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LB 165

SENATOR PREISTER: Thank you, Senator Quandahl. I would like to go back to a comment that Senator Stuhr made. She said that NMC is much more capable of identifying problems. I raise that issue because I have a report from the Nuclear Regulatory Commission in front of me, and in the report on the...on Fort Calhoun, OPPD has reported 14 self-reported violations. OPPD has been responsible enough to identify problems and report them themselves; 14 on that plant since 1999. Now one of the plants, Kewaunee, which is one that's been "downlisted" by NMC, has only self-reported five. That says to me OPPD could do a better job of identifying problems and operating the NPPD plant than what NMC might. If that were a gauge, I think that OPPD needs to be considered and looked at more seriously as a public power entity that has the potential for operating this additional plant, more than has been done. I see it as an option, and I think from the amount of self-reporting OPPD has done a...I don't know how many other violations they've had, but if they've been able to identify 14 in the same time frame that NMC has only been able to identify 5 at one plant that they operated, it says to me that perhaps they could do at least as good a job, and perhaps better, and they're a Nebraska operation. They're a public power entity. They have a public power board that's elected by the citizens of Nebraska. They're not an outside company that's only been in operation for four years. Now I don't want any of my comments to totally disparage NMC. They could be a good company, but they don't have a board that's elected by Nebraskans. They're not directly accountable to Nebraskans. They're not incorporated in the state of Nebraska. We have no authority over them, and we're going down this path of partnering with somebody outside of the state, that an LLC is for profit. LLC is not a nonprofit, and if that isn't a partnership with private, then I don't know what it is. We are a public power state. It raises that question. We also, I think, need to have some additional options looked at more closely in how we operate this plant. Yes, it's had problems. We all can agree to that. Yes, we need to make changes. I've never disputed that. I'm saying that indemnifying someone outside of the state of Nebraska is a major policy shift and should not be done as quickly as we're about to do it with LB 165. And I think, at the very minimum, we should have a