

**Official Transcript of Proceedings**  
**NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION**

Title: Public Scoping Meeting for the Environmental Impact Statement for Holtec International's Hi-store Consolidated Interim Storage Facility for Spent Nuclear Fuel Located in Lea County, New Mexico

Docket Number: N/A

Location: Carlsbad, New Mexico

Date: May 3, 2018

Work Order No.: NRC-3674

Pages 1-192

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UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

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PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING FOR THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

STATEMENT FOR HOLTEC INTERNATIONAL'S HI-STORE

CONSOLIDATED INTERIM STORAGE FACILITY FOR

SPENT NUCLEAR FUEL LOCATED IN

LEA COUNTY, NEW MEXICO

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THURSDAY,

MAY 3, 2018

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CARLSBAD, NEW MEXICO

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The Public Scoping Meeting was convened in the Meeting Room at the Eddy County Fire Service, 1400 Commerce Drive, at 7:00 p.m., Chip Cameron, facilitating.

NRC STAFF PRESENT:

CHIP CAMERON, Facilitator

BRIAN SMITH, Deputy Director, Division of Fuel Cycle

Safety, Safeguards, and Environmental Review,

Office of Nuclear Material Safety and

Safeguards (NMSS)

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1 JILL CAVERLY, Environmental Review Project Manager,  
2 Environmental Review Branch, NMSS  
3 JOSE CUADRADO, Licensing and Safety Review Project  
4 Manager, Spent Fuel Licensing Branch, NMSS  
5 JOHN McKIRGAN, Chief, Spent Fuel Licensing Branch,  
6 NMSS  
7 CINTHYA ROMAN, Chief, Environmental Review Branch,  
8 NMSS  
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## P R O C E E D I N G S

7:04 p.m.

1  
2  
3 MR. CAMERON: Hey, good evening,  
4 everybody, and welcome. My name's Chip Cameron, and  
5 it's my pleasure to serve as your facilitator for  
6 tonight's meeting.

7 And this is a Carlsbad edition, so to  
8 speak, of a series of public meetings that the Nuclear  
9 Regulatory Commission is holding on its review of the  
10 license application that we received from Holtec  
11 International to build and operate an interim spent  
12 fuel storage facility in Lea County.

13 And the focus of the meeting is something  
14 called scoping. And scoping is a term that's used in  
15 the connection with the preparation of an  
16 Environmental Impact Statement under the federal law,  
17 the National Environmental Policy Act. And we're  
18 going to try to keep the acronyms down. But three  
19 that you will hear tonight are NRC, EIS, for  
20 Environmental Impact Statement, and NEPA, National  
21 Environmental Policy Act.

22 So scoping is pretty simple really. It's  
23 what should be considered by the Agency, in this case  
24 the NRC, when they prepare an Environmental Impact  
25 Statement. What should be covered, what should be

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1 addressed, and what does it need to be addressed in  
2 the Environmental Impact Statement. Therefore, what's  
3 the scope of it?

4 And the NRC staff is here to tell you  
5 about their review process, the environmental process,  
6 but also the safety review. Those are the two primary  
7 segments of how the NRC decides whether to grant a  
8 license or to deny a license. So we have  
9 environmental review, we have the safety review.

10 Tonight, we're going to focus on the  
11 scoping part of the environmental review, and after  
12 the NRC receives comments in meetings like this or in  
13 writing, they're going to prepare what's called a  
14 scoping report, and that will be available to the  
15 public. They'll summarize what they heard in the  
16 scoping meetings.

17 But they're also going to use those  
18 scoping comments to prepare a draft Environmental  
19 Impact Statement. I want to emphasize draft, because  
20 it won't be finalized until they come out here again  
21 and they get written public comments on that draft  
22 Environmental Impact Statement. And then they'll  
23 finalize it.

24 So two objectives, key objectives tonight.  
25 One is for the NRC to clearly explain their review

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1 process to you, review of the license application.  
2 And secondly to give them an opportunity to listen to  
3 your comments, advice, recommendations on this  
4 particular project.

5 And those two objectives correspond to the  
6 format for the meeting. First of all, we're going to  
7 have presentations from the NRC staff, and they're  
8 going to be fairly crisp, too, okay. And the second  
9 part of the meeting is public comment, and we're going  
10 to ask you to come up here to the microphone and give  
11 us your comments.

12 And we are taking a transcript. We have  
13 Matthew McMullen over here, and he's our court  
14 reporter. And that transcript will be made public,  
15 and it's going to be probably about three weeks. But  
16 it'll be on the NRC website, and the NRC staff will  
17 tell you how to access that.

18 We have a lot of people signed up to  
19 speak, and I think it's going to be a pretty  
20 interesting meeting. Some of the people we've heard  
21 at the previous two meetings that we did Monday in  
22 Roswell and Tuesday in Hobbs, but they can speak  
23 again.

24 But because we have so many people,  
25 instead of having five minutes, which we, which I like

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1 to give people five minutes. You can usually make  
2 your comments, thoughts known in five minutes. We're  
3 going to go four minutes, okay. Because we would like  
4 to get out of here before midnight, okay. But no,  
5 we've been finishing up about 10:45.

6 And I'll remind you at the three-minute  
7 mark, gentle reminder, can you finish up. And I know  
8 people are getting sick of me, tired of me saying to  
9 every speaker, can you finish up. So I'm going to  
10 take something from the soccer world.

11 When you got a minute left, I'll just tell  
12 you, you got the yellow card, all right. And then  
13 when your time's up, we're going to be nice and gentle  
14 and give you the pink card instead of the red card,  
15 okay.

16 But any rate, I apologize if I have to ask  
17 you to stop, because I know you spent a lot of time  
18 preparing remarks. But luckily, you can amplify on  
19 your remarks you give tonight by submitting written  
20 comments, and the staff will tell you how to do that.

21 The staff is not, they're here to listen  
22 carefully to what you're saying. But they're not  
23 going to respond to any comments that you have. And  
24 sometimes people ask questions during their comments.  
25 And they're not going to be answering those questions.

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1 But when they evaluate the transcript, the comments  
2 from the meeting, they'll carefully look at what you  
3 suggested.

4 And I just want to tell you that we do  
5 have Beverly Allen here. Beverly, where are you?  
6 Beverly is from Senator Tom Udall's office, and thank  
7 the Senator, thank you for being here, and thank the  
8 Senator for having you come to the meeting. I just  
9 wanted people to know that you were here.

10 MS. ALLEN: Diane Ventura from Senator  
11 Heinrich's office is on her way.

12 MR. CAMERON: Okay. So when Diane gets  
13 here, maybe we'll just interrupt and we'll introduce  
14 her. So when we do get to the comment period, I'm  
15 going to call four or five names in a row. And it  
16 cuts down on the time if you can get ready to come up  
17 and speak.

18 So we're going to try to be really crisp  
19 and efficient tonight. But I think you're going to  
20 hear a lot of good comments. NRC's going to hear a  
21 lot of good comments. And one other thing is is that  
22 when we do these public meetings on a license  
23 application, the public is always interested in  
24 talking to the license applicant, in this case, Holtec  
25 International.

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1 Well, we do have Joy Russell here from  
2 Holtec International, and some of her colleagues. And  
3 she'll be available after the meeting to talk to you  
4 about any questions that you might have.

5 So let me introduce the NRC staff for you.  
6 We're going to start out with Cinthya Roman, okay.  
7 And Cinthya is the Branch Chief of the Environmental  
8 Review Branch at the NRC in the Office of Nuclear  
9 Materials Safety and Safeguards. She's going to  
10 introduce some information about the NRC.

11 And then we're going to have Jill Caverly,  
12 who's right here. Jill is the project manager for the  
13 environmental review of the Holtec International  
14 license application. So she is a key person, and  
15 she's going to tell you about that review.

16 And our senior NRC official is Brian  
17 Smith. And Brian is the Deputy Director of the  
18 Division of Fuel Cycle Safeguards and Environmental  
19 Review, and he'll also close out the meeting for us  
20 when we're done hearing from all of you.

21 And we have our safety analysts here with  
22 us from the Agency, and we have the Branch Chief, John  
23 McKirgan. And we have the Safety Project Manager,  
24 Jose Cuadrado. And the, oftentimes there's a  
25 correspondence between the environmental review

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1 material and what the NRC needs, the safety findings  
2 they need to make.

