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SPENT FUEL SOLUTIONS
INFORMATIONAL WEBINAR: MOTHERS FOR NUCLEAR
Via Zoom
TRANSCRIPT OF MEETING
March 20, 2026

1 SPENT FUEL SOLUTIONS

2 INFORMATIONAL WEBINAR: MOTHERS FOR NUCLEAR

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10 Transcript of video-recording meeting via Zoom

11 commencing at 9 a.m., Friday, March 20, 2026.

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1 WEBINAR SPEAKERS:

2 JESSICA LUTERNAUER - (COALITION MANAGER FOR SPENT
3 FUEL SOLUTIONS)

4 FERESHTEH BUNK - (OPERATIONS ASSOCIATE FOR MOTHERS
5 FOR NUCLEAR)

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1 Via Zoom, Friday, March 20, 2026

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3 JESSICA LUTERNAUER: Good morning.

4 We still have people joining, so we'll give it a
5 couple of minutes before we get started.

6 All right, good morning and welcome.

7 Thank you all for joining us today.

8 My name is Jessica Luternauer, and I am the
9 Coalition Manager for Spent Fuel Solutions.

10 Before we get started, I want to take a minute to
11 reflect on our coalition's work over the past several
12 years.

13 As you may know, we celebrated our five-year
14 anniversary earlier this week, which was very exciting
15 and it provided an opportunity to reflect on how far
16 we've come over the course of those five years.

17 Our coalition has grown from a very local group of
18 advocates to a diverse national organization with more
19 than 300 members in 16 states.

20 We've also seen a lot of progress at the federal
21 level with the introduction of the bipartisan Nuclear
22 Waste Administration Act in late 2024.

23 And of course more recently the Department of
24 Energy released their RFI asking states to express their
25 interest in hosting nuclear life cycle innovation

1 campuses and spent fuel storage and disposal facilities
2 would be the cost of entry for those campuses.

3 Responses to the RFI are due on April 1st and we're
4 really looking forward to hearing from the states that
5 respond and to hearing from DOE on what the next steps
6 might be.

7 Looking back a couple of years ago, as you know in
8 2023 DOE also funded 12 consortia to facilitate inclusive
9 community engagement and illicit public feedback on
10 collaboration-based siting management has spent nuclear
11 fuel and federal consolidated storage.

12 The consortia then conducted outreach to help reach
13 communities across the country and remove barriers to
14 participation in DOE's collaboration-based siting
15 process.

16 In past webinars, we've heard from DOE
17 representatives and we've heard from Energy Community
18 Alliance, which is one of the 12 consortia.

19 And we are now pleased to welcome a member of a
20 different consortia led by North Carolina State
21 University.

22 Fereshteh Bunk serves as Operations Associate for
23 Mothers for Nuclear, which is a nonprofit that supports
24 nuclear as our largest and most hopeful source of energy.

25 It was founded by mothers who were initially very

1 skeptical of nuclear power, but have since come to
2 believe that it is vital to addressing challenges such as
3 climate change, air pollution, and energy poverty.

4 We're going to start off as we usually do, with a
5 brief presentation followed by Q&A about Mothers for
6 Nuclear's work on collaboration-based siting and the
7 feedback that they've received during the process.

8 If time permits, we will take questions from the
9 audience.

10 We have received several in advance and are
11 planning to ask those.

12 But of course, please feel free to enter any
13 additional questions that you have in the chat.

14 Some of the questions we received are a little bit
15 outside the scope of this particular webinar, but we
16 definitely do appreciate the interest and we'll take
17 those into account for future webinars as it really
18 assists with our planning and selecting topics.

19 So with that, please join me in welcoming Fereshteh
20 Bunk.

21 FERESHTEH BUNK: Thank you so much, Jessica. It's so
22 great to be here. Can you see my screen all right?

23 Perfect.

24 So yes, as you explained, I'm here to talk about
25 our participation and the U.S. Department of Energy's

1 collaboration-based siting program.

2 So as, also thanks for the wonderful introduction,
3 my name is Fereshteh Bunk. I joined Mothers for Nuclear
4 about halfway through the program and I got to present at
5 all of our 2025 workshops. And so I had a really great
6 hands-on experience with this program.

7 And a little bit background about me, I grew up in
8 Southern California enjoying nature and I studied physics
9 in school and I wanted to learn how to support a better
10 energy future that was better for our environment and for
11 people on our planet. And so that's why I picked up a
12 minor in Indigenous Studies of Natural Resources and the
13 Environment and why I work for Mothers for Nuclear today.

14 So Jessica gave us some wonderful background on
15 collaboration-based siting, but a little bit more just in
16 case you're not super familiar, you know, the program
17 established in 2017 was to figure out how to best engage
18 communities across the U.S. on used nuclear fuel.

19 So if you're familiar with things like, you know,
20 the Yucca Mountain project, we have not been super
21 successful as a country in finding a permanent long-term
22 solution for our used nuclear fuel in a way that
23 everybody is happy about.

24 And so we took some notes from other countries like
25 Canada and Finland that had, you know, consent-based

1 siting programs and had some really great success in
2 siting deep geological repositories and decided to, you
3 know, work on a community-based program.

4 And so here's a little bit of an overview of spent
5 or used nuclear fuel across the U.S.

6 So they're mostly stored on site at operating or
7 decommissioned nuclear power plants like San Onofre in
8 Southern California.

9 And due to the Nuclear Waste Policy Act of 1982,
10 the federal government does have a legal obligation to
11 take ownership of and manage all of the used nuclear fuel
12 across the U.S.

13 And so this program, you know, is seen as kind of a
14 first step to try and fulfill that obligation. So our
15 consortium was one of 12.

16 And, you know, each group had their own kind of
17 strategy on how to address collaboration-based siting.

18 And so ours was really studying how to best engage
19 with people, how people in different backgrounds across
20 the U.S. want to talk about used nuclear fuel.

21 And so we hosted workshops all over the country,
22 and we invited as many people as we possibly could.

23 So we sent out flyers to universities, local, state
24 and federal politicians, industry members, nonprofits,
25 environmental groups, Native American tribes, and we

1 advertised at libraries, community centers, train
2 stations, and on social media.

3 We really wanted to make sure that everyone felt
4 welcome and that we had as diverse a group as possible
5 engaging in the conversation.

6 And so generally, our format was we had two
7 testimonial presentations that we hoped, you know, built
8 some trust and community between the audience and our
9 presenters.

10 And then we ended with a more technical
11 presentation and we took surveys throughout to see how
12 people, you know, engaged with conversation and the
13 content in our presentations.

