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SPENT FUEL SOLUTIONS
INFORMATIONAL WEBINAR: ENERGY COMMUNITIES
ALLIANCE UPDATE
Via Zoom
TRANSCRIPT OF MEETING
May 22, 2025

1 SPENT FUEL SOLUTIONS

2 INFORMATIONAL WEBINAR: ENERGY COMMUNITIES

3 ALLIANCE UPDATE

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Transcript of video-recording meeting via Zoom

10 commencing at 2 p.m., Thursday, May 22, 2025.

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1 WEBINAR SPEAKERS:

2 CHRIS WAHL - (EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF SPENT FUEL
3 SOLUTIONS)

4 KARA COLTON - (DIRECTOR OF NUCLEAR PROGRAMS AT
5 ENERGY COMMUNITIES ALLIANCE)

1 Via Zoom, Thursday, May 22, 2025

2
3 CHRIS WAHL: Ok, I think we're going to get going
4 here.

5 Good afternoon, everybody.

6 Thank you for joining us for another Spent Fuel
7 Solutions webinar.

8 We're excited to be here today.

9 Again, my name is Chris Wahl and I serve as the
10 Executive Director for the Spent Fuel Solutions
11 Coalition.

12 As a reminder, our coalition is one that advocates
13 for federal solutions for the off-site storage and
14 disposal of spent nuclear fuel from commercial power
15 reactors.

16 We've made a lot of progress.

17 We've been in in in formation since 2002, 2021,
18 excuse me, and built a nice coalition throughout
19 California and beyond.

20 And we're excited to be here and welcome our guest
21 today, Kara Colton, for us to share the details about
22 what her organization, the Energy Communities Alliance,
23 is doing to help advocate for the disposal of spent fuel
24 and her involvement on the storage and disposal of
25 nuclear waste.

1 So just for some background before we get started,
2 ECA is a nonprofit organization of local governments
3 affected by nuclear facilities and the United States
4 Department of Energy activities that have been produced
5 high level radioactive waste that like spent fuel, must
6 be isolated from the biosphere.

7 Members include communities that host or adjacent
8 to these sites.

9 ECA works, strives, to bring local officials
10 together to share information, establish policy positions
11 and promote community interests.

12 The organization has long been focused on high-
13 level radioactive waste and as you may know is one of
14 DOE's 12 collaborative-based sighting consortia, which
15 we're excited to hear more about today.

16 They are focused on facilitating deeper engagement
17 and building capacity and potentially interested
18 communities to serve, to ensure that they have the
19 resources they need to engage.

20 And I am for one am particularly interested to hear
21 and see how progress, what progress you've made in terms
22 of receptivity.

23 We know that that's an ongoing discussion and and
24 there are communities that are starting to express
25 interest, which is exciting.

1 Kara has served as ECA as Director of Nuclear
2 Policy for 18 years and continues to work with ECA as a
3 principal of her own organization called the Kaco Group.

4 At Kaco Group, she consults on community engagement
5 around nuclear energy development and nuclear waste
6 management issues.

7 So please join me in welcoming Kara for a brief
8 presentation followed by Q&A.

9 Just as a reminder, as we've done in the past, the
10 audience will have an opportunity to submit questions to
11 the chat.

12 And we have a list of questions that we're going to
13 ask Kara afterwards that are already formulated.

14 But we're going to do our best to try and get
15 additional questions.

16 And if we can, and we're going to have a hard stop
17 at 3:00 east, or west coast time, but we're we should
18 have plenty of time to get to lots of questions.

19 So with that, Kara, thank you again for joining us,
20 and we look forward to hearing more about you and the
21 coalition that you're working with.

22 KARA COLTON: Thank you so much, Chris and Jessica,
23 and to the Spent Fuel Solutions Coalition for inviting
24 me.

25 I'm really excited.

1 I'm going to be even more excited once I
2 successfully bring my slides up, which is always fun.

3 Sorry, and there we go, ok.

4 So I'm going to appear like a little, I don't know
5 who I am in that corner, but there I am.

6 I hope everybody can see my slides.

7 So again, thank you for having me.

8 I'm super excited to be here today to talk about
9 ECA's, community engagement on collaboration-based siting
10 as many of you might know, the word consent has been
11 dropped out, which I couldn't agree with more.

12 I think consent sounds like agreeing to do
13 something you're not totally excited to do.

14 So I think collaboration-based is, is a good
15 positive change that the department has made recently.

16 So first just to go over a little bit of who is
17 ECA.

18 ECA was originally created in the 90s.

19 We were focused specifically on ensuring that the
20 local elected officials that hosted the government's
21 federal nuclear research and development and facilities
22 that those communities had the opportunity to weigh in as
23 the Department of Energy was making decisions that would
24 impact them directly.

25 So our communities are those that currently host

1 federal and private nuclear facilities in the U.S.

2 Again, government-sponsored nuclear research and
3 development activities.

4 So around the national labs, for example.

5 And like some of the communities that I think are
6 represented in your coalition, we are de facto interim
7 storage sites in the absence of a plan forward for a deep
8 geologic repository.

9 Our communities, which had originally been focused
10 on cleanup, they all recognize that nuclear is having a
11 moment.

12 They have skilled workforces in their communities.

13 They've had generations working on nuclear.

14 For example, some of the communities around the
15 three original Manhattan Project sites, Oak Ridge, Los
16 Alamos, and Hanford, all of those communities are ECA
17 members.

18 And while they themselves are looking at new
19 nuclear, they also understand, greater than anybody else,
20 perhaps except the commercial host communities, what it's
21 like to have nuclear in your backyard.

22 What it's like to have it there when you didn't
23 volunteer to have it there.

24 So what they wanted to do was seeing this next wave
25 of nuclear perhaps rolling out, they wanted to serve as

1 honest brokers, people who really knew what it was like
2 to have these projects in your backyard, know what it's
3 like to have competing workforce issues or not have the
4 workforce that you need, housing, all of that good stuff.

5 So we've been interacting not just with the
6 communities around DOE facilities, but with communities
7 across the country that are interested in advanced
8 nuclear and interim storage facilities.

9 So we've been working on trying to figure out the
10 back end of the fuel cycle for quite some time.

11 These are just a list of different pieces of
12 legislation or initiatives like the Blue Ribbon
13 Commission, which preceded the 2012 Nuclear Waste
14 Administration Act.

15 But we've been very engaged on all of these aspects
16 every time the government brings it up.

17 So I think this is probably my most important
18 slide.

19 And that is why, why are we here?

20 Why do we need to do this?

21 And when we're talking to that point, what we say
22 is a, it is the federal government's responsibility to
23 manage and permanently dispose of government owned spent
24 nuclear fuel and high-level waste as well as commercial
25 owned high-level waste.

