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Statement of

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Press Conference on DOE Contracts for New Reactor Nuclear Waste

Good afternoon!

My name is Kevin Kamps. I am a radioactive waste specialist with Beyond Nuclear.

I want to thank Arjun for having us participate in this IEER news event.

I too share his concern that Americans simply do not appreciate the gargantuan task that this nation faces in dealing with the more than 100,000 metric tons of current and expected highly radioactive nuclear fuel from atomic reactors.

The bottom line here is that we have an industry and a White House proposing to race ahead with new reactors when we haven't figured out how to clean up the highly radioactive mess created by the first wave of reactors.

Instead, 28 years after passage of the Nuclear Waste Policy Act, 35 years after the repository search began, 53 years into commercial nuclear power, and 68 years after Fermi first split the atom during the Manhattan Project, the U.S. still has no safe, sound, permanent storage plan for high-level radioactive waste.

As Arjun explained … the FOIA documents we now have show in detail how the outgoing Bush Administration took a bad radioactive waste disposal situation and somehow managed to find a way to make it even worse.

As Arjun said, the recently cancelled Yucca Mountain repository – even if it were open today, 35 years after the process to create it started – would already be filled to its legal limit of 63,000 metric tons of commercial waste by this spring.

Now what did he mean when he said that a second Yucca Mountain also would be filled up under existing legal agreements – including the flurry of deals inked by the Bush Administration in the few short weeks between election day 2008 and the Obama inauguration in 2009?

It would happen like this …

A second repository the same size would be filled with the 42,000 additional metric tons of irradiated fuel yet to be produced by existing nuclear reactors … and the 21,000 metric tons that would be produced by the 21 proposed reactors covered under the Bush-industry agreements.

Now … obviously … some of those 21 reactors may not be built and operated. But you've heard the calls for 100 new reactors … and the nuclear industry just last week went on record calling for 45 new reactors by 2030.

21 new reactors would "top off" the second Yucca Mountain site … and another two dozen on top of that would fill more than a full 33 percent of a *third* Yucca Mountain-style repository with a legal limit of 63,000 metric tons.

I have been asked to run through the 21 reactor projects covered in those "under the radar" Bush Administration agreements.

According to the FOIA records, the sites are:

- Duke Energy in South Carolina (Lee Units 1&2);
- Southern Nuclear in Georgia (Vogtle 3&4);
- NRG Energy, Toshiba, And CPS in Texas (South Texas Project 3&4);
- Unistar Nuclear in New York (Nine Mile Point 3);
- Unistar Nuclear in Maryland (Calvert Cliffs 3);
- Dominion/Virginia Electric in Virginia (North Anna 3);
- Florida Power and Light in Florida (Turkey Point 6&7);
- South Carolina Electric & Gas in South Carolina (Summer 2&3);
- Pennsylvania Power and Light in Pennsylvania (Bell Bend);
- Progress Energy in North Carolina (Shearon Harris 2&3) and Florida (Levy 1&2);
- Ameren UE (Union Electric) in Missouri (Callaway 2); And

- Luminant in Texas (Comanche Peak 3&4).

You can find more information about the history of the deals involving those sites and the related FOIA documents on the Web at www.ieer.org … we'll be repeating that information during the Q-and-A period.

That concludes my opening statement. I look forward to taking your questions.