3 So they're here to listen to, if there's  
4 any safety issues, they're here to listen to that.

5 And finally, and I'll get out of here, we  
6 have Dave MacIntyre here somewhere. There's Dave  
7 MacIntyre, he's a senior Public Affairs official at  
8 NRC Headquarters in Rockville. We have Bill Maier.  
9 Bill, are you here? Bill Maier, okay. He's from our  
10 regional, he's the Regional Liaison Officer at the NRC  
11 office in Texas, Region IV. So he's with us, and we  
12 have Angel Moreno, who's with our Office of  
13 Congressional Affairs. We also have some other people  
14 here from Congressional Affairs.

15 But final thing, just be courteous to  
16 everybody. You may hear things that you don't agree  
17 with, but just respect the person who's given that.  
18 And Cinthya, are you ready? Okay, Cinthya Roman.

19 MS. ROMAN: Hi. First I want to say a  
20 couple of things in Spanish. He provided a lot of  
21 information, so I just want to make sure that people  
22 that speak Spanish have that information.

23 (Foreign language spoken.)

24 MS. ROMAN: Good evening, as Chip  
25 mentioned, staff in my branch is going to be working

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1 on the Environmental Review Branch for the Holtec  
2 license application. And our main goal today is to  
3 hear from you, so I'm going to be very brief.

4 First, I want to give you a very quick  
5 overview of what NRC does and our role in regulating  
6 the Holtec project. Our agency is charged by federal  
7 law to be the nation's only regulator of commercial  
8 nuclear fuel, nuclear materials, independently  
9 ensuring these materials are used, handled, stored  
10 safely, securely.

11 Our mission is to protect the public  
12 health and safety, promote the common defense and  
13 security, and protect the environment by regulating  
14 the civilian use of radioactive materials. To  
15 accomplish our mission, we carefully review each  
16 license application we receive before making a  
17 decision on whether or not to grant the applicant's  
18 request. Next slide.

19 NRC regulates the operation of 99 nuclear  
20 power reactors that generate about 20% of the  
21 electricity in the United States. We also regulate  
22 civilian use of nuclear materials, research reactors  
23 at universities, transportation of nuclear materials,  
24 and their storage and disposal.

25 NRC strives to be open and transparent in

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1 its review. As such, stakeholders have many  
2 opportunities to participate in public meetings on  
3 environmental and safety issues. This scoping meeting  
4 is one of those opportunities. Next slide.

5 As an independent regulator, the NRC  
6 determines whether it is safe to build and operate a  
7 storage facility at the proposed site. The NRC does  
8 not promote or build the nuclear facility. Also, we  
9 do not own or operate the nuclear facility. Again,  
10 our mission and our regulations are designed to  
11 protect both the public, workers, and the environment.

12 Holtec is applying for a license to store  
13 waste. Holtec is not asking for permission to  
14 reprocess or generate more nuclear waste. NRC does  
15 not select the location for the storage facility, we  
16 just evaluate the impacts of building and operating  
17 the storage facility at the location proposed by the  
18 licensee.

19 As we will explain later in this  
20 presentation, the results of our environmental review  
21 will be documented in an Environmental Impact  
22 Statement, which is also a public document. This  
23 analysis, along with other factors, will form the  
24 basis for the staff decision to issue a license or  
25 not.

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1           Now, Jill Caverly will provide additional  
2 details about the Holtec project and the environmental  
3 review process. Thank you.

4           MS. CAVERLY: Good evening, I'm Jill  
5 Caverly, and I'm going to be the Environmental Project  
6 Manager for the review. The next few slides will be  
7 specific to the Holtec storage facility application  
8 and its review.

9           Holtec has applied for a license to  
10 construct and operate the storage facility under 10  
11 CFR Part 72, or the NRC's regulations governing  
12 storage of spent nuclear fuel and reactor-related,  
13 greater than Class C waste.

14           If granted, the Holtec would receive a 40-  
15 year license to construct and operate a consolidated  
16 interim storage facility. The current application  
17 before the NRC requests construction and operation of  
18 only the first phase of up to 20 planned phases. This  
19 is the current -- in this current application, Holtec  
20 is requesting storage of up to 500 canisters of spent  
21 nuclear fuel.

22           This spent fuel would come from shut down  
23 and operating nuclear power plants from around the  
24 country. Holtec anticipates applying for up to 20  
25 phases of construction and operation of 500 canisters

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1 of spent nuclear fuel each, for a total of 10,000  
2 canisters of spent fuel storage.

3 These additional phases would require  
4 separate applications from Holtec, and would be  
5 subject to their own safety and environmental reviews.  
6 The Environmental Report provides information on the  
7 full build-out of the site for 10,000 canisters. Next  
8 slide, please.

9 This slide shows the approximate location  
10 for the proposed consolidated interim storage facility  
11 in New Mexico. As you can see, the facility is  
12 located approximately halfway between the cities of  
13 Carlsbad and Hobbs in Lea County. Next slide.

14 Holtec plans to use the HI-STORM UMAX  
15 system for the storage of the spent fuel. HI-STORM  
16 UMAX stands for Holtec International storage module  
17 underground maximum capacity, and is an NRC-certified  
18 design. That means that we have evaluated it and  
19 determined it meets NRC regulations and can safely  
20 store spent fuel.

21 The system is a dry, in-ground, spent fuel  
22 storage system, and each of these modules holds one  
23 canister of spent fuel. Holtec has applied for  
24 storage of 500 canisters of spent fuel. The  
25 canisters' transfer facilities would be below ground.

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1 This is a low profile design, as seen in the  
2 conceptual drawing from the Holtec application. Next  
3 slide.

4 This flow chart provides the overview of  
5 the license application process, which could be  
6 described generally as a three-parallel-phrase  
7 process. After the application is submitted, NRC  
8 conducts an acceptance review to determine if the  
9 application has sufficient information to begin a  
10 detailed technical review. If so, NRC docket the  
11 application, and this begins the safety and  
12 environmental review phases.

13 From a safety standpoint, we work through  
14 a separate review to decide if the license should be  
15 issued. The result of this phase of the review is a  
16 safety evaluation report. This is graphically  
17 represented on the left column of the flow chart in  
18 the steps in orange.

19 The environmental review results in an  
20 Environmental Impact Statement, which describes the  
21 impacts on the environment from the proposed project.  
22 On the right side, you'll see the adjudicatory  
23 hearings. This blue box on the figure refers to the  
24 opportunity for the public to request a hearing on the  
25 application.

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1           These hearings would be held if a petition  
2           to intervene is granted. So the results of these  
3           three processes, a hearing if granted, the results of  
4           the environmental review, documented in the EIS, and  
5           the safety review, documented in a safety evaluation  
6           report, will factor into NRC's final decision whether  
7           or not to grant the license to Holtec for the storage  
8           facility.

9           It's important to note that the focus of  
10          this meeting is the environmental review process.  
11          Next slide.

12          This flow diagram outlines the  
13          environmental review process, or the middle column of  
14          the previous slide. The opportunities for the public  
15          involvement are highlighted in light blue.

16          The NRC starts its review by publishing a  
17          notice of intent to inform the public of our plan to  
18          prepare an EIS and to conduct a scoping process. The  
19          light blue box on the right side identifies the  
20          current scoping process, in which this meeting is  
21          included.

22          The purpose of this phase is to gather  
23          more information to use to help us prepare our EIS.  
24          Comments gathered from this meeting, as well as many  
25          other information collections, will be independently

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1 evaluated for impacts of this particular project on  
2 the environment.

3 We will document your comments today in a  
4 meeting transcript. The public can also provide  
5 written comments through the end of the scoping  
6 period.

7 We will analyze all the information  
8 gathered, develop a draft EIS, and issue it for public  
9 comment. At that time, we again invite the public's  
10 comment on the draft EIS, that's the lower blue box,  
11 the lower left blue box. At that time, the staff will  
12 continue -- oh, sorry. At that time, the staff will  
13 schedule a meeting to hear your comments. The staff  
14 will evaluate those comments and consider modifying  
15 the draft EIS before issuing a final EIS.

16 The final EIS and the results of the  
17 safety evaluation, or the Safety Evaluation Report,  
18 will contribute to our final decision. Next slide.