1 In fact, the plan was the government was going to
2 take it in 1998 and we've been in partial breach of
3 contract ever since then.

4 We also need to go ahead and address nuclear waste
5 because of the cost of inaction.

6 It is ridiculous.

7 We are looking at over \$800 million in annual
8 lawsuits.

9 I think it's \$2,000,000 a day for a lack of action
10 right now.

11 We haven't met the responsibilities that the
12 government has to these communities and states that are
13 hosting these materials.

14 Again, never expecting that they would have them at
15 this point in time.

16 And we also need to go ahead and deal with the
17 volume of existing stockpiles.

18 We have waste, as I'll show you in a map in over 39
19 states right now that needs to be addressed.

20 So it's time to kind of look at where it is, look
21 at the volume that currently exists and as people are
22 talking about new nuclear development, take into account
23 new volumes that might be produced.

24 The EM mission, as I said, is the environmental
25 cleanup of the nuclear weapons complex.

1 Without a deep geological repository, that program
2 cannot finish.

3 And those liabilities are going up year over year
4 as well.

5 So again, there's a cost to the taxpayer for not
6 doing anything.

7 We need to address nuclear waste because right now
8 we have a new approach.

9 This collaboration-based siting allows communities,
10 states and tribes to determine the conditions under which
11 they would want to host one of these facilities.

12 And that's different from a top-down approach that
13 really has existed up to this point.

14 And finally, as I've mentioned the new nuclear
15 development, we have to show that we can deal with the
16 back end before we start encouraging people to create
17 more waste.

18 So as Chris mentioned, ECA is one of the 12 DOE
19 collaboration-based siting consortia.

20 That project has been up for about a month, a year
21 and a half, excuse me.

22 And so here are the other groups that are also
23 working across the country and what do we do?

24 We are basically, to use D.C. terminology, and I
25 apologize for that, feel free to give me a demerit, build

1 capacity.

2 Essentially, what's the problem?

3 What are the possibilities?

4 What are the current concerns that you have?

5 Where do you think it could go?

6 apologize for that, feel free to give me a demerit,
7 build honest way where we're really talking about what
8 are the challenges that exist, what are the detractors
9 going to say, what do we need to understand?

10 Also, the consortia are able to give out small
11 grants to communities that grants that they design
12 themselves.

13 We have done that at ECA.

14 I will get to that as well.

15 So at ECA, we took a 2-pronged approach.

16 With the money that we got, we estimated that we
17 would use half of it for doing capacity building, large
18 meetings with people, build partnerships, and the other
19 half we wanted to give out directly to communities who
20 expressed interest in potentially hosting a facility.

21 The department is not currently looking for an
22 actual host.

23 They're not currently looking for a volunteer.

24 So this is really just discussion based.

25 So as I mentioned, you have waste across the

1 country.

2 This is both the commercial and the government
3 owned high-level waste.

4 You can see that it's in over 39 states.

5 It's everywhere and it's safe.

6 You may recognize this particular one.

7 When we bring people together, we do things like
8 show them pictures.

9 Where is this waste?

10 Not only in a map, but how does it, how is it
11 stored?

12 I think the SONGS picture is a great picture
13 because it really helps people hear the message that it's
14 on the ocean.

15 They want the land back.

16 It's not doing anything there.

17 Is it safe?

18 I don't know.

19 I don't feel comfortable.

20 These pictures really help explain those things
21 better than words.

22 We also took folks to a decommission site, the
23 Maine Yankee site in Maine.

24 We took people up there to see that this is all
25 that's that remains.

1 This the square in the middle is the dry cask
2 storage and everything else has been cleaned up.

3 So if we can get that dry cask storage moved off,
4 perhaps there are new economic development opportunities
5 for that community that hosted that facility.

6 As I mentioned, we've given out grants.

7 So we've given out grants to all of these
8 communities.

9 They're generally doing things.

10 They may differ a bit from from location to
11 location.

12 For example, Butte County in Idaho, the majority of
13 the Idaho National Lab actually sits within that
14 community.

15 So there's a familiarity with nuclear.

16 Is there a familiarity with bringing in waste?

17 Not necessarily something people are going to be
18 all for.

19 So they're having that conversation in Oak Ridge,
20 Tennessee.

21 They're looking at a focus on what does emergency
22 management planning look like if you were to have an
23 interim storage facility within your community.

24 In Colorado and in in Appalachia, those communities
25 are looking at what should they do to fill the gaps left

1 by closing coal facilities.

2 And so nuclear is one of those discussions.

3 And both of those communities consider themselves
4 energy communities.

5 So they're an all of the above energy strategy.

6 They feel comfortable talking about energy and they
7 want to continue to support energy production, supply
8 chains, all down the line.

9 So what have we learned from all of the years that
10 we've been doing this?

11 You can't have just a community that wants it.

12 You can't have just a state that wants it.

13 You can't have just a tribe that wants it.

14 We have examples of all of those that we can look
15 at in the past.

16 You need all of those folks to be together to
17 support any nuclear project, whether it's a waste
18 facility or whether it's new generation.

19 When we're talking to utilities or we're talking to
20 developers, we always like to say you need to look at
21 engagement with stakeholders as an integral part of
22 project planning the same as you would think about for
23 licensing or siting.

24 Utility would look at licensing and they understand
25 that that could be a multiyear process, but they know it

1 and they're prepared for that.

2 If we start talking about public engagement with
3 that same kind of emphasis, hopefully that will allow the
4 industry itself to also have a bit of a change in
5 approach.

6 And under this particular bullet, I just want to
7 really highlight that the actively listening and meet
8 people where they are part is the difference between
9 someone coming in and telling you at a doctor's
10 appointment what's wrong with you before you even tell
11 them what you're feeling.

12 And so it's really important that particular part
13 of having people doing community engagement that aren't
14 there just to talk, but are there to to listen
15 meaningfully and overtime.

16 As I said before, the good part about
17 collaborative-based siting is we are letting the
18 communities and the states that are impacted decide what
19 they want to do, what they want it to look like.

20 And we're moving away from a one size fits all
21 approach.

22 The impacted communities, they also need to know
23 that this project is going to be contributing to their
24 long term social and economic well-being, not only for
25 them, but the state, the region, the tribe.

1 These are multi-generational projects.

2 And so they would like to make sure that what
3 they're signing up for reaps multi bet, multi-
4 generational benefits.