14 So we had a variety of messengers, which we found
15 was really integral to our outreach.

16 First, we had Native Nuclear which is one of our
17 testimonial presenters and they were the actual only
18 tribal partner in the collaboration-based siting.

19 So the founder of Native Nuclear is part of the Yak
20 Tityu Tityu Yak Tilhini Northern Chumash Tribe on the
21 central coast of California and their ancestral lands are
22 underneath and on the property of Diablo Canyon Nuclear
23 Power Plant in California.

24 So they have this really unique tie to nuclear
25 power that not a lot of tribes do.

1 And so they shared their perspective and how, you
2 know, the nuclear fuel cycle and nuclear energy ties in
3 with their own native philosophies as well as talking
4 about, you know, the historic wrongs and how various
5 native peoples were taken advantage of and betrayed by
6 the nuclear industry and things like uranium mining.

7 Then we had our North Carolina State team. We had
8 Doctor Hayes who did our technical presentation about,
9 you know, putting radiological risk in context for our
10 audience.

11 He's a certified engineer, certified health
12 physicist, teaches at North Carolina State, worked at the
13 WIPP repository and is part of the Nuclear Emergency
14 Support Team.

15 So he has just a wealth of experience to draw upon.

16 And then he works with Lisa Marshall, and she was
17 our MC and gave our introduction at the beginning of our
18 workshops, our overview of what used nuclear fuel is and
19 what it looks like, kind of like those first two slides I
20 showed you, and a lot more.

21 But she's an energy geographer by trade, and she's
22 the immediate past president of the American Nuclear
23 Society, and she's actually the first black woman to be
24 the president of American Nuclear Society, which is
25 really exciting.

1 We also then, of course, had a bunch of
2 undergraduate students and graduate students and
3 international students working on this project and
4 engaging with people at our workshops.

5 And then of course, we had our team Mothers for
6 Nuclear.

7 And we consist of women, mothers,
8 environmentalists, many of whom work in the nuclear
9 industry in various capacities.

10 And as Jessica explained, our founders were
11 originally skeptics of nuclear power and had to ask a lot
12 of questions, working directly in the industry changed
13 their mind.

14 So each of our individual groups hopefully had
15 somebody that our audience could relate to and trust.

16 And we did receive repeated audience feedback
17 about, you know, which of our presenters guests felt
18 comfortable with or able to trust and how important it
19 was to have those diverse representatives for them.

20 So here's the slide that we actually shared at the
21 beginning of our presentation.

22 And so it was just showing our unique engagement
23 style and set the tone for how we wanted to interact with
24 the audience.

25 This is another slide we shared.

1 And so, you know, you don't really see a lot of
2 representations at all, let alone accurate
3 representations of what used nuclear fuel looks like in
4 the general media.

5 And so one thing that we really value at Mothers
6 for Nuclear is humanizing nuclear.

7 And so these are pictures of our friends at, you
8 know, used fuel storage installations right next to it,
9 demonstrating that, you know, it's so well shielded that
10 it's safe to stand next to.

11 And even our friend Maddie on the right there is
12 pregnant in this photo.

13 And our co-founder, Heather really likes to share,
14 you know, her own experience and seeing that photo, she
15 has a little twinge of, you know, fear or worry for
16 Maddie and her baby because it's a natural thing to, you
17 know, have those kinds of emotional reactions to things
18 that might seem a little scary.

19 And but Heather, you know, is lucky to have a
20 wealth of experience working in the industry and you
21 know, knows that Maddie and her baby are perfectly safe
22 standing there so she can self-regulate those emotions
23 herself.

24 She has a really unique experience, Heather does,
25 as the first nuclear operator to go through pregnancy

1 while working at Diablo Canyon Nuclear Power Plant.

2 And you know, that was a very emotional experience for
3 her.

4 She had a lot of family members that were worried
5 about the health and safety of her and her child.

6 And you know, that was really a prime experience to
7 see just how much her co-workers and the staff and the
8 nuclear power plant itself cares for her and her health
9 and the health of her family and you know, her kid's like
10 16 now and great.

11 So this is just a really unique example that not
12 everybody gets to see all the time.

13 So when it came to our workshops themselves, we had
14 a huge rotating team, which lent a wealth of experience
15 and different perspectives, which is always super
16 helpful.

17 We had nine in person workshops and through virtual
18 workshops, over 700 registrations.

19 And then when it came to analyzing our results, we
20 had over 200 surveys that we were able to, you know,
21 match questions to to analyze their responses.

22 So these are some of our more technical results.

23 This graph here is our five questions where we saw
24 a statistically significant positive change.

25 So when it comes to topics of risk concerns like

1 around accidents, terrorism, long-term storage, there was
2 a significant decrease in concern.

3 So people who came in worried about those things
4 came out of our workshop with some of those fears and
5 concerns assuaged.

6 And then we also had a lot of people come out
7 feeling a lot more positively and supporting nuclear
8 energy when comparing to other clean energy sources and
9 even feeling that, you know, the clean energy from
10 nuclear power is worth the long-term storage trade-off of
11 our used nuclear fuel.

12 However, when it came to, you know, concerns about
13 consent, cost oversight, long-term accountability, we
14 didn't really see concerns decrease reliably in those
15 areas.

16 And we kind of interpreted those results to be that
17 when it comes to, you know, fears that are directly
18 related to something that we have a lot of scientific
19 evidence about, maybe some, you know, learning those
20 things and learning those facts can help assuage some of
21 those concerns.

22 But when it comes to like the economy and your
23 relationship to governing bodies or whoever's in charge
24 of these used nuclear fuel installations, building that
25 trust and you know, lowering concerns about that kind of

1 process is definitely going to be requiring longer-term
2 engagement and more repeat engagement.

3 We also found that participants who entered with
4 higher initial trust, so, you know, we asked people as
5 part of our surveys like what they thought about our
6 messengers and if they felt that they could trust us.

7 So people who felt like they could trust us were
8 obviously more likely to change their minds on various
9 topics and questions we asked.

10 And then not the perfect opposite to that, but
11 another finding we did have was the people who entered
12 with higher concerns.

13 So on these concern-based questions, we asked them,
14 you know, to rank how concerned they were, like not at
15 all concerned, somewhat concerned or highly concerned.

16 And the people who marked highly concerned were
17 less likely to change their minds.

18 Which also makes sense.

19 Like if you come in with a lot of fear around
20 something, it'll probably need a lot more engagement for
21 you to be less worried, right?

22 And then one of the last more technical findings
23 that was really exciting was we had some statistical
24 evidence that the field of our audience when it comes to
25 opinions on nuclear fuel is not super binary.