19 The environmental is based on the  
20 requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act,  
21 or NEPA. NEPA requires federal agencies to apply a  
22 systematic approach to evaluate the impacts of its  
23 actions on the environment. NRC will prepare an EIS  
24 in accordance with regulations and guidance. Next  
25 slide.

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1           This is a graphical representation of the  
2 types and sources of information that NRC gathers when  
3 preparing an EIS. We will conduct a site visit and  
4 meet with local and state officials and other federal  
5 agencies. We will also meet with tribes.

6           We are currently gathering information for  
7 scoping that will help determine which issues should  
8 be considered in our review. We also expect to  
9 request additional information from Holtec following  
10 the completion of this process. Next slide.

11           The NRC will gather information on a wide  
12 range of topics related to our environmental issues.  
13 This slide shows the resource areas that we will  
14 consider in our Environmental Impact Statement. The  
15 NRC typically includes these environmental resource  
16 areas in its reviews.

17           So this slide is a high-level timeline for  
18 our anticipated environmental review. This stepwise  
19 approach meets our responsibilities under the National  
20 Environmental Policy Act. We started the review with  
21 a notice of intent to conduct scoping and prepare an  
22 EIS. This started the 60-day scoping period. This  
23 public meeting is part of that scoping process. We  
24 will continue to gather and analyze information  
25 related to the review and develop the draft EIS.

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1           We tentatively expect to publish the draft  
2 EIS in June of 2019. At that point, we'll publish a  
3 notice of availability, and that will start a 45-day  
4 period for the public and other agencies to comment on  
5 the draft EIS. These comments will also be addressed  
6 and the analysis adjusted if necessary. We  
7 tentatively expect to issue the final EIS in mid-2020.  
8 Next slide.

9           So the scoping process helps the NRC to  
10 determine the scope of the EIS and identify  
11 significant issues to be analyzed in depth. It also  
12 helps to identify and eliminate issues which are not  
13 significant.

14           Finally, it helps us to identify other  
15 environmental reviews and consultation requirements  
16 related to the proposed action. So in other words, we  
17 want to hear from you, because you live in the local  
18 area and bring issues to our attention that we may not  
19 be aware of. Next slide.

20           The NRC is requesting information and  
21 input specific to this proposed facility regarding  
22 what should be included or excluded from the scope of  
23 the EIS.

24           Some examples of information that NRC is  
25 requesting are, are there any local projects that are

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1 being planned or developed nearby? Have you  
2 identified wildlife or habitat that should be  
3 considered? Are there cultural resources that should  
4 be considered in the evaluation? Are there particular  
5 populations nearby that should be considered? Are  
6 there any other unique characteristics of the project  
7 site or local communities that the NRC should consider  
8 in its evaluation? Next slide.

9           These are the ways that you can submit  
10 comments on the scope of the EIS. You may present  
11 your comments orally or in writing at this public  
12 meeting. You may submit comments through the  
13 regulations.gov website by searching for the docket ID  
14 NRC-2018-0025, submitting those comments there.

15           You may also mail your comments to the  
16 address on this slide. But remember that all the  
17 comments should be submitted by May 29 to ensure that  
18 they will be considered. That's the end of the  
19 scoping period.

20           Additional information on the application  
21 and the review can be found on the federal rulemaking  
22 website, or at NRC's public document room, or through  
23 NRC's project-specific website for the Holtec  
24 application. In addition, we've provided the  
25 libraries of Hobbs, Carlsbad, and Roswell with

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1 Environmental Reports for your review.

2 If you want to be on our mailing list or  
3 email list, please make sure that your name and  
4 address are provided to one of the NRC staff at the  
5 registration area. This is just one way to ensure  
6 that you will be notified of upcoming meetings at the  
7 issuance of draft and final EIS.

8 At the bottom of the slide you'll see the  
9 points of contact for the Holtec application. So  
10 that's wrapping up my portion of the presentation, but  
11 please remember to submit all your comments by May 29.  
12 Thank you. Brian.

13 MR. SMITH: Good evening, welcome, and  
14 thank you for attending our public meeting tonight.  
15 We look forward to hearing all of your comments.

16 The NRC's job is to protect the public  
17 health and safety and the environment by thoroughly  
18 reviewing each license application we receive before  
19 deciding whether or not to grant an applicant's  
20 request. We understand that in the audience tonight,  
21 there are those who may oppose Holtec's license  
22 application, as well as those who may support it.

23 I want to assure you that we want to hear  
24 from both sides this evening. However, I want to  
25 remind you that the purpose of this meeting is to

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1 gather comments for the scoping of our EIS. We want  
2 to know what important information and issues we need  
3 to consider and analyze in our EIS.

4 We treat all the comments we receive the  
5 same, whether a comment was made one person, or by a  
6 hundred people. We give each comment we receive the  
7 same careful consideration through the preparation of  
8 the EIS. We will consider all of the oral and written  
9 comments we receive here tonight, as well as those we  
10 receive via letter, email, or through the federal  
11 rulemaking website, regulations.gov.

12 The EIS, combined with NRC's safety and  
13 security review of Holtec's license application  
14 request, will result in an NRC licensing decision to  
15 either approve the license request or disapprove it.  
16 I'll end my remarks there and turn it over to Chip.

17 MR. CAMERON: Okay, thank you, thank you  
18 very much all of you. And I introduced Beverly Allen  
19 before from Senator Udall's office, and we have Diane  
20 Ventura here with us from Senator Heinrich's office.  
21 So thank you both for being here.

22 And is the review process clear to all of  
23 you? Basically, does anybody have a question about  
24 the review process? Yes.

25 MS. HADDEN: I understand there was an

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1 email set up now for comments to come in. Have you  
2 announced that already?

3 MS. ROMAN: We need to issue a Federal  
4 Register Notice. That's going to take a couple of  
5 days. But you should see it soon, probably next week.

6 MR. CAMERON: And we apologize for the  
7 feedback, but let's get started with our comments  
8 tonight. And we're going to go to elected officials  
9 first, and we're going to lead off with the Mayor of  
10 Carlsbad, Mayor Janway, then we're going to go to  
11 Commissioner Susan Crockett, and then three City  
12 Council people. But I'll do that later. Go ahead,  
13 Mayor.

14 MR. JANWAY: Start over here. Good  
15 evening. As the Mayor of Carlsbad, I'd like to  
16 welcome the Nuclear Regulatory Commission to our town.

17 Tonight's scoping meeting has been in  
18 development for a long time. We're here thanks to the  
19 hard work of the members of the Eddy-Lea Energy  
20 Alliance, Holtec, and NRC itself. And this is a key  
21 milestone in a very lengthy effort.

22 To best understand this project, you need  
23 to go back quite a bit further than that, to the Blue  
24 Ribbon Commission on America's Nuclear Future, which  
25 of course included former Senator Pete Domenici. The

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1 BRC's mission was to draft recommendations on closing  
2 the fuel cycle.

3 Spent fuel was sitting at locations across  
4 the country and a repository is years from  
5 development. The BRC's recommendations included an  
6 interim storage facility and a consent-based formula  
7 for moving forward. Tonight's effort is a combination  
8 of those two recommendations.

9 You can't talk about consent-based in the  
10 nuclear industry without looking at Carlsbad. This  
11 community's efforts when it came to the waste  
12 isolation pilot plan are legendary. While activists  
13 from other parts of the nation have suddenly all  
14 convinced themselves they can speak for our interest  
15 here, residents of Carlsbad have taken the approach  
16 that we want to examine the actual scientific data and  
17 make a wise decision.

18 Most of our citizens took that approach  
19 decades ago, and they are taking it again now.  
20 Carlsbad may well happen, and we believe we can make  
21 this consolidated storage facility happen as well.  
22 What we're examining now is a Holtec system that is  
23 the safest in the world. They have a transportation  
24 system that is the most robust system ever licensed.  
25 This is an excellent proposal.

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1           Carlsbad, as well as Hobbs, Eddy County,  
2           and Lea County has passed resolutions in support of  
3           this interim storage facility because we know there's  
4           a great need for these facility, and because we're in  
5           the ideal remote site with Holtec's subsurface system.

6           This is a system that has been designed  
7           with safety and security in mind, and we appreciate  
8           all the hard work that brought us to this point.