5 And then informed decision making leads to enduring
6 decisions.

7 If people know the decisions they're making and
8 they have all of the information that they need to make
9 these kinds of decisions, then they are likely to be more
10 enduring overtime.

11 And we have seen that the fits and starts that the
12 country has gone through when it comes to this issue,
13 that makes it very difficult for someone to think that
14 they're making an enduring decision because the
15 government itself thus far hasn't acted in the same way
16 we've expected over time.

17 So when we're talking to potential hosts, one of
18 the things we talked about them considering are things
19 like ensuring you have a legally enforceable hosting
20 agreement.

21 Sounds a little unfortunate.

22 We live in a litigious society, but you have to
23 have legal enforceability because that gives you teeth in
24 your agreement, clearly defined federal, state roles and
25 responsibilities and regulatory oversight.

1 I think the community wants to know that their
2 state regulators have a role as well as the federal
3 regulators so that each group thinks if I have an issue,
4 I know where to go and I know someone is looking out for
5 me.

6 There's obviously going to be need to look at
7 existing agreements or statutory prohibitions that may
8 exist.

9 For example, people have talked about sending high
10 level waste to the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant, but the
11 law there does not allow tank waste to go.

12 So there are legal agreements right now that we can
13 learn from, but also that prevents certain options from
14 being there.

15 We suggest that communities look at what happens if
16 the federal government doesn't meet the obligations or
17 the milestones that have been outlined in a legally
18 enforceable agreement.

19 What might you want that stoppage to look like or
20 an off-ramp?

21 Deadline for removing waste from a storage
22 facility, this goes to should we link storage and
23 permanent disposal?

24 I know that there are a lot of people that think
25 that it should absolutely be linked for ECA.

1 Long time ago we used to say yes, absolutely those
2 things need to be linked and we need to be pursuing them
3 in parallel.

4 I still believe that we should be pursuing them in
5 parallel, but I think a community and state can come up
6 with what agreement they would want to see in terms of
7 the linkage that it should not be forced on them.

8 If they're comfortable thinking that reprocessing
9 is going to become a future thing, maybe they don't need
10 feel the need to say I need an end date for certain in my
11 contract.

12 Transportation routes, I think transportation comes
13 up a lot.

14 I'm sure that will probably come up in some Q&A,
15 but there should be agreement on where those
16 transportation routes are going to go.

17 Again, the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant is a good
18 example.

19 The people in Santa Fe did not want waste
20 transportation coming through Santa Fe.

21 So in the final agreement the waste was moved in a
22 corridor that went around the community.

23 And finally this last piece, if I can move my
24 little head is short- and long-term investment in
25 education infrastructure and workforce for future

1 missions.

2 So it's really this last piece that I think gets us
3 back into collaboration-based siting and that is what are
4 the opportunities that come with the potential of hosting
5 a consolidated interim storage facility.

6 Why would you want it?

7 What can go with it?

8 And so these are the conversations we've really
9 been having.

10 Or what are the economic development opportunities
11 that your community, region or state might be looking at?

12 So for example, you hear a lot of communities are
13 looking at, we want Google in our backyard.

14 We'd like a hyperscaler to come talk to us.

15 Oh, look, the hyperscaler is looking at bringing in
16 an SMR.

17 Is that part of the community and state vision?

18 Is there the ability to build new nuclear in a
19 state?

20 You have to look at your state laws.

21 Are there moratoriums?

22 Those are mostly coming off, but these are all
23 things that need to be considered when a community or a
24 state is considering this interim storage mission.

25 What is it that you ultimately want to ensure the

1 public health and safety and economic for your community?

2 And these are different from community, community.

3 And so when we're talking about it, we always say
4 make sure that you are working with your state.

5 You cannot do this without your state.

6 Make sure that the federal government and your
7 visions are aligned.

8 I think an example here would be in the state of
9 Texas, in Ashford, New York, the definition of high-level
10 waste differs for the state then the federal definition.

11 And that's that creates a problem that is an added
12 problem that no one really foresaw.

13 So things like that are super important.

14 Identify partners and champions.

15 So partners always going to make life easier to be
16 working on it together to ensure that you have the
17 benefits of other people's perspectives, priorities and
18 challenges.

19 Champions is a huge one.

20 And by champions, what I really mean is a, we need
21 champions on the Hill like Congressman Levin, who's
22 trying to pass legislation to deal with this, but we also
23 need champions within any given community because people
24 trust people they know.

25 People trust people who are going to be living by

1 this project.

2 They don't want somebody who's going to fly in,
3 tell them some information, fly out and say good luck,
4 thanks for doing it.

5 So champions of the in your community, trusted
6 voices within your community are super important.

7 And then building an environment where a community
8 is volunteering rather than consenting.

9 So that's that opening comment that I made.

10 We would like the difference to be a community in a
11 state that has a vision and that wants the project and
12 they know what they want that project for and they know
13 what they want that project to come with.

14 And they've thought through the longer-term horizon
15 for what's needed to get there and who they need to be
16 working with to get there.

17 And if they have that, then a community like we saw
18 in Canada would be more likely to raise their hand and
19 say, yes, let's explore.

20 And so this is just a couple of visuals that I
21 wanted to give you.

22 So this the Äspö, the underground laboratory, it
23 looks like a Swedish farmhouse.

24 It's actually the underground research facility
25 that is in in Sweden and it's 450-some-odd kilometers

1 underground beneath this.

2 And I know that Paul Murray in the Office of
3 Nuclear Energy has talked about wherever an interim
4 storage facility is going to go, that they would like to
5 look at bringing a laboratory there.

6 They would like to look at things like having a
7 visitor center so that it is it's accessible.

8 So I just thought it would be interesting to look
9 at one of these and what it looks like.

10 And then I have one more.

11 I have a couple more pictures.

12 This is the Covra waste facility.

13 This is in the Netherlands.

14 So you can see that it's bright orange.

15 And what they're doing is they're going to paint it
16 over time to the point that it becomes white to
17 demonstrate the degrading radiation levels within that
18 building.

19 The other fun part about this building is this, the
20 climate control aspect of that storage facility is also
21 perfect for art.

22 So they've teamed up with a museum and there are
23 art exhibits within that facility that you can go in and
24 you can see and that stores them safely over time.

25 So really interesting things can go with a, a

1 storage facility that perhaps we hadn't thought about,
2 but now is the time to have these kind of conversations
3 and, and see what the art of the possible is.

4 So finally, the challenges ahead, legislative
5 change, the Nuclear Waste Policy Act is, it's a problem.

6 It definitely needs to be changed, but we can work
7 with it as it currently exists right now up to the point
8 of shovels in the ground.