1 It's not I'm completely for nuclear or completely
2 against nuclear and used nuclear fuel storage.

3 But instead we found, you know, a clear group of
4 what we're calling risk-aware supporters, so people who
5 generally supported nuclear energy but still held like
6 specific concerns about either safety or government or
7 other topics.

8 And then there's also other groups that we
9 identified that moderately supported the system, but
10 still had persistent worries.

11 So it's just nice to see that representation of how
12 diverse our feelings and thoughts are around these
13 topics.

14 And then, oh my gosh, when it comes to our more
15 qualitative lessons learned, there were so many.

16 So first it's much easier to absorb new information
17 with an existing relationship.

18 So building this relationship with whomever is
19 handling the used nuclear fuel project is very important
20 to our audiences.

21 Prioritizing accessibility is obviously important.

22 There's lots of different languages spoken across
23 the U.S. and not everybody has regular access to
24 internet, a cell phone, or social media.

25 So we had to take that into account when

1 advertising and at our workshops we did have paper
2 surveys available in addition to our virtual survey, and
3 many people even felt more comfortable taking the paper
4 survey even when they had access to a phone or some other
5 technology.

6 It's also important to recognize that audiences
7 vary in their familiarity with scientific language,
8 graphs and statistics.

9 And so, you know, in our technical presentation,
10 like Doctor Hayes's, it was really important that we
11 provided very clear explanations and context when trying
12 to present any kind of technical data.

13 It's very important to manage time and
14 expectations.

15 So these were full-day workshop engagements.

16 And so we always provided a timeline of what to
17 expect at the beginning of the day.

18 And it was really important to respect our
19 audience's time and stick to that.

20 We always at the end we ended with discussion and
21 we would invite people to stay past time if they so
22 liked.

23 And we had a lot of people that stayed to engage,
24 which was really exciting.

25 But it was really important to avoid the

1 impression that siting decisions were being rushed.

2 Many communities were interested in learning more
3 about used nuclear fuel, but there was still persistent
4 worry that decisions might move too quickly.

5 Communities consistently expressed a preference for
6 gradual repeated engagement rather than one-time events.

7 And generally trust and collaboration take time,
8 effort and consistent communication.

9 So I talked earlier about, you know, Canadian,
10 French and Finland consent-based siting programs and I
11 talked to someone who worked on the Canadian one and from
12 the very inception to that program to the final very
13 positively received siting of their deep geological
14 repository, that took about 40 years.

15 So it is it just really does take time to build
16 those connections.

17 And then I touched on this earlier also, but
18 representation and messengers really do matter.

19 So the process of building trust looks different
20 for everyone and people trust for different reasons.

21 So varying messengers with different backgrounds
22 creates more opportunities for connection and people are
23 more receptive when they can relate to the presenter.

24 And then do your research and really understand
25 each community's experience with nuclear energy before

1 arriving.

2 So we experienced communities across the country
3 really have different often deeply personal histories,
4 you know, maybe related to mining or remediation and a
5 whole breadth of topics.

6 And so you really have to be prepared to discuss
7 the broader nuclear ecosystem, not just used fuel, but
8 also mining, accidents, waste management and power
9 production.

10 And we found that entering community without that
11 kind of preparation definitely weakens your credibility.

12 And then of course, maintaining transparency and
13 self-awareness.

14 Some people might hesitate to engage with
15 government-led initiatives or, you know, openly pro-
16 nuclear advocates, which our team obviously was pro-
17 nuclear.

18 And so we had to work really hard in our
19 presentations to, you know, adjust our language and
20 mitigate our usual approach to try and be, you know, more
21 comprehensive and neutral in our discussions.

22 And then, but while acknowledging our internal
23 biases and being clear about our project goal and of
24 course, always encouraging participants to ask questions
25 and form their own opinions about what we're talking

1 about.

2 Ok, and last but not least, the future of used
3 nuclear fuel.

4 What can we see from this project?

5 Jessica also mentioned the RFI which the deadline
6 is upcoming.

7 So that's pretty exciting, and that's, you know, a
8 state-led initiative.

9 The current, the next phases that were previously
10 planned for collaboration-based siting specifically are
11 on pause as the government does this RFI program.

12 But the leaders and designers of the collaboration-
13 based siting program have been consistently at the table
14 with the decision makers for the RFI program, which is
15 really great to see.

16 I haven't read the entire proposal document yet,
17 but I know that they talk about community engagement at
18 least twice in what I've seen.

19 And the fact that it's a state-led initiative to
20 begin with, states coming forward themselves and saying
21 that we are interested in exploring this within our
22 state, you know, is one step of kind of a more bottom-up
23 approach rather than the federal government deciding
24 unilaterally where to put used nuclear fuel storage.

25 We also found generally that people really want to

1 talk about used nuclear fuel and you know, really
2 everything across the ecosystem.

3 So our audience and our participants repeatedly
4 wanted to talk more about radiation risk, the broader
5 nuclear fuel cycle, federal siting authorities, long-term
6 institutional responsibilities associated with interim
7 storage, transportation safety, emergency responses,
8 based longevity and a whole other wealth of topics.

9 And so that's really exciting to see.

10 And then participants who reported, one of the most
11 exciting findings for us, for Mothers for Nuclear
12 specifically, was that participants who reported that
13 they felt a connection to Mothers for Nuclear after our
14 presentation were substantially more likely to express
15 positive views across quite a few topics.

16 So like, I, I hope I made this clear enough, but
17 our goal of these workshops was not to change anybody's
18 mind about used nuclear fuel or about nuclear energy in
19 general, but really just to start conversations and
20 really gather data from our audience on how they respond
21 to talking about it and what kinds of questions and
22 concerns they have.

23 But, you know, in analyzing those responses, we did
24 find this and you know, as a group separately from this
25 program, Mothers for Nuclear is obviously an advocate

1 for nuclear energy.

2 And so it was really exciting that, you know, not
3 only do we connect with people, but when we do connect
4 with people, we do see those positive impacts that we
5 hope to see.

6 So we found that participants were eight times more
7 likely to strongly agree that nuclear energy should help
8 address climate change when they reported that they felt
9 connected to us, that they were four times more likely to
10 say nuclear energy is worth the trade-offs, like, you
11 know, finding a solution to long-term used nuclear fuel
12 storage and six times more likely to report trusting
13 nuclear-relating media.

14 So that was a really great experience.

15 We really hope to be a resource for all of you
16 guys.

17 We're so excited to work with SFS here and be here
18 today.

19 And a fun fact about this slide, these, none of
20 these are stock photos.

21 These are all real people, real moms and women who
22 know a lot about nuclear energy, maybe even work in the
23 field and really want to continue talking about nuclear,
24 all aspects of nuclear with you guys.