9           I strongly support this project and  
10          believe it is vital to the future of Carlsbad and the  
11          area. Thank you.

12          MR. CAMERON: Mayor, thank you very much.  
13          And we're going to do two things here that will help.  
14          It's maybe, can we put one of the cordless mics there?  
15          We're going to get a better mic, but also in a few  
16          minutes we're going to get -- okay.

17          MS. CROCKETT: I'm good. Ready? We're  
18          playing musical mics. All right, good evening, I want  
19          to welcome the NRC. And thank you so much for taking  
20          time to listen to the stakeholders.

21          My name is Susan Crockett. I am Chairman  
22          of the Eddy County Commission, President of the  
23          Carlsbad Department of Development, member of the  
24          Eddy-Lea Energy Alliance. And I'm also on the Mayor's  
25          Nuclear Task Force.

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1 I have been involved in the development of  
2 the interim storage facility for over eight years, and  
3 I have educated myself and learned about the facility.  
4 And I'm confident in the safety and security of the  
5 proposed design. There is a huge need for this  
6 project throughout the country, and we have a great  
7 site for it.

8 I have learned, as I've educated myself,  
9 that we have spent fuel stored on rivers, around  
10 lakes, oceans, and in communities that don't need this  
11 in their communities. This puts these areas at an  
12 environmental risk. Our site is remote and a great  
13 location until a repository is developed.

14 Holtec's proposed casks passed all the NRC  
15 testing and modeling with flying colors, and I think  
16 the 15-inch thick wall of the cask with the impact  
17 limiters make it indestructible. Holtec's subsurface  
18 system is the safest and most secure system in the  
19 world.

20 I come from a fourth generation farming  
21 family, and it was mentioned in a previous meeting  
22 that this facility could have an economic impact on  
23 farmland. If there were a leak of radioactivity, it  
24 could possibly affect the Pecos Valley Compact. That  
25 comment is totally unfounded and not true.

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1 I am a lifelong resident of Eddy County,  
2 my husband is a lifelong resident of Eddy County. We  
3 have raised our two grown children here, and our  
4 oldest son, daughter-in-law, and my eight-month-old  
5 grandson live here. And all of them support this  
6 project and have no fear of living near this proposed  
7 site.

8 I have never been one to believe in hype  
9 and hysteria. I believe in following science,  
10 engineering, and testing to come to informed  
11 decisions, and I fully support this project. Again,  
12 thank you for your time and for listening to the  
13 stakeholders. We appreciate it.

14 MR. CAMERON: Okay, thank you, thank you  
15 very much, Commissioner. And we'll move this back a  
16 little bit and it'll give, I think there's going to be  
17 plenty of light. Okay, Lisa, did you want to come up  
18 and talk to us? And just introduce yourself to  
19 everybody. Thank you.

20 MS. ANAYA-FLORES: Good evening, NRC  
21 members. My name is Lisa Anaya-Flores. I am a  
22 lifelong resident of Carlsbad. I am retired from the  
23 Carlsbad School District, and I serve our community as  
24 a city councilor. I am a mother and a grandmother, a  
25 wife, sister, aunt.

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1 I've been following the development of the  
2 interim storage facility for some time. I have to say  
3 I'm impressed by the safety and security of its  
4 design. There's no question of its need in our  
5 nation. I believe we have an ideal setting for it.  
6 And I believe that it's an ideal place to have these  
7 spent fuels stored until a repository is developed.

8 I strongly, strongly support the project.  
9 Thank you for hearing my comments, and I appreciate  
10 you being here.

11 MR. CAMERON: Thank you very much.

12 And we're going to go to three members of  
13 the Carlsbad City Council now. And let's go to Ed, Ed  
14 Rodriguez, and then JJ Chavez and Mark Waltersheid.

15 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Thank you. And again,  
16 welcome to my little neighborhood here. My name is  
17 Eddie Rodriguez. I am a city councilman for Ward 1.  
18 I am also the Mayor pro tem for Carlsbad. Been here  
19 my whole life, and I welcome you to our little slice  
20 of paradise here.

21 I too am in total support of Holtec coming  
22 into our neighborhood. There is a lot of safety  
23 precaution that has been looked at, examined, and  
24 passed by you sitting at this table. All of those  
25 safety features are designed to protect everyone. All

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1 along the route, everywhere we go, everywhere it moves  
2 from beginning to end, you guys have considered all  
3 safety aspects and addressed them.

4 In the design that Holtec has moved  
5 forward with, and which their design is actually now  
6 being implemented by another company in order to  
7 ensure the safety of their fuel rods in the same  
8 manner as Holtec is able to secure.

9 Now one thing I'd like to address is the  
10 transportation of those casks. These are very heavy,  
11 as you know. They will have to travel by rail. And  
12 there has been made comments about environmental  
13 justice.

14 Environmental justice as defined by EPA is  
15 the fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all  
16 people, regardless of race, color, national origin, or  
17 income with respect to the development,  
18 implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws,  
19 regulations, and policies.

20 This was intended to protect people, and  
21 we all understand that. Now, the basic concept is  
22 good. But if it's misused or misappropriated or  
23 mislabeled because we don't agree with something that  
24 is going to happen, that does not make it an  
25 environmental injustice.

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1           If we were to build a coal plant and  
2 decide to build it, it's a brand new coal plant that  
3 we're going to build, and we look at a poor  
4 neighborhood that cannot defend itself against our  
5 actions, then that would be a social, an environmental  
6 injustice. That's not what we're talking about here.

7           We are talking about railroad, which is  
8 the backbone of America. It was built, it was laid,  
9 and we built American cities around that for that very  
10 reason, so that we could get the goods that we wanted  
11 and that we needed in order to conduct business and  
12 further our own ventures.

13           So as we move forward here, I want to be  
14 careful that we don't use that environmental justice  
15 as a golden ticket, a claim that we can make just  
16 because we don't agree with something that's going to  
17 happen.

18           The proposed Holtec location is 35 miles  
19 from Carlsbad and Hobbs, as has been well described.  
20 Carlsbad and Hobbs are by no means poor communities.  
21 We have very robust industries, we have a lot of oil  
22 and gas, and we have very high paying salaries here.  
23 So because environmental justice cannot be applied to  
24 the cities, it's being applied to the rail transport  
25 system.

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1           And that's not an accurate application of  
2           that. And I would hope that as you look forward and  
3           move forward with this that environmental justice is  
4           considered for what it really should be. And in the  
5           event of an accident on the rail, the least of the  
6           worries would be the cask and any radiation leak.

7           Those casks would survive. They've been  
8           dropped on a spike, they've been submerged in water,  
9           they've shot at by a rocket to show that it could  
10          survive a jet impact. So you have done your due  
11          diligence, and we are trying to do our due diligence  
12          here in getting this thing done and passed. And I ask  
13          that you consider all of these as you move forward.

14          And I believe that instead of  
15          environmental justice, we as Americans should be  
16          talking about responsibility. We have all the waste  
17          that has been mentioned before stored at facilities,  
18          and we should be very worried about where it's stored,  
19          because it's stored very close to waterways. One is  
20          on the ocean in a fault area. That should really  
21          concern us. We need to get that out of there. And  
22          they're in very populated areas.

23          So I strongly support the Holtec project  
24          and believe it will make safer the lives of American  
25          citizens of all race, color, creed, and ethnicity.

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1 Thank you for your time and once again, welcome to our  
2 little slice of heaven.

3 MR. CAMERON: Thank you, thank you very  
4 much. And we're going to hear from JJ Chavez and,  
5 Chavez, and Mark Walterscheid. But we also have Eddy  
6 County Commission James Walterscheid here with us.  
7 Okay.

8 MR. CHAVEZ: Good evening, my name is JJ  
9 Chavez. I was recently elected to the Carlsbad City  
10 Council. Myself and my family are lifelong residents  
11 of Carlsbad. Myself and several of my peers grew up  
12 with the WIPP project, by getting informed by  
13 presentations at school, by having family members work  
14 there, friends and neighbors work at the WIPP and  
15 URENCO facilities. Carlsbad, Hobbs, Eddy, Lea.

16 We have a strong understanding of the  
17 nuclear issues, such as transportation and storage.  
18 Not only do we have an understanding, the community  
19 came together to reopen WIPP after the 2014 events.  
20 The community knows how vital the facility was to the  
21 city and to the United States.