9 I know that the Department of Energy is looking
10 more holistically now, not just at interim storage, but
11 also at permanent geologic repositories as well.

12 Governance.

13 So this is an issue where there used to be a
14 specific office in the office in the Department of Energy
15 called the Office of Civilian and Radioactive Waste
16 Management.

17 It was a single purpose entity focused solely on
18 the back end of the fuel cycle.

19 That office ceased to exist in 2010.

20 And what we think in terms of governance is the
21 shortest, easiest, lowest hanging fruit is to reset up an
22 office within the Department of Energy that is solely
23 focused again on the back end of the fuel cycle.

24 However, the Blue Ribbon Commission and most
25 organizations that are dealing with these issues really

1 understand that there's potential to change this into an
2 advisory board, perhaps like the NRC, perhaps like TVA, a
3 public private fed corps that has more access to funding.

4 And again, that single purpose has Democrats,
5 Republicans and has different shifting terms of
6 appointment so that we can kind of offset some of the
7 political winds that often hit this particular issue.

8 Lack of assured funding, so when it comes to
9 dealing with the back end of the fuel cycle, it is an
10 annual appropriations problem.

11 We do not have assured funding year over year and
12 that really creates new fits and starts when it comes to
13 trying to implement a program.

14 Legacy trust issues is a huge one.

15 The fits and starts that we've seen, as I've
16 mentioned over time really makes people hesitant.

17 What can the government agree to?

18 What can it actually do?

19 What will it fulfill?

20 Because if I look at the existing agreements, that
21 hasn't happened.

22 So where is my sense of confidence?

23 So building that trust and then finally challenges
24 ahead is are we going to allow new nuclear development
25 that creates new waste streams when we aren't able right

1 now to deal with the waste streams that we currently have
2 in the way that we are supposed to?

3 Is it safely stored?

4 Yes, it's safely stored.

5 However, we can't create more with just lip service
6 that we know what to do with it.

7 So with that, I would love to answer any questions.

8 I will figure out how to end my slides and I'm
9 super excited for the discussion.

10 Thank you.

11 CHRIS WAHL: Thank you, Kara, that was great, very
12 informative.

13 And I know our coalition couldn't agree with you
14 more on the Nuclear Waste Policy Act.

15 And Congressman Levin has been great to work with
16 and introducing legislation and trying to fix it.

17 And it's definitely an impediment into the future
18 and the final solution that we all need.

19 Ok, so we have a list of questions that we're going
20 to start to get through.

21 And I know Jessica on our team here too is going to
22 be fielding additional questions from the audience.

23 So just as a reminder, please put your questions
24 into the chat and we'll do our, if you have them, and
25 we'll do it for Kara.

1 We'll do our best to get to those as well.

2 So let me start with this.

3 What work has the ECA done historically on the
4 nuclear waste issue so far?

5 KARA COLTON: So we have, sorry, I'm trying
6 desperately to get my my video done.

7 It won't stop.

8 So I guess I'll just...

9 CHRIS WAHL: Not sure if Jessica we can help Kara on
10 that or not, but we will do our best to be supportive.

11 KARA COLTON: Sorry about that.

12 CHRIS WAHL: There we go.

13 KARA COLTON: Thank you very much.

14 So we have done a lot of things.

15 We have fact sheets out.

16 We have been pulling together, as I said, meetings
17 with people and we are trying to have these conversations
18 with everyone.

19 So on the cleanup side of the coin, we have
20 traditionally worked, met, meeting every year at a
21 minimum with the tribes impacted by DOE activities, with
22 the state legislatures that are dealing with it, with the
23 public utility commissioners, with local and state and
24 regional officials.

25 So we've been trying to convene meetings and have

1 everybody in the room at the same time so that everybody
2 really is hearing the same thing and understanding all of
3 the different perspectives that are coming to the table.

4 I think that that creating those relationships and
5 building that trust by having honest conversation has
6 been one of the areas I think we've been we've been the
7 strongest in.

8 I mean, also, again, having somebody like the mayor
9 of Carlsbad, New Mexico, come and talk to the mayor of a
10 community that that is just now starting to think about
11 it.

12 We had the mayor and the county administrator for
13 Kemmerer, Wyoming, where the TerraPower facility is
14 coming in.

15 It's a new nuclear community.

16 They are replacing a retiring coal facility.

17 And we put them on a waste panel.

18 And we said, what are you hearing?

19 How is that coming to your to your doorstep?

20 Are people concerned?

21 What are the concerns?

22 And of course people were concerned and of course
23 they had a lot of conversation about radioactivity.

24 But, you know, I think one of the interesting
25 things that came out of that conversation was one of

1 their massive concerns was their values, the way they
2 viewed their community.

3 Suddenly they're going to have all of these new
4 people coming into a small town where everyone had known
5 each other.

6 So would that change how they looked at themselves,
7 how they considered themselves?

8 And so it was really more of a a value call and a
9 character call then it was issues like radiation.

10 If they had trusted voices and they had good
11 partnerships with the folks at TerraPower and Salt River
12 Project, that they, they felt like that was an issue
13 that, you know, they'll keep coming back to.

14 But it, it wasn't a showstopper.

15 CHRIS WAHL: Yeah, yeah, it's good, good, good
16 feedback.

17 One area that I'm, I'm sure that the audience is
18 very interested in is if, whether you're able to share
19 any developments or details about what communities that
20 may be potentially interested in hosting, consolidating
21 interim storage facility and, and not maybe the specific
22 community themselves, but what are the areas and the
23 details around why they're interested in being a
24 potential host, host community?

25 KARA COLTON: Sure, so I would say that the biggest

1 draw to the conversation right now is the potential for
2 recycling and reprocessing.

3 So if we look at what we call spent nuclear fuel,
4 is 95% still full of potential energy.

5 So we haven't reprocessed in this country since the
6 80s when we decided not to do it.

7 We were worried about proliferation concerns.

8 I think that's still a concern because reprocessing
9 in the past has created a pure plutonium stream, which
10 people felt could be weaponized.

11 But the way that new advanced technologies are
12 coming to form, you've got them where they aren't
13 separating out plutonium and where they can use what we
14 have up to this point considered a waste stream as a fuel
15 source, which means that energy independence comes from
16 that.

17 We are looking at advanced nuclear.

18 It needs high assay, low enriched uranium, HALEU,
19 which perhaps you've heard of and you can create nuclear
20 fuel for advanced technologies from existing spent
21 nuclear fuel.

22 You cannot do that for the high-level waste from
23 the Department of Energy's activities.

24 So under all circumstances you're still going to
25 need a deep geologic repository whether we reprocess or

1 we don't.