25 So thanks so much.

1 JESSICA LUTERNAUER: Thank you.

2 All right.

3 So we are now ready to get into our Q&A.

4 As a reminder, if you have questions, please enter
5 them in the chat and we will do our best to get to all of
6 them.

7 I see we've already got one question.

8 So you talked a little bit about some of the
9 different topics that people raised during your outreach.

10 What would you say are the most common themes that
11 you heard?

12 FERESHTEH BUNK: I mean, it really did depend on the
13 area that we were in, but I think some of the ones that
14 did repeatedly show up was cost, government structures
15 and programs like what exactly to expect and who will be
16 responsible.

17 And then transportation was also a big one.

18 And like I said, it did depend.

19 So we did a lot of workshops in Southern Utah where
20 there was recent, you know, uranium ore transportation
21 through the Navajo Nation south of us.

22 And so transportation was obviously a bigger topic
23 there than some of the other communities.

24 And so it really does depend.

25 But I feel like a lot of the topics that we did

1 hear about repeatedly, like, you know, cost and
2 transportation safety are really just kind of the topics
3 that come up a lot in nuclear discussions generally.

4 JESSICA LUTERNAUER: And it sounds like the feedback
5 really varied across different communities.

6 Would you say that there were any common themes
7 that stayed the same across every community?

8 FERESHTEH BUNK: Well, I mean, I think one thing
9 that was very consistent was that everyone was happy to
10 be there and to engage.

11 You know, it's not every day that you get invited
12 to come talk about used nuclear fuel in your country and
13 in your community.

14 And so a lot of people at every workshop were
15 really excited to participate and really wanted more
16 opportunities to engage and at all levels.

17 So that was really exciting.

18 JESSICA LUTERNAUER: And what do you think are the
19 biggest challenges to siting consolidated storage or a
20 repository? And how do you think they can be overcome
21 through outreach and education?

22 FERESHTEH BUNK: Yeah, so I mean one thing that our
23 group kind of felt was supported in this experience was,
24 you know the issue is largely a social one.

25 So I mean, we have the engineering and design

1 specifications to handle used nuclear fuel, like our
2 interim storage, our ISFSIs as is, are robustly designed
3 and well monitored and can last a century and then, you
4 know, replaced and repaired as needed.

5 And then we already have places like the WIPP Waste
6 Isolation Pilot Plant that safely stores other kinds of
7 radioactive materials.

8 And so I mean, we just have plenty of examples
9 that, you know, when it comes to the engineering of a
10 permanent disposition of used nuclear fuel that's not
11 quite the issue.

12 Like the Yucca Mountain project itself, like that
13 was fully built and there's still people maintaining that
14 site to this day or looking out after it at least.

15 And you know, that project didn't go through mostly
16 because of the public or in a large part, at least in
17 part of because of public pushback.

18 And so it really comes down to making sure that
19 communities feel heard and understand what's happening
20 and have a voice and a say of what's happening in their
21 community.

22 And so I'm really hopeful for, you know, these more
23 bottom-up approaches and general outreach obviously is
24 super important.

25 I think, you know, one interesting example of this

1 is the state of Utah right now is actually, their Office
2 of Energy Development is doing a statewide, you know,
3 educational campaign.

4 They're trying to engage with all 26 counties, I
5 think it is, about nuclear energy in general, as our
6 state is more interested in things like the RFI and
7 developing nuclear energy in general.

8 And so, I mean, we've seen it in this in our
9 workshops, right?

10 We have statistical evidence.

11 It varies obviously, but you know, talking to
12 people and, you know, sharing more information with them
13 that they might not have had previously and listening to
14 them makes a difference.

15 JESSICA LUTERNAUER: What do you think are the
16 biggest opportunities and what do host communities have
17 to gain from hosting a facility?

18 FERESHTEH BUNK: You know, it's, this was actually
19 another big question we had in our outreach.

20 And the thing is, is it really depends on the
21 community and what the community wants.

22 There's a lot of different things you could gain
23 from this.

24 Like I know one of the discussions with the RFI and
25 even before that came out, communities that were

1 interested in hosting used nuclear fuel, they were
2 interested in co-locating with reprocessing facilities.

3 And you know, having any kind of industry that's,
4 you know, creating a usable product is helpful for
5 economic development and brings jobs.

6 And but in addition to that, you know, I think that
7 this was part of the practice in Canada and their
8 consent-based siting process was asking communities what
9 they need specifically.

10 So it's like, oh, do you need more emergency
11 responders or more emergency response training in general
12 for your community?

13 Do you need more roads or road repairs in general?

14 And, you know, these are things that would support,
15 you know, transportation maybe or access to a used
16 nuclear facility site that you have in your community,
17 but also maybe existing community needs.

18 Maybe you want a museum and more educational
19 centers around that topic, around other things.

20 But it really the benefits vary.

21 And you know, each community is very unique.

22 It has different wants and desires.

23 So there's a lot of opportunities there.

24 And it's really up to how creative, you know your
25 community can be or your state could be with this RFI

1 and, and working through that, through those
2 opportunities with the government.

3 JESSICA LUTERNAUER: Great, thank you.

4 So based on all the feedback that you've received
5 and what you've heard from different communities, if you
6 were going to design a collaboration-based siting
7 process, what are the best practices that you would
8 recommend?

9 FERESHTEH BUNK: Best practices, well, one, I do
10 think that it's really important to have everybody at the
11 table.

12 So like our extreme breadth of outreach, trying to
13 get every person from every part of the community
14 involved is extremely important.

15 Something that we found a lot of success in that I
16 didn't touch on in our workshop was collaborating with
17 the communities themselves in even like designing the
18 program.

19 So in our last workshop events, we were actually
20 invited by Southern Utah, their Economic Development
21 Director to come and do these workshops.

22 So she had heard about our previous engagements in
23 Salt Lake City, Utah, and really felt, you know, my
24 community could benefit from talking about this.

25 And so she invited us in and really helped us

1 organize and structure our workshops.

2 I mean, even because of them, Utah is right next to
3 several native reservations.

4 We started with a tribal listening session first,
5 where we really just sat in a circle and listened to
6 tribal members and what their concerns and thoughts were
7 on everything before we did a single workshop.

8 And so, you know, those kinds of things really,
9 really benefit from, you know, insider knowledge.

10 People who are part of the community, understand
11 the community and know what they need and want and how
12 they operate is really, I think, influential for, you
13 know, other people to come in and try and talk about
14 something.