22 As the community knows how vital Holtec is  
23 to the community and to the United States by it being  
24 safe, stable. And it's placed 35 miles from any  
25 population. The containers have been tested in every

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1 which way imaginable, and will withstand with  
2 stringent safety measures. The intermittent storage  
3 provides a great temporary storage until a repository  
4 is developed. I strongly support the project. Thank  
5 you.

6 MR. CAMERON: Thank you, Mr. Chavez.

7 MR. M. WALTERSCHEID: Okay, my name is  
8 Mark Waltersheid, I'm a lifelong member, I've lived  
9 here all my life. Member of this group, right. I'm  
10 a member of this Carlsbad City Council, I'm in favor  
11 of the NRC's process of permitting this proposed  
12 facility, and I will stand very vigilant in every step  
13 of the process.

14 We are very diverse in our business  
15 makeup, and this project would only strengthen our  
16 economy here. Thank you.

17 MR. CAMERON: Okay, thank you. And is  
18 Eddy County Commissioner James Waltersheid here?  
19 Thank you, Commissioner.

20 MR. J. WALTERSCHEID: Good evening,  
21 members of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, we  
22 welcome you to Carlsbad and Eddy County. And like  
23 Councilor Eddie Rodriguez said, this is the slice of  
24 heaven. That's the way we think of it. The weather's  
25 been fairly good here today, so I hope you all enjoy

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1 it.

2 I would like to point out to, one thing  
3 I've heard, I was at the NRC scoping meeting in Hobbs  
4 last year. And it was brought up about, the business  
5 about the nuclear spent rods need to stay put at the  
6 power plants. And I think it's a no-brainer. They've  
7 got to come out of those power plants because of the  
8 reason that they're mostly located on lakes, rivers,  
9 streams, and oceans.

10 I've seen the San Onofre plant in  
11 California when I was there, living there about 30, 40  
12 years ago, and it's right on the water, you know. And  
13 the reason they're all on these bodies of water is the  
14 cooling. There is no doubt about that.

15 And so I mean, to me, I think there was,  
16 I've heard it said there was like 200 sites across the  
17 country that they're holding these spent fuel rods and  
18 will hold in the future. And they're going to keep  
19 holding them, and some have been there 30 years or  
20 more in these swimming pools being cooled.

21 So anyway, you would think from a  
22 practical way of looking at this thing, they need to  
23 be put somewhere away from lakes, any kind of bodies  
24 of water. There is no doubt in my mind about that.  
25 I think that was a, I can't understand why people

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1 would argue that point.

2 But anyway, it appears that this is, you  
3 know, it's going to be probably out west. That's the  
4 least population center. Nevada looked like a good  
5 place for the repository, people in Nevada weren't too  
6 happy with it. So this area has WIPP, and there's a  
7 lot of people are educated and have a lot of knowledge  
8 about the nuclear industry here.

9 And so this appears to be a pretty good  
10 place to put it. But anyway, I just think the Nuclear  
11 Regulatory Commission will, trust that they will do a  
12 good job in thoroughly scrutinizing this application.  
13 So thank you for doing this, thank you.

14 MR. CAMERON: Thank you, County  
15 Commissioner. We're next going to go to Michael  
16 Hernandez, and then John Heaton and Police Chief  
17 Skinner, Fire Chief Lopez if he's here. John Moyer.  
18 And those are our next ones, and here's Michael.

19 MR. HERNANDEZ: Good evening, my name is  
20 Michael Hernandez, and I'm employed by the city of  
21 Carlsbad as the City Administrator. I'm a longtime  
22 resident of Eddy County. I want to thank the NRC for  
23 taking time to come visit this site and learn the  
24 information from the locals.

25 My family and myself have lived here for

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1 many years, and we are well acquainted with WIPP and  
2 the URENCO projects. My family and myself like and  
3 support these projects and what they do to our area.

4 The proposed site is an ideal location.  
5 The remoteness, the 35 miles from any populated area  
6 is key, it's really important. This location would be  
7 great to temporarily store the fuel until a repository  
8 is developed.

9 I very much endorse this project and  
10 encourage the NRC to expedite the licensing process,  
11 and I thank you for your time.

12 MR. CAMERON: Thank you, Mr. Hernandez.  
13 And now we have John Heaton.

14 MR. HEATON: Thank you again. Good  
15 evening, welcome to Carlsbad, and thank you for being  
16 here. I am the current Chairman of the Eddy-Lea  
17 Energy Alliance, and we do really appreciate you being  
18 here to listen to the community.

19 Eddy-Lea had purchased 1000 acres of land  
20 for the GNEP project. It didn't materialize. Then  
21 when the focus of the Blue Ribbon Commission on  
22 Consolidated Interim Storage occurred, we recognized  
23 that there was a huge problem in the country, as you  
24 already heard. Many power plants, or most of them,  
25 are all located on rivers, streams, lakes,

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1 oceanfronts, and some are in very seismic sensitive  
2 areas.

3 Fuel pools are overpacked, and many sites  
4 had no storage capacity at all. And now the taxpayer  
5 is paying the utilities to maintain their fuel because  
6 DOE didn't take the fuel in 1998 by contract. The  
7 utilities had never anticipated on-site storage, and  
8 now a third of the population of the United States  
9 lives within 50 miles of a power plant. That's 120  
10 million people.

11 We all know we need a repository. But in  
12 the absence of one, and knowing it will be several  
13 decades before there is one, the BRC recommended  
14 interim storage. We then recognized that we had an  
15 ideal site. Remote, 35 miles from any population,  
16 seismically stable, dry, a local nuclear workforce,  
17 and a population with two nuclear facilities that what  
18 I call have a high nuclear IQ.

19 The local population understands nuclear  
20 materials and know they can now be handled  
21 competently. Even WIPP, which was designed with a  
22 HEPA filter system in case of a leak from a rock fall,  
23 worked just as it was designed to do.

24 Eddy-Lea spent considerable time  
25 evaluating the systems travel to manufacturing sites

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1 of the big three and invited bids. We chose Holtec  
2 not only because they are a great company with a  
3 fabulous record, but they have the best, safest, most  
4 secure system in the world. And a contract is a  
5 contract, but they are doing everything that they  
6 agreed to do and even more.

7 I think that represents the character of  
8 the company, their leadership, and their great  
9 employees. We are very impressed by Holtec. The  
10 Holtec system is, as you've heard, a subsurface system  
11 and has virtually no interaction with the environment.  
12 It is resistant to floods, hurricanes, tornadoes,  
13 seismic events, terrorist attacks, rockets, and plane  
14 crashes.

15 Because of its robustness, it was the  
16 system, as you heard, chosen for San Onofre, which is  
17 literally on the oceanfront. And it is impacted by  
18 the San Onofre, or the San Andreas fault. Holtec's  
19 high star transportation cask has a 15-inch wall of  
20 steel and lead and is virtually indestructible.

21 Testing requires to be dropped on the most  
22 vulnerable point, dropped on a spike, burned in jet  
23 fuel at 1400 degrees, and then submerged in 30 feet of  
24 water, and it cannot leak. The release of the cask on  
25 the surface of the cask is five times less than the

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1 NRC standards at two meters. At only a few meters  
2 more, it is indistinguishable from background.

3 It will travel on a unit train with a  
4 security guard, with security guards, travel at  
5 reduced speeds, and will be satellite tracked. We  
6 can't tell you that there won't be an accident. There  
7 are a lot of crazy people that will pull in front of  
8 a train. But we can tell you that there won't be a  
9 release.

10 This is deja vu for us. We went through  
11 this same thing with WIPP. We went through all the  
12 fearmongering. WIPP has shipped more than 12,000  
13 shipments and traveled over 14 million miles. That's  
14 like going to the moon and back 28 times, without a  
15 serious accident and absolutely no release.

16 We hear comments that say why would we  
17 ship it twice and double risk. Believe me, a  
18 repository will be in the West, and moving the spent  
19 fuel two-thirds of the way to the repository will only  
20 impact the mileage traveled slightly more. There is  
21 really no real increase in travel risk.

22 There are no pumps, no moving parts, it  
23 just sits there and decays. I can't think of a more  
24 totally benign project. It is a great economic  
25 development for our area, and we support it strongly.