2 I also think that the new nuclear side of the coin
3 is bringing people to the table.

4 People are very interested in ensuring we have a
5 reliable energy supply from an economic development
6 perspective.

7 The Googles, the Amazons, these hyper scalers
8 coming onto the onto the field bringing with them their
9 needs for energy, reliability and assurance are now
10 talking to advanced nuclear companies about developing a
11 power source for them.

12 So that is an area where communities are coming
13 saying, yes, we want that.

14 And then it's important that we all are having
15 conversations that says, you realize with that comes
16 waste.

17 And I would say that for the conversations ECA has
18 had, it has been made incredibly clear to project
19 developers and to the Department of Energy that
20 communities understand that these create waste.

21 And so we at ECA are not having conversations which
22 are about one side of the coin, new, and the other side
23 of the coin, the back end.

24 But we're trying to have holistic conversations
25 where we aren't picking and choosing the conversations

1 that, you know, are nice to have, but we're really trying
2 to say, you got to figure out what we're going to do
3 about the waste.

4 We have it, we're living with it, but it's, it's
5 not, it's not right.

6 It's not fair.

7 There's a better path forward.

8 It's not a technical problem.

9 It's we're socially not getting out of our own way.

10 And what do we need to do that?

11 CHRIS WAHL: Yeah, just kind of following up on that
12 a little bit more is specifically what, what are the
13 motivations for a community that you're finding?

14 Like there's been this ongoing conversation about
15 host communities and we've we've, we've had great
16 webinars from from folks in Sweden and Finland that have
17 explained to us how how things have worked and, and
18 what's motivated communities to be receptive.

19 In the work you've done through the consortia, what
20 have you learned about what is a, what is a motivating
21 factor for these communities that are willing to be
22 willing, willing to consider being a host specifically?

23 Again, I think it's the health of of their
24 communities.

25 If you have a community, let's say like Butte,

1 which has INL in its backyard, it's having the impacts of
2 a nuclear project without being able to leverage that
3 facility or that land to do other beneficial things for
4 them, right.

5 So same thing if around the Hanford site, they're
6 having conversations to try and explain the differences
7 between defense high level waste and commercial spent
8 nuclear fuel because people are often confused about the
9 fact that there are two different types of fuels.

10 For a decommissioned community, a plant that's been
11 decommissioned and it's just dry cask storage sitting on
12 that property like you saw at Maine Yankee.

13 Well, those communities, what else can they do on
14 that land?

15 Maybe it's not a nuclear facility at all, but it's
16 just land that's open for development or could be open
17 for development, except that right now it's just sitting
18 there.

19 So it's really that economic development piece.

20 Would I like to say that there's altruism in it?

21 I would love to say that there's some altruism in
22 it.

23 I think that when you go to a community that's had
24 nuclear and benefited from the nuclear projects that they
25 speak about their nuclear wherewithal with a sense of

1 pride.

2 And so again, I think it's important for a
3 community that maybe says, hey, like Arkansas has been
4 very interested in things like reprocessing and pass
5 legislation to look at those.

6 So I think in that sense, you know, it's just well,
7 this is interesting.

8 We have coal-fired power plants that are going away
9 or you know, some of the communities out west, Wyoming.

10 What I said before, we're a energy state, we're a
11 all of the above energy state.

12 So we've mined in the past and we can mine in the
13 future.

14 We understand that there are benefits and there are
15 challenges and we just need to have an honest discussion
16 about them.

17 And then we need to ensure that we bring everybody
18 along.

19 And that includes the developer, so that the
20 developer isn't looking at it only as a place to put
21 something, but understands that the community looks at
22 that facility and says we have a vision of how this is
23 going to change our community.

24 And would we have an interim storage facility?

25 Sure, we want to make sure that all of that waste

1 is out by x.

2 You know, that's in your legally enforceable
3 agreement.

4 But then suddenly you're using nuclear because
5 that's let's say you want to be a hydrogen hub or let's
6 say you want to produce medical isotopes.

7 There's just a million different benefits that
8 nuclear brings to bear as long as the community that's
9 going to host it really understands what they want their
10 longer-term vision to be.

11 And that's what's bringing them to the table thus
12 far.

13 CHRIS WAHL: Well, that's great.

14 That's, that's, that's very insightful.

15 Thank you.

16 What do you think are some of the the lessons
17 learned from your consortium's work so far that you'd
18 like to share with our group?

19 KARA COLTON: I think that a couple of things.

20 I think that the Department of Energy needs to show
21 up even when they don't have anything that they think the
22 communities, and I'm using community broadly because it
23 could be a tribe, date, they need to come up and and that
24 active listening piece is, is really important to me.

25 I think sometimes there's some hesitancy if

1 somebody thinks a group is waiting to hear a specific
2 message that if they don't have that message, then it's
3 better not to show up.

4 What we have found is always show up, showing up is
5 part of the game.

6 Showing up, being there is huge.

7 Being honest, I think understanding and going in to
8 speak to an honest to an audience without a preconceived
9 notion of what they do or they don't know is hugely
10 important.

11 And I think that operating outside of stove pipes
12 is absolutely crucial, absolutely crucial.

13 CHRIS WAHL: Yeah, that is great.

14 And I, I know we've done a lot of work with the DOE
15 as well and they, they've, they've become more active in
16 this.

17 And I think that you're right.

18 What we found when they're engaged, people tend to
19 listen and take the whole conversation more seriously.

20 So I think that that's great.

21 Deviating a little bit more, technical question for
22 you, is why is the disposition of commercial spent
23 nuclear fuel critical to the development of small modular
24 reactors and other new nuclear plants in your opinion?

25 KARA COLTON: To demonstrate that we can do it.

1 I mean, I think technically, we know we can do it,
2 but we actually have to get over, we have to get not only
3 a a license for the for the project, we need a social
4 license for the project.

5 And that to me is, is the most important part.

6 So, I mean, I can get into some of the details of
7 waste confidence, which is, you know, NRC requires there
8 to be waste confidence to build a new nuclear facility,
9 which means that the department says, yes, everybody
10 knows what's going to happen with the waste, everybody
11 knows what to do with the waste.

12 And we've had waste confidence up till now and yet
13 we haven't done anything.

14 So it's kind of not not going down the same path
15 and saying yeah, yeah, yeah, we'll get there when we get
16 there.

17 We know how to get there.

18 We'll get there eventually.

19 And I think that that's really important if we're
20 really going to see these new nuclear, these new nuclear
21 technologies coming out because they will produce waste.