15 And there's also, you know, an additional part of
16 trust and credibility there.

17 You know, when you come into a community with the
18 support and recommendation of an existing community
19 member who already has trust and relationships built in
20 that area, it's a little bit easier for other people to
21 try to start taking the steps to listen to you and build
22 a relationship with you as well.

23 JESSICA LUTERNAUER: You mentioned in your
24 presentation that the subsequent steps in the
25 collaboration-based siting process are currently paused,

1 but we do have this RFI.

2 So how do you see the RFI building on some of the
3 work that the consortia have done?

4 FERESHTEH BUNK: Yeah.

5 So like I said, I do think that the fact that it's
6 a state-led initiative already is one step in a direction
7 that's, you know, been supported by our CBS progress and
8 what we found in our CBS program and the places where it
9 mentions community engagement and the initial documents,
10 you know, talk about how important it will be for the
11 state to do that community engagement and work with, you
12 know, the people within their state.

13 And so I mean, and I think there's a lot of
14 opportunities like really in every direction of
15 development in general to learn from our CBS program.

16 I mean, I think we, I mean, I haven't even seen yet
17 the results of our other 11 consortium members in total.
18 Reporting is in process right now and I'm really excited
19 to see some of those results because I know that we just
20 learned so much.

21 And really, you know, this collaboration-based
22 siting effort I think should be a part of all siting
23 decisions.

24 I mean, obviously it takes a lot more time and
25 money, which is not something we're really used to doing

1 in the U.S. all the time.

2 But I really do think it's important for all kinds
3 of siting projects.

4 And so I really hope that we can learn from what
5 we've done so far.

6 And I am saying that in the RFI, at least to some
7 extent.

8 And I hope that, you know, the states that are
9 applying, you know, ask maybe if a few states, one or a
10 few states get awarded this opportunity and are working
11 to implement their innovation campuses with the DOE.

12 I'm really hoping that they can reach out to people
13 like us who worked in CPS and, you know, get some help on
14 their community engagement as well.

15 JESSICA LUTERNAUER: Great.

16 So DOE is seeking interest from states, but your
17 outreach was focused more locally.

18 Do you, how do you see states and communities
19 working together moving forward?

20 FERESHTEH BUNK: Yeah, I mean, we found, I mean, the
21 whole process is very interconnected, right?

22 And so I mean, the state can make one decision, but
23 then, you know, cities and counties can make others and
24 individual communities will, you know, have thoughts on
25 the matter.

1 And in general, like a lot of our decisions in our
2 communities and in our states and in our country happen
3 through this kind of tree of communication and
4 collaboration between these levels.

5 And so, I mean, even in our workshops when we were
6 going to a community, we still involved and invited, you
7 know, state legislators and stuff because, you know,
8 state legislators are a part of all of the communities in
9 their state.

10 They're supposed to represent all of the
11 communities in their state.

12 So I mean, I think it's really important obviously
13 for communities and the state to work together
14 collaboratively.

15 And I think that they do.

16 And I mean, and I always encourage, you know,
17 individuals and communities to, you know, just be as
18 active as possible in their local government and their
19 state government and decision making along the way, you
20 know, attending meetings and informational sessions.

21 It's not dissimilar to the workshops we just held.

22 And I think there's a lot of opportunities to
23 engage and work together in that way.

24 JESSICA LUTERNAUER: Thank you.

25 So you've touched on this a little bit, but in your

1 view, what are the benefits of this type of approach
2 compared to previous attempts like Yucca Mountain?

3 FERESHTEH BUNK: Yeah.

4 So I mean, I know I personally don't always love
5 just being told what to do without being asked first,
6 right?

7 And I mean, it's really difficult for a lot of this
8 stuff we're doing in the U.S. in general, just because
9 we're such a huge country with such a diverse population
10 and all of our states are so unique and have their own,
11 you know, their own laws.

12 And even our counties and our cities have their own
13 laws and you know, so it's really hard to bring everybody
14 on board in something in general.

15 And I mean, we've seen that, you know, when the
16 federal government makes unilateral decisions without,
17 you know, bringing other people on board first that
18 people aren't pleased, which is understandable.

19 And so starting off like with the basis that you
20 are engaging people on the ground and asking individuals
21 and communities and counties and tribes and states from
22 the get go, I think it's just it's huge.

23 I mean, everybody wants to feel valued and listened
24 to and heard.

25 And I mean, if you actually make sure to implement

1 that feedback that you're getting, it really just does
2 wonders for building trust and relationship.

3 And, you know, especially in some of our workshops
4 where we engaged with more tribal members and stuff, you
5 know, there's a really long history of them being ignored
6 and betrayed by the United States government.

7 And so there's a lot of loss of trust there.

8 And they're not the only people within our borders
9 who have lost trust in our government in various
10 capacities.

11 And so it's just it's really important to have that
12 relationship and make sure it's strong, especially on big
13 projects like this that you want to be successful.

14 And so just taking the time to build those
15 relationships, I think will just be integral to our
16 country in general, but also for the success of these
17 projects.

18 I mean, like public protests have an impact and
19 they stop things like Yucca.

20 And so it's, it's just really important to have
21 that kind of public buy-in if you want to see success on
22 big projects like this.

23 JESSICA LUTERNAUER: And how can community members
24 and coalitions like Spent Fuel Solutions support
25 communication and education around spent fuel storage

1 and disposal?

2 FERESHTEH BUNK: Well, I mean, Spent Fuel Solutions
3 is already doing an incredible job having, you know,
4 quarterly webinars like this.

5 And so I mean, I encourage all community members to
6 continue to engage in every conversational opportunity
7 they have, like these webinars or if you see a workshop
8 in your area happening.

9 And then again, especially, you know, with this RFI
10 step being a state-led initiative, trying really hard to
11 like keying in and tuning into your state legislature and
12 your politics and what's happening is really important.

13 And you know, for example, Mothers for Nuclear is a
14 nonprofit with limiting lobbying power.

15 So we can't always directly support one legislation
16 over another, but we can and often provide resources to
17 our legislators and invite them to have conversations and
18 just learn more and talk about it more.

19 And so individuals and organizations alike both
20 have, you know, the public opportunity to just engage
21 with those final decision-makers and offer information to
22 them and ask questions and start conversations.

23 So like, you know, the Utah state legislator in
24 their last or this our legislative session just ended.

25 It's very short in the state of Utah.

1 And one of the bills that they talked about was,
2 you know, setting infrastructure to be able to apply for
3 and participate in this RFI program.