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1 And again, thank you for being here.

2 MR. CAMERON: Thank you, John. We are  
3 going to go to Chief Skinner, Chief Lopez, and  
4 Assistant Chief Moyer. But then we're going to go to  
5 Don Hancock and Melanie Deason. Hi, Chief.

6 MR. SKINNER: Good evening, my name is  
7 Shane Skinner, and I'm Chief of Police of the Carlsbad  
8 Police Department.

9 I appreciate the opportunity to speak  
10 tonight. Obviously, you'll have a lot of people to  
11 come up here and speak about the nature of the  
12 project, and I tend to stick to what I know, what I  
13 see, what I experience. And that is is, obviously as  
14 a key member of this city's emergency services, we've  
15 had the opportunity to work with WIPP over a long  
16 period of time.

17 WIPP has not only been a local facility  
18 that has employed a large local workforce, but it has  
19 long been integrated with the community of Carlsbad.  
20 I have witnessed the great effort that WIPP has placed  
21 on educating the community and local citizens on  
22 nuclear material. I've often spoke to many citizens  
23 who feel very informed and are pleased the WIPP  
24 facility is here in our area.

25 As a key stakeholder in the community's

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1 public safety, I must say that WIPP has always been  
2 accommodating in engaging with us on a proactive  
3 level. With the help of the WIPP staff, we have  
4 coordinated on-site visits, training opportunities for  
5 staff members, development of emergency response  
6 plans, and dedication to a mutual and continual  
7 communication.

8 I feel like WIPP has always been  
9 transparent in their efforts to be part of the  
10 solutions that arise for potential problems that I  
11 face and encounter as the Chief of Police.

12 Therefore based on my knowledge of the  
13 WIPP facility and my past working experience with  
14 industry team leaders, it has become glaringly  
15 apparent that safety and security has always been a  
16 top priority.

17 I know that there's going to be a lot of  
18 people that come up and speak for good and for bad.  
19 I feel like our, I'm very proud of our community, that  
20 we're very involved on both sides of it. I know that  
21 you will get a lot of good information, a lot of good  
22 comments and come to a good decision.

23 But me as the Chief of Police, if this was  
24 approved by the Commission, we would welcome to, you  
25 know, to endeavor to build the same kind of great

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1 working relationship that we have with the WIPP  
2 facility. Thank you.

3 MR. CAMERON: And thank you, Chief  
4 Skinner. And is Chief Lopez here? Oh, here he comes.  
5 Okay, great.

6 MR. LOPEZ: Good afternoon, as he said,  
7 Richard Lopez, Fire Chief. Born and raised in  
8 Carlsbad, and honestly I don't even plan on leaving  
9 when I retire. I plan on staying here a while,  
10 especially with the four grandkids here.

11 Anyways, as Chief Skinner said, we train  
12 with WIPP on a regular basis, to the point that with  
13 the equipment and the training that we have, Carlsbad  
14 Fire Department's Hazmat Team, we're ready to handle  
15 radiological release of one ever happened, which the  
16 likelihood is not very high. So we're very  
17 comfortable with that.

18 On another note, WIPP has been able to  
19 assist us in first response around their area. So  
20 their fire department, their fire and EMS have  
21 provided first response to these incidences until we  
22 get there and we can continue on and mitigate that  
23 situation.

24 So again, we support this project. I look  
25 forward to the facility. I have no reservations about

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1 it. And I appreciate you guys this evening, thank  
2 you.

3 MR. CAMERON: And thank you very much,  
4 Chief. And is Assistant Chief Moyer here? Okay.  
5 Well, in that case, let's go to Don Hancock. And then  
6 we'll go to Melanie Deason and Joy Russell. This is  
7 Don Hancock.

8 MR. HANCOCK: Good evening, I'm Don  
9 Hancock from Southwest Research and Information Center  
10 in Albuquerque.

11 The Holtec Environmental Report is the  
12 basis for the draft Environment Impact Statement that  
13 NRC is going to do. Even a quick review indicates  
14 that there are many factual errors in the document,  
15 unsupported assertions that are contrary to law, and  
16 important omission that casts severe doubt on the  
17 reliability of Holtec's application documents, its  
18 ability to be truthful and transparent to the public,  
19 and its nuclear safety culture.

20 I don't have time to go into all of that,  
21 but I do have a handout that's outside. It's called  
22 Don't Rely on Holtec. I would be delighted for Holtec  
23 to actually respond to that.

24 Holtec also doesn't own any of the spent  
25 fuel, doesn't want to own any of the spent fuel,

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1 doesn't want to pay for any of the costs of  
2 transporting the material. But, and they want the  
3 federal taxpayers to pay for it. But the current law  
4 does not allow that to happen. So we're in a  
5 situation where they're proposing something that  
6 legally can't happen without changing the law.

7 Turning to NRC and its responsibility to  
8 do this environmental review that's been talked about,  
9 a number of, there are many things that could be  
10 mentioned about what would be needed in an adequate  
11 draft Environmental Impact Statement. I'm going to  
12 mention a few of them.

13 An adequate Environmental Impact Statement  
14 should provide a comparative safety analysis of the  
15 Holtec proposal versus continuing storage at the  
16 reactors where the waste is located. You've heard  
17 comments tonight about relative safety. NRC documents  
18 should actually document a comparative safety  
19 analysis.

20 Adequate EIS should provide an analysis of  
21 whether continued storage at the reactors meets NRC's  
22 regulation. The analysis should include the time  
23 frame in which continued storage at existing license  
24 sites would not meet the requirements of 10 CFR 51.23,  
25 NRC's continuing storage rule.

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1           An adequate EIS should discuss whether any  
2           or all of the existing 70 licensed ISFSIs at reactor  
3           sites are reasonable alternatives for storage. An  
4           adequate EIS should consider the impact of the waste  
5           never leaving the Holtec site, since there is no  
6           repository or other disposal site. And neither Holtec  
7           nor NRC can guarantee that there would be such a site.

8           An adequate EIS should consider whether  
9           Holtec's site meets the requirements of 10 CFR Part 60  
10          for geologic disposal of spent fuel. There is no  
11          geologic repository, there's no basis to state that  
12          there will ever be such a site. Thus, all the waste  
13          that would come here could stay here forever.

14          An adequate EIS should provide the amount  
15          of radioactivity in each canister, including the  
16          maximum amount and the median amount for the analysis  
17          of routine of accident releases during transportation  
18          to the site, handling, and storage of the waste at the  
19          site. Again, this is something that the Holtec  
20          Environmental Report does not include.

21          An adequate EIS will consider the impacts  
22          on oil, gas, and potash production, processing, and  
23          transportation on the Holtec site. And inversely, an  
24          adequate EIS will consider the impacts of routine and  
25          accidental releases from the Holtec site on the oil or

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1 gas, potash, dairy, livestock, and other agricultural  
2 activities.

3 An adequate EIS will consider the impacts  
4 of military and civilian aircraft crashes into the  
5 UMAX containers at the site.

6 So we know that these issues have not been  
7 adequately addressed in the Holtec EIS. So if there's  
8 a lot of work that's going to have to be done to  
9 actually address all of those issues that Holtec  
10 should have addressed but did not address. So that's  
11 a heavy burden that NRC holds that we will be  
12 interested in seeing how it does and have further  
13 comments on the draft EIS.

14 Finally, there are two basic questions  
15 that NRC is not going to answer but need to be  
16 strongly considered by people here and all across the  
17 nation. First, if the waste is safe where it is, why  
18 bring it to New Mexico? Obviously, if it's not safe  
19 where it is, that creates difficulties in terms of why  
20 is it allowed to be there, how would it be  
21 transported, etc.

22 Secondly, if waste storage actually is  
23 good for the economy, why do the nuclear reactor  
24 communities not want to keep it? Thank you.

25 MR. CAMERON: Okay. Thank you. Thank

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1 you, Don.

2 And we have Melanie Deason coming up now  
3 and I believe she has a demonstration that she's going  
4 to do or bake a cake. I'm not sure what's going on,  
5 but here she is.

6 Okay. This is Melanie.

7 MS. DEASON: Thank you. I've been  
8 speaking the last couple of nights at other locations  
9 in science and I wanted to play a bit with the  
10 hydrology around here and give a demo. It's been real  
11 serious and heady and I want to give you a visual.  
12 Hopefully some of you can see what's going on here.