22 CHRIS WAHL: Right, right, what, this is a harder
23 question to ask to answer I suppose at this point, but
24 what is what is your perspective of where this discussion
25 rests today in Washington, D.C., right?

1 There's a lot of uncertainty in what's happening
2 and a lot of different perspectives.

3 You mentioned recycling and reprocessing and new
4 nuclear.

5 These are all things that were were being addressed
6 as well.

7 And so kind of curious from your perspective, what
8 are opportunities that exist today in Washington D.C.?

9 KARA COLTON: I think the opportunity always exists
10 to go talk to your congressman.

11 I think that if you are in the Washington area and
12 you are a constituent head on up.

13 I think there's another option here that's really
14 good, which is Congressman Levin and from Tennessee, now
15 I'm forgetting his name and I can see him, congressman
16 from Oak Ridge, I his name will come to me later.

17 But there is the Spent Nuclear Fuels Caucus, which
18 the Congressman Levin runs with, why am I forgetting his
19 name?

20 This is killing me.

21 Chuck Fleischmann, there we go.

22 CHRIS WAHL: Sorry, I should have.

23 KARA COLTON: No, no, not at all.

24 CHRIS WAHL: I apologize.

25 I knew that too, yeah.

1 KARA COLTON: So Chuck Fleischmann heads up the
2 House Cleanup Caucus and with Levin, he, they, are the
3 cochairs of the Spent Nuclear Fuels Caucus.

4 And I think that that's another thing as a
5 constituent you can do is write to your congressperson,
6 send an e-mail and say, hey, is our member participating
7 in this discussion?

8 I hope they're participating in this discussion
9 because those those conversations are are happening.

10 I also think in Washington, specifically, the idea
11 of national security is kind of back on the table when it
12 comes to nuclear.

13 If we're not developing Western technologies as the
14 projects that will be deployed, the Chinese and Russians
15 already are.

16 And, you know, when it comes to places like India,
17 Russia is able to say, buy our technology, we'll ship
18 everything you need, you plug and play.

19 When the waste comes out, you just ship it back to
20 us.

21 And I think that from a geopolitical standpoint,
22 that's not a place that we would like to be.

23 But there's also a lot of Western European
24 countries that say, hey, we like that technology you guys
25 are talking about in the United States.

1 We'd like to build the second one or the third one,
2 but you guys do it first.

3 And so until we can demonstrate that we've got our
4 ducks in a row, which includes responding to what happens
5 to the waste, I think that we might not see the the
6 nuclear renaissance, for lack of a better word, that
7 we've been talking about in fits and starts since the
8 early 2000s.

9 CHRIS WAHL: Yeah.

10 Just as a side note for a second here for our
11 audience, a reminder to to enter questions into the chat,
12 should you have them for Kara.

13 We do have one.

14 I'm going to ask it now.

15 We have a couple more on our list too, but just to
16 encourage the audience to participate as well.

17 Here's a question from from the audience, Kara.

18 Can the collaborative siting process and resources
19 be applied to future nuclear generation such as the
20 storage of spent fuel generated by the new generation
21 microreactors?

22 KARA COLTON: Yeah, I think all of this, well, you
23 know, in a perfect world, the Nuclear Waste Policy Act
24 originally envisioned two different repositories, one for
25 the East, one for the West, so that there was geographic

1 equity.

2 And I think that that's what we're going to find
3 here is if the potential for recycling and reprocessing
4 comes to fruition, and it really is a buzzword on the
5 Hill right now.

6 You're hearing lots and lots and lots of
7 congressmen talking about it.

8 If that comes to fruition, then we're suddenly not
9 looking for interim storage facility.

10 We're basically looking like more of a banking
11 situation.

12 I want to bank some of this fuel near my facility
13 because then I will have more people wanting to do
14 projects nearby.

15 I'll have a reliable source of energy nearby.

16 And I know so that the safe, the waste can be
17 safely managed, disposed of.

18 And I think another area there where there's an
19 opportunity is getting states and communities, for
20 example, the folks that's around SONGS, talking to the
21 communities that are looking at taking the waste and
22 building relationships between sender and receiver sites
23 so that there's a real connection between we understand
24 what you're taking from us, what is it that you need us
25 to do to help facilitate that?

1 What are the conversations we can help with?

2 What are the, you know, who can we help talk to?

3 I think that's another area where there there's
4 real opportunity right now to to take this moment in time
5 and really highlight more of the social aspects that
6 haven't been in place when some of the technical aspects
7 are in place.

8 CHRIS WAHL: Yeah.

9 So, so let me go back to the siting process.

10 I know that's a subject matter that is very
11 interesting to people and, and you've touched on this a
12 little bit, but if you could elaborate some more, I think
13 the audience would appreciate that, is is that, you know,
14 what role has ECA played in supporting the communities,
15 in helping them get through the process of understanding
16 what the options are and how the siting process would
17 work?

18 I know that the organization has a variety of roles
19 that it plays in this process and, and tell us a little
20 bit more about that.

21 And if you don't mind also if you could sort of
22 expand upon the consortia scope too, that would be great
23 for the group to understand as well.

24 KARA COLTON: Sure.

25 So when it comes to the siting process, what we

1 have tried to ask communities to do is to understand the
2 resources that you have to offer within your community.

3 So do you have, if it's a retiring coal facility,
4 for example, are there transmission lines?

5 How close are those transmission lines?

6 Are you close to water?

7 Do you need to be close to water?

8 Some of the molten salt reactors don't need water
9 nearby.

10 So understanding what different technologies
11 require from a site.

12 From an interim storage facility perspective, there
13 aren't a whole lot of limitations when it comes to where
14 you can put that facility.

15 You don't want to put it on a on a fault line.

16 Obviously you don't want to put it in a massive
17 population center.

18 But essentially I think Paul Murray was saying
19 they're really looking at a two square acre spot that
20 they need.

21 If you're looking at a site that's already been
22 characterized, if it's been a brownfield site, for
23 example, there's often already information available on
24 what was at that site.

25 What are the characterizations of that land that

1 exists?

2 I would also say that we've learned through our
3 discussions that a lot of universities are doing this
4 work and have started to do these work, this work and
5 build tools for communities and states that say maybe we
6 could put it here.

7 What's the art of the possible?

8 So we were down in Paducah, Kentucky Paducah,
9 Kentucky was talking about a grant to help them to look
10 at the site and what could be done, pieces of land that
11 was given back to them.