4 And so, you know, if you were Utahn and you had no
5 interest in, you know, being involved in this process,
6 then that's an opportunity for you to talk to your
7 legislators and tell them that you don't want this, this,
8 you know, bill to go through.

9 Or, you know, alternatively, if you want to learn
10 more or you want to provide resources to your legislature
11 or, you know, just be involved in the decision, just talk
12 to them.

13 Just really take every opportunity you can,
14 calling, emailing, showing up in person to meetings.

15 And the capital is huge, if you can manage it.

16 I know that that's hard to do, but yeah, there's
17 lots of opportunities out there.

18 And, you know, I'm really grateful for and, you
19 know, encourage programs like Spent Fuel Solutions and
20 Mothers for Nuclear to continue hosting and supporting
21 opportunities like this.

22 Just, yeah, take advantage of all of them.

23 That would be really great.

24 JESSICA LUTERNAUER: Thank you so much.

25 Those are all the questions we have from the

1 coalition.

2 But as I said, we did receive a few via email in
3 advance and then I see several in the chat here.

4 So our first question from the audience is about
5 reprocessing and I know this is a topic on a lot of
6 people's minds.

7 What would you say to those who would leverage the
8 nuclear waste funds to make reprocessing in the U.S. more
9 economical?

10 FERESHTEH BUNK: So I'm no financial expert and I
11 don't think that our organization has an official stance
12 on how to utilize that fund.

13 I'm, I mean, a lot of these kinds of decisions
14 comes down to what's even allowable legally.

15 And I know that was a, a big topic in our workshops
16 themselves because, you know, at the time of
17 collaboration-based siting the Department of Energy
18 wasn't quite sure, you know, what we would be siting if
19 we're talking about consolidated interim storage before a
20 deep geological repository or you know, what that would
21 kind of look like.

22 But a deep geological repository is still legally
23 required from that Nuclear Policy Waste Act moving
24 forward.

25 So, I mean, there's a lot of, there's a lot of like

1 legal specifications that I'm no expert on.

2 So I don't know what's possible and not possible.

3 And you know, a lot of things might not be legally
4 allowed now, but people change the laws and write new
5 bills and acts all the time.

6 And so, I mean, it's generally honestly quite a
7 complicated topic and I'm no expert on the perfect
8 solution, but I think there's opportunities and I think
9 there are experts out there that you could talk to and to
10 learn more about what kind of opportunities there are for
11 things like that.

12 And I do know that reprocessing in general is
13 something that the U.S. is really excited about and
14 really interested in a big part of this RFI.

15 And so, I and, you know, and financials are
16 generally, costs are generally a big question that people
17 always have.

18 And so I definitely encourage, you know, innovative
19 thinking on how to make this make the most sense for, you
20 know, our communities, our states and our country.

21 JESSICA LUTERNAUER: Thank you.

22 Our next question is about safety.

23 Do you believe that any future host communities can
24 trust that spent fuel storage canisters will be safe and
25 intact?

1 FERESHTEH BUNK: Yeah.

2 I mean, that's first and foremost a lot of people's
3 concerns.

4 A big thing of what we, big part of what we talked
5 about.

6 I hope that, you know, the pictures of our friends
7 standing next to them.

8 And, you know, I've had the opportunity to visit
9 San Onofre and stand on top of and next to their
10 different spent fuel storage canisters myself.

11 I hope that that can lend, you know, some hope and
12 ease of mind that's generally safe.

13 As far as I'm aware, I'm pretty positive about
14 this.

15 There has been no like deaths or severe injury from
16 used nuclear fuel storage in the U.S.

17 Those canisters are so incredibly robustly
18 designed.

19 It's a big part of what Doctor Hayes talked about
20 in his technical presentation at our workshops.

21 But the like design specifications and the tests
22 they have to go through to get approved are wild.

23 They have to like be set on fire and then sit
24 underwater and then get like dropped on a sharp point
25 like all in succession.

1 And there can be like zero breach of that
2 containment set, that containment structure in those
3 trials.

4 And so it is just really one of the most robust
5 engineering things you'll ever see.

6 It's like so much steel and concrete.

7 And so I mean, if you were standing next to or
8 living next to a used nuclear fuel canister, that would
9 really be one of the least of my concerns when it comes
10 to safety.

11 I, this is a little bit crass, but one of the
12 things that Doctor Hayes would say when talking about
13 these, this question and responding to these questions,
14 you know, something that people are concerned about and
15 something that we surveyed was like, you know, terrorism,
16 people are worried about like, oh, if you have used
17 nuclear fuel sitting somewhere, wouldn't that become a
18 target for, you know, a drone attack or something like
19 that?

20 And, you know, Doctor Hayes was like, I really hope
21 that they would target something like that rather than,
22 you know, anywhere where people are, any kinds of
23 buildings, because it's just those things are really
24 safe.

25 They have, there's videos you can find videos on

1 YouTube about like the testing they go through and like,
2 like little like drone strike simulations against these
3 canisters and they're fine.

4 So it's, I mean, it's been really reassuring for me
5 to learn too, because you don't hear much about used
6 nuclear fuel storage or what it's actually like or what
7 it means or like, yeah, how it's contained.

8 And so to learn the specifics of how just
9 incredibly well it's contained, it's been really
10 enlightening and special for me too.

11 JESSICA LUTERNAUER: Thank you.

12 So several of the questions that we received in
13 advance were about different potential options for
14 storage within California.

15 Is that something that you received any feedback on
16 during your outreach?

17 FERESHTEH BUNK: Yeah, we did do a workshop in San
18 Diego, actually.

19 Geez, I wish, I can't recall anything specific
20 there about people's wishes and desires for used nuclear
21 fuel in California.

22 We currently have at least three, maybe four, I'm
23 not quite sure.

24 We have a few used nuclear fuel sites in the state
25 of California, and not everybody's perfectly happy being

1 right near them.

2 I know a lot of people have concerns about San
3 Onofre because it's right there on the coast.

4 When I toured, it was really great and I fully
5 recommend people, you know, reach out to these places and
6 look into getting tours of their used nuclear fuel sites.

7 Their ISFSIs near them.

8 It's really educational, and, you know, the people
9 who work there and manage it can tell you so much about,
10 you know, what future plans are for those spaces and what
11 it's like.

12 Yeah, all of those engineering specifications and
13 stuff I talked about, we talked about like, earthquakes
14 and tsunamis and stuff.

15 And they explained, like the design specifications
16 and like, what it could take and then versus like, what
17 could possibly even happen naturally.

