
133:18 135:2	158:21	<b>WIPP</b> 67:20 72:12	148:21	younger 114:7
137:16,21 138:12	welcoming 12:2	73:17,21 74:5,12	worry 149:4,8	<b>Yucca</b> 5:8 15:1
141:3 143:2 160:1	wells 109:16	81:4 82:11 116:9	worth 70:13	45:14 69:5 98:6
160:5,6,8 161:3	went 85:17	wisdom 42:21	wouldn't 38:8	98:12 100:6,21

i				_
101:12,18 102:12	<b>160</b> 112:21	<b>4</b> 3:2 154:15	<b>800</b> 86:19	
101.12,18 102.12	<b>160</b> 112.21 <b>162</b> 3:22	<b>4,000</b> 154:13	<b>86</b> 3:11	
102.13,17 103.9	<b>182</b> 5.22 <b>1855</b> 16:13,14 17:4	<b>4:26</b> 162:15	00 5.11	
115:11 138:21	,	<b>40</b> 3:8 155:7	9	
115.11 158.21	22:17,21 25:3 <b>1943</b> 17:4	<b>40</b> 5.8 155.7 <b>40-some</b> 127:16	<b>9</b> 14:16 16:14	
138.0			<b>9,000</b> 106:1	
Z	<b>1963</b> 97:1	<b>43</b> 125:20 128:10	<b>90s</b> 105:22 130:9	
<b>zone</b> 90:13	<b>1980s</b> 63:7	129:22,22	<b>903</b> 105.22 150.9 <b>92</b> 47:1	
<b>ZOIIC</b> 90.13	<b>1982</b> 99:22 133:21	<b>44</b> 143:7	<b>957</b> 16:14 25:4	
\$	135:2	<b>45,000</b> 99:14	<b>96</b> 3:12	
<b>\$10</b> 102:15	<b>1984</b> 133:17	5	90 5.12	
<b>\$290</b> 133:17	<b>1986</b> 115:8			
<b>\$290</b> 133:17 <b>\$34</b> 133:18	<b>1987</b> 100:5	<b>5</b> 15:18 47:17		
<b>\$8</b> 110:16 158:8	<b>1989</b> 19:7 77:11	<b>50</b> 36:21 88:2		
φ <b>ο</b> 110.10 130.0	<b>1993</b> 44:16	109:11,13 110:4		
0	<b>1998</b> 53:18 100:9	113:5 130:2 155:7		
<b>08-6</b> 68:18		<b>500</b> 86:19		
<b>09-5</b> 71:4	2	<b>53</b> 110:10		
09-5 / 1.4	<b>2,000</b> 113:4	<b>56</b> 3:9		
1	<b>2:53</b> 85:17	<b>560</b> 100:16		
112:20	<b>20</b> 60:17 64:19 66:2	<b>580</b> 17:6		
<b>1,000</b> 42:11 59:7	77:13 85:12 90:5	586-square-mile		
112:22	94:1 98:5 104:15	99:4		
<b>1</b> ,500 109:16	133:15			
<b>1,700</b> 111:19	<b>200</b> 63:22	6		
<b>1:00</b> 162:13	<b>2001</b> 134:5	<b>60</b> 36:21 105:22		
	<b>2004</b> 113:18	159:18		
<b>1:30</b> 1:9 4:2	<b>2008</b> 110:22	<b>60s</b> 97:11		
<b>10</b> 7:22 12:21 67:22	<b>2009</b> 15:18 23:8	<b>60,000</b> 82:4		
77:8,12,14 104:15	<b>2010</b> 1:6 14:16	<b>61</b> 3:10		
110:18 154:15	2015 99:4 104:3	<b>65</b> 64:20		
<b>10,000</b> 42:15 43:7	2040 118:15 129:11	<b>67</b> 98:19		
109:21 117:2	<b>21</b> 3:6			
<b>10:00</b> 10:3	<b>215</b> 127:20	7		
<b>100</b> 152:15	225 88:18	<b>70</b> 64:21 99:16		
<b>108</b> 3:14	<b>25</b> 68:5 133:12	100:13		
<b>11</b> 3:3 67:20		<b>70s</b> 97:11		
<b>12</b> 16:13 25:3 53:22	3	<b>700</b> 100:18		
120:2 134:2	<b>3</b> 69:1 118:11	<b>7016</b> 1:10		
<b>125</b> 112:4 114:9	124:20	<b>75</b> 99:6		
<b>13</b> 3:5 17:9 24:22	<b>3:14</b> 85:18	<b>791</b> 64:8		
<b>13-year</b> 120:2	<b>30</b> 104:15			
<b>132</b> 3:16	<b>300</b> 100:18	8		
<b>14</b> 1:6 143:6	<b>31-seat</b> 86:12	<b>8</b> 110:18 154:15		
<b>15</b> 85:12 110:6	<b>34</b> 64:10	<b>8,000</b> 67:21		
<b>158</b> 3:20	<b>375</b> 97:4	<b>8:00</b> 10:2		
<b>16</b> 116:6	<b>3890</b> 112:14	<b>8:30</b> 162:11		
<b>16,000</b> 109:1 118:4	JUJU 112.14	<b>80</b> 12:5		
118:8	4	<b>80s</b> 97:11		