12 And we have the University of Kentucky there and
13 they're like, hey, we did that.

14 Yeah, again, it's it's getting, I hate the word
15 ecosystem because it's so overused at this stage of the
16 game.

17 But there's so many people that plug into nuclear
18 from different perspectives that are doing this this
19 work.

20 And so it's kind of ensuring that we're bringing
21 everybody together to understand these tools are being
22 built.

23 Sometimes universities are building the tools and
24 then asking local people to test it.

25 What we've also tried to do in our conversation is

1 say why don't you talk to us and then develop the tool
2 and then we'll test it so that it's we're not missing
3 that first step, which is what do communities need?

4 What do they need to know?

5 And so that's what we're doing in siting is here
6 are the things that you should be looking in your
7 community to see if you have, including things like
8 support for nuclear in general.

9 You know, what's the public attitude towards
10 nuclear?

11 We see that, you know, different groups across the
12 country like the the Nuclear Energy Institute.

13 There are a lot of polls that say, hey, nuclear is
14 much more popular now.

15 And I think broadly it is, but that doesn't
16 necessarily translate to right in your community when
17 you're saying you're bringing a nuclear project in.

18 At that point, you'll find that the people who are
19 most concerned tend, tend to show up.

20 And so you have to be ready to invite those folks
21 into the conversation and, and, and be honest.

22 Let let them say what their concerns are.

23 I know somebody, an individual expert was up in
24 Canada working with the nuclear waste management
25 organization up there and like, he moved up there.

1 He moved up there for over a month, you know, to so
2 that and he the question he would ask people was what
3 keeps you up at night?

4 I'm not, you know, how do you feel about radiation?

5 But hey, you guys are talking about this project,
6 but what's keeping you up at night?

7 Let's talk about that.

8 CHRIS WAHL: Yeah, Yeah, it's always such a good
9 question.

10 So as the DOE starts to enter in this, it's phase,
11 phase two of the three phase process on this
12 collaborative based discussion, how do you envision that
13 ECA will stay involved moving forward?

14 KARA COLTON: So I hope we will get to be part of
15 the process with the communities that raise their hand in
16 reply to an expression of interest.

17 I will say that given the work that the consortia
18 has done and just to give you an idea, the consortia
19 meets every quarter, all of us.

20 So we all have the benefit of knowing what other
21 folks are up to and the conversations that they're
22 having.

23 A lot of the times we will invite people from other
24 consortia to come to our meetings and vice versa, we'll
25 go to theirs.

1 Some folks are focused more on the states.

2 Some folks are doing a broader public survey.

3 For us, we are trying to leverage communities that
4 have some aware with all about nuclear to help provide,
5 as I said, honest, brokered information as to what these
6 projects are like.

7 What is it like to deal with the federal
8 government, you know it literally in your backyard on a
9 regular basis?

10 What does it mean for funding?

11 What does it mean for emergency response?

12 When will they tell people about waste?

13 What kind of waste, if we're looking at new
14 nuclear, is that new waste stream going to go into an
15 interim storage facility?

16 So it's really trying to understand and bring
17 people together to know what are the concerns, what are
18 the questions that they're having.

19 And I hope that once communities raise their hands
20 for expressions of interest, we can just continue to
21 leverage this, this ecosystem that we've been pulling
22 together that that represents all these different sides
23 of the coin.

24 CHRIS WAHL: You, you've touched on this a little
25 bit, but I have a couple of questions around this idea

1 that there's been a lot of state legislation and there's
2 been a lot of discussions.

3 What states do you think these days are sort of
4 leading the effort to sort of push for this, this spent
5 fuel concept?

6 KARA COLTON: I don't know if I would say that there
7 is a state that's pushing for the spent fuel concept.

8 I would say that there are states that recognize
9 they either have it in their state already or that
10 they're interested in the economic development
11 opportunities that come with these new nuclear projects.

12 And so that is why they're starting to look at the
13 waste scenario.

14 So you have states that have moratoriums, on like
15 Illinois, for example, you can't build new nuclear until
16 there is a solution on the waste side of the coin.

17 But now they're starting to look at things like,
18 like some states are starting to look at things like,
19 well, what if it's a microreactor?

20 Would we be ok with a microreactor?

21 Can we limit the size of a facility so that we
22 don't have so much more waste coming into the equation?

23 I would say Kentucky has done a great job at
24 creating alignment between their governor's office, their
25 state legislators and their communities that are that are

1 talking about it.

2 The state of Virginia is another really excellent
3 example to look at now.

4 The governor totally supported nuclear.

5 He put in a nuclear board.

6 You also have a nuclear advisory board in Tennessee
7 that was created, that was multidisciplinary.

8 That's a state that has a lot of familiarity with
9 nuclear.

10 They were part of the original Manhattan Project.

11 In fact, Oak Ridge, where you're seeing the most
12 new nuclear development taking place right now, they used
13 to be called the secret city and now they're a community
14 that's on different news channels talking about what's
15 going on in nuclear.

16 So I think that, you know, we just want to stay
17 engaged and we want the peer-to-peer, we want to support
18 the peer-to-peer interaction, which I think really is
19 where the the rubber meets the road.

20 CHRIS WAHL: Yeah, yeah, sure.

21 Ok, So I have, I have another sort of longer
22 question that's a little bit more technical in nature
23 along the lines of the different states.

24 So bear with me for a minute here.

25 But it's many RFPs are coming out from states for

1 feasibility studies and siting for SMR technology vendors
2 and most of them have sections dedicated to addressing
3 waste.

4 In your opinion, how are states expecting
5 contractors to address waste and recycling spent fuel
6 when federally there are no current pathways?

7 KARA COLTON: Yeah, I don't know that anybody
8 expects it to be a contractor that's dealing with the
9 waste because there's no direction from the federal
10 government on what a contractor should do.

11 I think that's a fair question.

12 I don't know that I have a definitive answer for
13 you to that question.

14 I mean, I think people are looking to the Nuclear
15 Regulatory Commission to see what the Nuclear Regulatory
16 Commission says about licensing these new reactors
17 because they haven't been licensed yet.

18 And I think that they're looking to the Department
19 of Energy to say, what is this waste confidence?

20 You know, how are you saying, ok, let's let's go
21 forth and prosper these specific designs without knowing
22 what kind of waste streams might even be produced.

23 It might be higher radioactivity coming out of some
24 of these than we've seen thus far.

25 And from an AP1000, we don't really know 100% what

1 those waste streams, let let me let me, let me be a bit
2 more nuanced than that.

3 It is not really public what those waste streams
4 are going to be.

5 And because of where we are with the industry, I
6 think that people feel some of these details are
7 proprietary.

8 And so I don't have an answer to for what those
9 states expect to happen, which is why, you know, when
10 we're having these conversations, we say you have to look
11 at both sides of the fuel cycle.