18 And it's designed like way above that.

19 So anyway, there's really a lot of great
20 opportunities to learn.

21 And I know one of the main concerns for San Onofre
22 is because it is on like a navy base that's being leased.

23 And so for that reason alone, they're interested in
24 moving it.

25 I mean, a lot of the, it's funny, I've heard like

1 some polarizing comments on used nuclear fuel in
2 California.

3 There's the people who are just like, I just don't
4 want it near me.

5 And I'd like to think that those people might not
6 really know as much about used nuclear fuel as I hope
7 some of you guys do now after hearing all about it today.

8 But and I will say that I didn't hear anybody at
9 any of our workshops that, you know, went through our
10 whole workshop, learned as much as they possibly could in
11 that day, and then at the end, were like, I still have no
12 desire of being near one.

13 We didn't, I mean, our survey results are sure
14 there's still people who are concerned, but I personally
15 didn't have those kinds of engagements.

16 And then there's definitely people who, you know,
17 are really familiar with it and are just like, oh, I want
18 it.

19 There's, there's some guy in California, I don't
20 remember his name.

21 He's in Northern California and he owns a
22 significant part of land.

23 And he is really trying.

24 He's like, give it all to me.

25 I want all of our used nuclear fuel on my land.

1 And some of the colleagues they worked with at
2 Native Nuclear themselves were like, sure, put it in my
3 backyard.

4 I don't care.

5 I think one of our colleagues was interested in
6 actually submitting like a proposal to host, but I don't
7 think they owned quite enough land to meet the minimum
8 requirements to host.

9 But I mean there's a lot of options.

10 Ultimately when it comes to where we eventually
11 move our used nuclear fuel, rail is a huge consideration
12 because the only way that we can withstand the weight of
13 moving these canisters at the moment is over rail.

14 And so, you know, wherever it goes it has to be
15 connected by rail.

16 And obviously I'd like to think that there's, you
17 know, a lot of community support for wherever it goes.

18 So if that's still somewhere in California, great.

19 And if not, that might also be the case.

20 I'm not sure yet.

21 JESSICA LUTERNAUER: Great, thank you. All right, we
22 have several questions in the chat.

23 So first, can you please address data which shows
24 increased cancer rates, especially in children living
25 near nuclear plants?

1 FERESHTEH BUNK: Especially in children, I'm not,
2 I wonder, so there's a few studies that I've seen that
3 make those kinds of suggestions and correlations.

4 The first that I saw were some European designs and
5 or designs, some European research papers.

6 And I immediately sent those to Doctor Hayes
7 because now he's my first-rate expert on radiation risk
8 and what that really means for us.

9 And there's also a paper that came out more
10 recently that wasn't about children, but it came out.

11 And there was one that came out in December that
12 was just, I think a study of maybe Massachusetts, but it
13 was one study on the East Coast about proximity to
14 nuclear power plants and cancer correlation.

15 And there was a larger one about the U.S.

16 So first I'll say Doctor Hayes's response to the
17 studies that I sent him when I saw them and was
18 concerned, he explained he has some research that came
19 out, I believe early 2025 that talks about kind of
20 radiophobia and, you know, different risks that are not
21 considered when we talk about radiation exposure.

22 So my mini brief on what he's explained to me in
23 general was so one thing that we talk about in our
24 presentation is, you know, how much radiation we're
25 exposed to every day just by living on the planet Earth

1 and breathing, breathing air, standing on dirt, being
2 in the sunshine.

3 And there's a basic amount of radiation exposure
4 that we get.

5 And then there's a bunch of legal limits on what
6 you can be exposed to when you're working X-rays at the
7 hospital as a radiation worker or when you're a radiation
8 worker working at a nuclear power plant.

9 And I will say the radiation exposure you get
10 working in the nuclear industry is way lower than medical
11 radiation workers, which is really interesting to me.

12 It's also a lot lower than, you know, pilots.

13 There isn't any like, shielding from being so close
14 to the sun when you're on flights.

15 So pilots, you know, get a lot more radiation
16 exposure than most people.

17 And I mean, I will just say that, you know, those
18 kind like medical radiation exposures as well as, you
19 know, pilots, those kinds of careers, I, I do believe get
20 a lot more radiation exposure than people living near a
21 nuclear power plant.

22 Just because, you know, the legal limits of what
23 you can receive is a dose at like the fence line of a
24 nuclear power plant is incredibly low.

25 They do not want to risk anything that could

1 possibly cause harm.

2 And I mean for more reference, there is, so there's
3 a few lines of thinking on radiation exposure and what
4 could cause harm.

5 And we have this, we have this threshold of
6 exposure that we know for sure can cause precipitous
7 cancers.

8 And we know this from treating cancer with like
9 radiation therapy.

10 And so it's this level and then like way down here
11 are the legal like requirements for what you can be
12 exposed to.

13 So any kind of exposure you would get living
14 anywhere near a nuclear power plant is just, it's like
15 one, it's really hard to decipher from like background
16 radiation that you get on a daily basis because it's so
17 comparable.

18 And two, it's just so much lower than anything that
19 we've ever seen be proven to cause anyone harm.

20 So when we talk about these studies that look at
21 distance from a nuclear power plant and cancer rates,
22 part of Doctor Hayes's research that he produced was
23 talking about, you know, outside factors that cause
24 cancer and how they're not necessarily taken into account
25 in these studies.

1 So like when we do studies on how, you know,
2 cigarettes cause cancer, which we know things like
3 anxiety and depression, which are also, you know, stress
4 in general, stress on your body is carcinogenic.

5 And so that's taken into account when we study
6 cigarettes, but it's not taken into account when we talk
7 about radiation exposure, which is interesting because
8 there's a lot of people who are afraid of radiation and
9 that causes them stress.

10 And in Doctor Hayes's paper that he's submitted or
11 published last year, he, he has some examples of people
12 who, you know, maybe were exposed to some irradiated
13 steel in their apartment complex.

14 And so they had that low-level radiation exposure
15 and looked at people who knew about the exposure versus
16 didn't know about the exposure.

17 And people who knew about that exposure had more
18 negative health developments than the people who didn't.

19 There was no change.

20 The people who didn't know about it had no
21 significant difference in their health compared to their,
22 like people who weren't exposed versus people who knew
23 about it did have health concerns.

24 And so there's a big question there on, you know,
25 how much does fear and stress and concern negatively

1 impact us when maybe the exposure itself isn't?

2 And if, if, if this is at all reference to the U.S.
3 papers, oh, geez, maybe we can send out some resources
4 after this.

5 But there are a few articles online talking about
6 those papers and explaining how they weren't the best,
7 you know, scientifically sound papers to be published.