13 This demo is something that a fifth grader  
14 can do, and so be welcome to teach others. And also  
15 welcome to New Mexico's underground called playa lakes  
16 or New Mexico lakes in Southeast New Mexico. This  
17 will be a little demo about the science of hydrology.

18 The glass basin here underneath is like a  
19 mixing bowl, clear glass. It represents the playa  
20 basin which holds New Mexico's underground water  
21 resources, especially around here and up around Las  
22 Vegas. These are recharged by playas above including  
23 those Holtec is admitted are on their site plus four  
24 others nearby.

25 Now the green colander, you know, like

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1 straining spaghetti, that will represent the ground  
2 above the water table and aquifers and which allows  
3 permeability or migration between these two areas.

4 Now the white rice; I've already poured it  
5 to save me time, represents the soil. And it's poured  
6 into the colander. Now playas are unique and briefly  
7 they recharge our water tables and aquifers.

8 the funnel here, kitchen funnel,  
9 represents the draining capability of playa lakes into  
10 the underground aquifer. It's like having a big plate  
11 with a drain on it, and that big plate could be  
12 thousands of acres draining down. And so you have it  
13 hanging here on the edge. In this case it will sit  
14 right here. It's perfect. My kitchen was well-  
15 stocked this morning.

16 So the funnel represents the draining  
17 capability of our playa lakes into the underground  
18 aquifer and what we call in New Mexico our desert  
19 lakes. But you don't see them. So I'm going to now  
20 open this gallon of water here and I'm going to pour  
21 from this unopened gallon.

22 PARTICIPANT: What are we seeing here?

23 MS. DEASON: Water is going down into the  
24 aquifer below through the soil, through a special form  
25 of hydrology that playas give us. It's very unusual.

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1 Basically it's water. It's clean. Nobody's messed  
2 with it. Go a little more.

3 Now we have Ogallala Aquifer and several  
4 others in this region and they serve eight states, the  
5 Ogallala does, including New Mexico.

6 Holtec states that their two playas will  
7 capture the site's water with a capacity of up to  
8 seven-and-a-half inches of rain in one day event if  
9 necessary. Now that's a little over an acre-foot of  
10 water for those of you who do agricultural farming,  
11 etcetera.

12 Now this little bottle represents water  
13 from rain and snow being stored on Holtec's site. Now  
14 I'm making it red so that we can see it. Since you  
15 can't detect radiation with the five senses, it's been  
16 dyed with food coloring so we can see it. After all  
17 Holtec's site proposes storing the nation's high-level  
18 nuclear waste as rods. Now that's pretty hot stuff.  
19 However, since their containers need air circulation  
20 between the steel and concrete, it will still  
21 contaminate the soil nearby regardless. Plus with  
22 those vents they grab the air above at ground level.  
23 By the way, their canisters are designed for breathing  
24 in and out just like we do, and the same air that we  
25 breathe.

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1           Now let's imagine they've had a rain event  
2           or maybe a big snow storm like Goliath a few years ago  
3           at Christmas. Let's pour Holtec's water, which we  
4           know is radioactive, it's given on that site -- they  
5           say they're catching it. We're going to pour it down  
6           the drain into the water table below. Now their water  
7           table is only 35 to 50 feet below, however, remember  
8           their cylinders, like tubes standing upright, they're  
9           storing these casks, are buried over 20 feet in the  
10          ground. So that's way over halfway to the water table  
11          by the reports on emission. And everything below  
12          ground is the water table and the aquifer is starting  
13          to turn red, you will see here.

14                           (Pause.)

15                   MS. DEASON: Now remember in real life you  
16                   can't see it, but it's still there.

17                   I think we're good. I don't have to pour  
18                   the second in there. I think you get the point.

19                   Maybe water, if we have a big flood event,  
20                   it will flood the concrete tower vents too that they  
21                   have in their design and down their air gaps. Oops.  
22                   Hydrogen explosion and the concrete tops blow off.  
23                   Remember Fukushima, Chernobyl. That's what it was  
24                   about. There was a hydrogen explosion when water got  
25                   in there.

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1                   Now let's pretend we're going to drill a  
2 well somewhere else. For sake of time I'm not going  
3 to do that.

4                   MR. CAMERON: Melanie --

5                   MS. DEASON: I'm closing.

6                   MR. CAMERON: -- I'm going to have to ask  
7 you to --

8                   MS. DEASON: I'm closing.

9                   MR. CAMERON: Okay.

10                  MS. DEASON: We're drilling the well. I'm  
11 in another state maybe drilling that well. See if I  
12 can get in here. I don't want to make a mess. I  
13 promised I wouldn't.

14                  Anyway, I was going to use the syringe to  
15 drill a well; we all know what wells are good for, and  
16 suck up some water and put it in a glass. I have to  
17 ask who wants to be the first to pour radioactive  
18 water onto their crops or feed it to livestock making  
19 meat and milk for the families around the nation?  
20 Better yet, who wants to be the first to take a drink  
21 of this water? Any takers? I've heard some in the  
22 room that probably said they would. But be careful  
23 you don't get a second chance. Think again and follow  
24 the hydrology. It's right here in this fifth grade  
25 science project.

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1           And thank you all for allowing me the  
2           opportunity to give you this simple example. And NRC  
3           members, please deny Holtec's application in its  
4           entirety. As I've said before the proposal is  
5           genocide. The definition is destroy an ethnic group  
6           of nation. We in New Mexico and elsewhere, we matter.  
7           I'm Melanie Deason. Do not consent.

8           (Applause.)

9           MR. CAMERON: Okay. Thank you. We're  
10          going to go to Joy Russell and then Russell Hardy,  
11          John Waters, Karen Howard-Winters. This is Joy  
12          Russell.

13          MS. RUSSELL: Good evening. Can you hear  
14          me? Good.

15          Good evening. My name is Joy Russell.  
16          I'm Vice-President of Business Development and  
17          Communications for Holtec International. I've been an  
18          engineer at Holtec for over 20 years. I want to thank  
19          the NRC for the opportunity to come to speak to you  
20          this evening. I want to give Holtec's commitment that  
21          we will provide quality and timely responses to any  
22          questions that you have that you are gathering from  
23          the folks here and the other meetings that we had. So  
24          we make that commitment to continue to provide timely  
25          and quality responses to continue the licensing

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1 process.

2 Holtec already holds 13 licenses from the  
3 Nuclear Regulatory Commission for storage systems  
4 which are used in the United States.

5 I also want to say it's my pleasure to  
6 speak with you this evening. I want to provide you  
7 facts about the HI-STORE project. We have a table  
8 located right by the door when you came in. I had the  
9 pleasure of speaking with several of you when you came  
10 in. My colleague Joyce Tomlinson is also here.  
11 Please feel free to ask us any questions that you may  
12 have. Joyce is also an engineer at Holtec. She is  
13 our licensing manager.

14 We're proud to have the partners that we  
15 do in the ELEA organization. As you've heard from  
16 many of them this evening, they are long-time members  
17 of this community. And we were invited by them to  
18 come into this community after they evaluated our dry  
19 storage system to be determined as the safest and the  
20 most secure system that's available in the world. The  
21 nuclear community also agrees with that because over  
22 60 percent of the nuclear plants in the United States  
23 use our storage system.

24 Holtec International's core business is  
25 and has been for the past 32 years the safe storage of

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1 spent nuclear fuel. That is what we do. We are an  
2 American company. We're American-owned. Everything  
3 we deploy is manufactured here in the United States.  
4 We have a factory in Pittsburgh, a factory in Southern  
5 Ohio and a new factory in Camden, New Jersey. We  
6 employ around 1,000 people at those factories in the  
7 United States. We ship our equipment all over the  
8 world. We're the largest exporters of nuclear storage  
9 equipment in the world. So we've very proud of that.

10 We're also very proud of our safety  
11 record. We have an impeccable safety record. None of  
12 our equipment has ever experienced a safety issue.  
13 None of our equipment has ever leaked. Never has our  
14 equipment ever caused any injury.