12 You have to look at agreements, you have to look at
13 legal enforceability.

14 You're going to want to have, you know, your state
15 regulators involved.

16 You're going to want to have your AG's offices
17 involved when it comes to anything that's going to have
18 that big of an impact on your state for as many years as
19 these kinds of projects will.

20 CHRIS WAHL: Yeah, that's good.

21 That's great.

22 So there's time for a sort of one more question,
23 one more comment.

24 So just from your members perspective, what are
25 some of the key barriers to securing local and state

1 support for hosting a consolidated interim storage
2 facility repository?

3 You talked a little bit about this, but maybe you
4 could say like what are sort of two or three of the main
5 barriers in your in your opinion?

6 KARA COLTON: I think that there is not a well-
7 conceived problem.

8 To you guys around SONGS, to the folks around Zion
9 in in Illinois, they understand we would like this waste
10 gone.

11 We would like to use the land.

12 We would like access back to how it was originally.

13 We didn't sign up for this.

14 You'll hear a lot of the industry talk about, yeah,
15 but dry cast storage is perfectly safe and I agree with
16 that.

17 It is perfectly safe.

18 So then someone says, well, then why do we need to
19 move it?

20 It's not a clearly defined problem.

21 And so without it being a clearly defined problem,
22 you don't have people rushing to to fix what is not
23 perceived as troubling.

24 I think Lake Barrett, who used to be the head of
25 the Office of Civilian Radioactive Waste Management,

1 says, you know, the last thing a politician wants to do
2 is highlight something that nobody saw was a problem
3 before

4 That that from a political perspective, it's it's a
5 challenge.

6 So I think that that's really truly understanding
7 the problem, if you will, is, is part one.

8 I think the fact that there is no government leader
9 and champion on this is problem two.

10 Although I will say the incoming assistant
11 secretary for the Office of Nuclear Energy, Ted Garish,
12 has been around this issue for many, many, many, many
13 years.

14 He's incredibly well versed on it that that's, that
15 leads everyone to be quite hopeful.

16 He understands it, and when he was having his
17 confirmation hearing, he actually listed addressing the
18 back end of the fuel cycle as one of his top four
19 priorities.

20 And for those of us who've been doing this issue
21 for quite some time, you're thrilled to hit number four,
22 I mean, that it got its own mention was in and of itself
23 progress.

24 And then I think having a having collaboration
25 where there is a shared understanding of the challenges

1 that both the state and the community, again, using
2 community broadly, will will face, as well as what the
3 benefits for both the state and the community may be.

4 So getting those conversations where the state and
5 the potential host community are on the same page will
6 certainly help as the federal government's trying to
7 figure out what it needs to do.

8 The nuclear industry, I think it comes out of a
9 world where nobody wants to talk about it, no one wants
10 to hear about it.

11 So we don't really like, we'll just kind of sit
12 back here and everything will keep going hunky dory and
13 hopefully there are no problems, and that's the way that
14 it works.

15 But I think what's changing and the opportunity
16 that we can, that the challenge is how to take advantage
17 of it, is what's what's changed today that allows us to
18 have this conversation in a real way.

19 And what has changed is this need for energy
20 independence, the administration's focus on energy
21 dominance and the real idea that we should we license new
22 nuclear if we we don't know what we're doing with the
23 existing, with the existing volume.

24 CHRIS WAHL: Yeah, no, no doubt, no doubt.

25 Well, we, we've reached the end of of our seminar

1 already, our webinar.

2 It's it's gone, gone quickly.

3 Is there anything or any final, final last thoughts
4 you'd like to offer the group before we sign off here?

5 KARA COLTON: Yeah, I would like to say that ECA
6 does a lot of webinars.

7 We are talking about waste issues and we originally
8 came out as a waste organization like I said, doing
9 cleanup.

10 We are the red headed stepchild of the red headed
11 stepchild with the federally owned legacy waste.

12 So in the interim storage facility initiative in
13 the collaboration base siting that exists right now,
14 they're not even talking about that waste.

15 For those of you in California, you may be aware of
16 Hanford, that waste is not in dry cask storage.

17 So that isn't going to be safe into perpetuity.

18 It definitely needs to get itself to a deep
19 geological repository.

20 So if groups like yours, groups like ours can all
21 show the people down on the ground face of the issue,
22 then I I think that we'll be more able to find those
23 champions, support those champions and get this stuff
24 moving.

25 If you are interested in participating in an ECA

1 meeting, our collaborative base siting meetings are
2 generally open to communities.

3 If you don't need to be an ECA member to
4 participate, please contact me.

5 We'd love to have all of the different viewpoints
6 there.

7 Whether you're pro-ISFSI or anti-ISFSI, we want to
8 know why because it's much easier to to deal with
9 drafting new legislation, supporting new legislation if
10 you know where people are coming to the issue from.

11 So just give us a call and let's let's all keep
12 talking.

13 If I could be of a resource, I would love to do
14 that.

15 And finally, one last thing I want to say is I know
16 that sometimes it seems as though we're just an extra arm
17 of the Department of Energy and we aren't, we are a
18 501c3.

19 We are not a government organization.

20 We have no relationship to DOE other than the fact
21 that they provide us funding under cooperative agreements
22 that we apply for.

23 And what that really means is we understand local
24 budgets are small.

25 We understand state budgets are stretched to the

1 limit.

2 So the funding that we have at ECA is used to
3 produce information documents, used to produce meetings,
4 to facilitate conversations and to make sure that
5 communities have the resources to do things like
6 understand what's in your community that might be
7 worthwhile for siting an ISFSI or siting a new nuclear
8 project.

9 So I just wanted to underscore that we are
10 definitely an independent organization, but we do try to
11 use our money to help get the folks who need to be in the
12 room, in the room for the conversation.

13 CHRIS WAHL: Well, that's great, Kara.

14 And again, just on behalf of our coalition, I'd
15 like to thank you for taking this time.

16 It's been super informative and we really
17 appreciate you sharing your insights.

18 For those that have been with us, thank you again.

19 As usual, a video of this webinar will be posted
20 along with our past events on our website, which is
21 spentfuelsolutionsnow.com/events.

22 Again, that's spent,
23 spentfuelsolutionsnow.com/events and so thank you again.

24 KARA COLTON: Thank you.

25 CHRIS WAHL: And thank you to everyone that

1 participated today and I, I wish you a a happy and safe
2 Memorial Day weekend.

3 KARA COLTON: You too. Thank you so much for having
4 me.

5 CHRIS WAHL: Thank you so much Kara, take care.
6 Bye now.

7 KARA COLTON: Bye.

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