8 And we're talking about distance from nuclear power
9 plants.

10 They were talking about miles and miles and miles
11 away from the nuclear power plant, where there just
12 really isn't any kind of radiation exposure that far
13 away.

14 And still like comparing them as if that could be
15 measured as some kind of exposure.

16 And so, I mean, the first like law of radiation
17 exposure is, you know, it lessens the further away you
18 are.

19 Distance is a huge part.

20 It's like shielding and distance.

21 And so anyway, those are as many thoughts as I can
22 give right now on, you know, things to think about when
23 you're thinking about what kinds of exposures you might
24 have.

25 JESSICA LUTERNAUER: Thank you.

1 Do you get questions about closing the nuclear fuel
2 cycle and using fast reactors to use spent fuel as their
3 fuel or molten salt reactors?

4 FERESHTEH BUNK: We've gotten a few.

5 I feel like you have to be pretty particularly
6 interested in nuclear in the industry to start asking
7 like those specific technical questions.

8 So we didn't get a lot because, you know, the
9 communities that we're targeting or I mean, we weren't
10 targeting, we were allowing everybody of all backgrounds
11 to come, right.

12 So I mean, obviously people who show up probably
13 have a little bit more interest in it than your average
14 person.

15 But yeah, we didn't get that many questions about
16 it.

17 There's definitely interest there.

18 There's definitely lots of, you know, startups and
19 scientists researching and looking into how to do that in
20 the U.S.

21 So it's definitely something people are thinking
22 about and it's definitely an option, but it's not
23 something a lot of people ask about all the time.

24 JESSICA LUTERNAUER: In your outreach, did you gauge
25 attitudes toward new nuclear or reprocessing?

1 FERESHTEH BUNK: You know, I, I can't, I don't
2 know off the top of my head. I'm like, I'm, I don't think
3 I could look that up that quickly.

4 The questions that we had, yeah, I off the top of
5 my head, I don't remember any questions about it, was
6 reprocessing and like new nuclear, like advanced nuclear
7 versus old nuclear, yeah.

8 I don't believe in our survey that we asked
9 questions about that specifically.

10 I could be wrong.

11 I'm trying to see if I can pull up the questions
12 really quick, but we did have a lot of questions about it
13 in person.

14 I think that reprocessing is a natural kind of
15 question after you're talking about used nuclear fuel in
16 general.

17 And Native Nuclear in their presentation, they
18 tried to talk about it a little bit because part of
19 their, you know, the way that nuclear ties into their
20 native philosophies is like they, so Scott, he's the
21 founder of Native Nuclear.

22 He talks a lot about how, you know, part of their
23 native philosophy is being good stewards of the land, is
24 you know, taking as little as possible, using it to its
25 maximum potential and returning as little as possible.

1 And so he always, he's like, he talks about used
2 nuclear fuel and like, you know, depositing used nuclear
3 fuel without repositing.

4 And he's like, you're just like burying dollars in
5 the ground.

6 He sees a lot of potential benefit for it.

7 And so he talks about reprocessing a lot and is
8 really interested in it personally.

9 Yeah, I just did a quick scan of our survey
10 questions and I don't think we measured reactions
11 specifically, but we did talk about it a little bit and
12 had questions about it, of course.

13 JESSICA LUTERNAUER: All right, I think we have time
14 for one more question.

15 Someone also posted a video link in the chat to
16 some of the testing of canisters that you talked about.

17 FERESHTEH BUNK: Oh, great.

18 JESSICA LUTERNAUER: We will go ahead and share that
19 on our social media.

20 If everyone is not already, please do follow our
21 coalition on Facebook, Twitter, excuse me, X and
22 LinkedIn.

23 And last question, did you get any sense during
24 your outreach whether political affiliation shows a
25 difference in support versus opposition to having spent

1 fuel storage or disposal facilities in their community?

2 FERESHTEH BUNK: Great question and actually pretty
3 interesting finding, no.

4 So we measured a bunch of demographics in our
5 survey, obviously, like gender, age, career, political
6 affiliation, etcetera.

7 And I mean, it could be considered not, you know,
8 the biggest sample size.

9 But when it came down to it, when our statisticians
10 were analyzing our data, they found like pretty close to
11 zero correlation between any of the demographics that we
12 measured and, you know, outcomes and responses to our
13 survey questions.

14 They found like some things to report about age,
15 but it wasn't like as consistent as it could be.

16 It wasn't as robust of a finding as it could be.

17 But we specifically in our report, talk about how,
18 you know, political affiliation, yeah, did not have a
19 measurable impact that we could find in our study.

20 And really what did was, you know, the exciting
21 thing, it's your connection to the presenters or
22 specifically we found that, you know, a connection to
23 Mothers for Nuclear impacted your responses and that that
24 was a very statistically significant finding.

25 Whereas, yeah, nothing, we didn't see anything

1 significant among political party.

2 And I just want to like muse a little bit about
3 that when I think I mean.

4 I personally was really surprised when I first
5 entered like the nuclear industry and the advocacy world
6 to learn that generally, I mean, historically you might
7 see Republicans maybe being a little bit more pro-nuclear
8 than Democrats.

9 And then I learned about, you know, the history of
10 the environmental movement being anti-nuclear, which, you
11 know, is kind of antithetical to Mothers for Nuclear.

12 We're an environmental nonprofit first and
13 foremost, which is why we believe in nuclear.

14 And that's how I got interested at all was, you
15 know, thinking about the environment.

16 And I'm definitely personally a much more liberal-
17 leaning person.

18 So that was surprising to me to hear that other,
19 you know, democrats or liberals or whatever it is on the
20 political spectrum didn't always identify that same way
21 as I do.

22 But I mean, we are seeing a lot more bipartisan
23 support of nuclear across the board and with different
24 bills and discussions happening.

25 And like, you know, Biden's administration was pro-

1 nuclear, and Trump's administration have both been pro-
2 pro-nuclear.

3 So we're seeing people from both sides come in and
4 show more interest in nuclear in general.

5 And yeah, and, in our, in our study, at least we
6 found no, no impact on political affiliation in response
7 to our workshop.

8 JESSICA LUTERNAUER: Well, thank you so much.

9 This has been such a great discussion for us today.

10 We really appreciate your participation.

11 We appreciate everyone for attending.

12 We will have a video of this webinar posted to our
13 website, at spentfuelsolutionsnow.com.

14 And really grateful for everyone's support and wish
15 you a wonderful weekend.

16 FERESHTEH BUNK: Yeah, thank you so much for having
17 me, Jessica. It was so great to be here.

18 JESSICA LUTERNAUER: Thank you.