15 ELEA selected our system based on its  
16 safety and security. We commit that the system that  
17 we are deploying is indeed safe and secure. We did  
18 provide some information. Again, any additional  
19 questions that you may have -- I want to make sure you  
20 understand spent nuclear fuel is solid. Our canisters  
21 are seal-welded. There is no contamination. Please  
22 understand the difference between contamination and  
23 radiation. If the system doesn't leak, there's no  
24 potential for contamination. I want to make sure  
25 everyone understands that concept.

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1           The dose that's received from our systems  
2           are very low. It's equivalent to a chest X-ray when  
3           you're near it. And as you get away from it, as John  
4           Heaton said, it's essentially indistinguishable from  
5           background radiation.

6           We're very proud to be a part -- to have  
7           the opportunity to become a part of this community.  
8           As you've heard tonight, this community is rich in  
9           knowledge. The WIPP and the URENCO site provide the  
10          nuclear IQ that's unmatched in many parts of the  
11          country. I applaud you for that.

12          I just want to close by saying that we're  
13          proud to offer a temporary, safe and secure storage to  
14          spent nuclear fuel from the United States. We don't  
15          intend to bring anything in from overseas. It's all  
16          from the United States. We commit to being good  
17          stewards of the environment and we commit to being  
18          good neighbors. And again I thank you for this  
19          opportunity and we -- I again echo my commitment to  
20          the NRC for the licensing process. Thank you.

21          MR. CAMERON: Thank you. Thank you very  
22          much, Joy.

23                         (Applause.)

24          MR. CAMERON: This is Russell.

25          MR. HARDY: Good evening. My name is

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1 Russell Hardy. I'm a lifelong resident of Southeast  
2 New Mexico. I support the proposed project for the  
3 interim storage of spent nuclear fuel at the site  
4 proposed between here and Hobbs. The reasons that I  
5 support this project are fourfold: No. 1, I believe  
6 that the NRC-approved Holtec HI-STORE UMAX canister  
7 system is a very robust containment device that will  
8 keep the spent nuclear fuel in a safe condition once  
9 it's placed in the interim storage facility.

10 Second, I believe that the proposed site  
11 is a safe place to hold the spent nuclear fuel because  
12 it is geologically stable and has been contractually  
13 withdrawn from potash, oil and gas activities for the  
14 duration of the time that the facility will be in  
15 operation.

16 Third, I believe that the local region is  
17 supportive of and will continue to be supportive of  
18 nuclear-related activities and is well-positioned to  
19 complement this project by having an abundance of  
20 nuclear trained workers, engineers, contractors and  
21 emergency responders.

22 Lastly, as the director of the Carlsbad  
23 Environmental Monitoring and Research Center, an  
24 entity of New Mexico State University that performs an  
25 independent environmental monitoring program in

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1 conjunction with the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant, I  
2 know firsthand that there will be extensive  
3 environmental monitoring activities conducted with the  
4 licensing of this proposed facility, as well as  
5 continued environmental monitoring after spent nuclear  
6 fuel is delivered and then placed at the facility.  
7 This will ensure that the workers, the communities and  
8 the environments are safe and readily informed of any  
9 potential releases or detections at above background  
10 levels of alpha, beta and gamma-emitting isotopes.

11 My only recommendation is that through the  
12 scoping and licensing process the NRC mandate as a  
13 part of this scoping and licensing process that Holtec  
14 be required to provide sufficient funding for the  
15 duration of this project such that an independent  
16 monitoring organization like the Carlsbad  
17 Environmental Monitoring and Research Center be  
18 engaged to work on behalf of the communities of Hobbs  
19 and Carlsbad, Eddy and Lea Counties, to independently  
20 monitor the proposed site and later the operational  
21 facility for the presence of radioactive isotopes  
22 and/or fission products that are likely to be  
23 associated with the interim storage of spent nuclear  
24 fuel.

25 Having an independent organization such as

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1 CEMRC perform an independent environmental monitoring  
2 program in tandem with any licensing-required  
3 environmental monitoring provides a level of  
4 redundancy with respect to the environmental data  
5 being collected and analyzed, and more importantly  
6 ensures a level of honesty and transparency with  
7 respect to the results that are communicated to the  
8 regulators and the public at large. As a community we  
9 witnessed the importance of having an independent  
10 environmental monitoring program during the 2014  
11 radiation release event at the WIPP facility, and I  
12 believe it's imperative to emulate this independence  
13 with respect to any proposed siting of any nuclear-  
14 related repository in the future. Thank you.

15 MR. CAMERON: Thank you very much.

16 John, you can -- if it's easier to put it  
17 in there, you can just put it in. There you go.  
18 Okay. Go ahead.

19 MR. WATERS: First of all my name is John  
20 Waters. I'm from Carlsbad. I've lived here most of  
21 my life. I want to thank you for coming to Carlsbad  
22 and listening to us. Certainly there are folks from  
23 other places, but the stakeholders here in Carlsbad,  
24 whether they are for or against it, really appreciate  
25 you spending the time to come here and talk to the

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1 community and listen to the community. So again on  
2 behalf of the community, thank you for coming.

3 My wife and I were raised here in  
4 Carlsbad. In turn we've back to Carlsbad, raised our  
5 four children. We chose to come back to Carlsbad to  
6 raise our kids after WIPP opened, but when I was here  
7 throughout high school and throughout the early parts  
8 of my career I was here and watched WIPP. And you've  
9 heard a lot of our Carlsbad citizens talk with pride  
10 about WIPP. It's because we are proud.

11 We're proud that here in New Mexico, in  
12 Carlsbad, specifically in Southeastern New Mexico,  
13 that we took that mantle of protection on and we  
14 brought a project in that we knew helped save a major  
15 problem in the United States. It seems a little  
16 wacky, but when we go to Washington, D.C., we're very  
17 proud of it and we don't mind; it doesn't matter who  
18 we're talking to, telling people that we're proud of  
19 that.

20 And we're solution seekers here in this  
21 community. We're very busy. We do a lot of different  
22 things. We have a very diverse community. But one of  
23 the things that I'm very proud of is that we don't  
24 look at other places and say, oh, leave that over  
25 there. That's their problem. We don't. We take --

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1 New Mexico, we were there at the beginning of the  
2 nuclear age and I'm proud to say that Carlsbad is  
3 helping at the end of the fuel cycle.

4 And solutions are what I'm here to talk  
5 about. You're aware that Carlsbad, Eddy County, went  
6 out and they worked really hard. A lot of people have  
7 talked about what we went through to bring WIPP in.  
8 It wasn't just, oh, my gosh, we need money or we need  
9 jobs. It was a very long process that we educated  
10 ourselves and I'm proud to say that the community is  
11 very educated. At the time I worked for the National  
12 Park Service and you couldn't probably find a group of  
13 more anti-nuclear folks on the plant.

14 But one of the things that I was very  
15 excited about is that the folks from the nuclear  
16 industry came forward and talked to us to educate us.  
17 It was a process to where we brought up questions. A  
18 lot of people were very educated. They brought up a  
19 lot of questions and they never failed to come back  
20 with answers. They never failed to come back after,  
21 hey, we've looked into this. And I want to say that  
22 that's something that I'm very proud of is that the  
23 community has educated themselves. You've got a well-  
24 educated community here, and what that's produced is  
25 that's produced a very solid workforce that is one of

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1 the most adept at working in the nuclear industry in  
2 the entire world. I would stack them up against  
3 anybody.

4 We have two national laboratories with  
5 lots of employees here. We have more Ph.D.s per  
6 capital than any town in New Mexico save maybe Los  
7 Alamos. A very smart group of people that are here.  
8 I'm very proud of that. Our children learn from these  
9 folks. It's just a tremendous place to live, and it  
10 is our little slice of heaven and I think that it's  
11 great.

12 We've cleaned up 22 sites with WIPP around  
13 the world -- around the United States. I mean, if  
14 you're in Argonne National Laboratory in Chicago, you  
15 can thank WIPP. If you've been to -- and I have a  
16 background in environmental biology and one of the  
17 things they always taught us about was Rocky -- the --  
18 your Rocky Flats area in Colorado, and that's cleaned  
19 up now. It's cleaned up because the people in  
20 Carlsbad worked, learned and fought hard enough to get  
21 something in here that was a solution for the country.  
22 Proud of that.

23 We have another solution here in  
24 Southeastern New Mexico and I'm really excited to say  
25 that -- you know, there is a problem out there, and

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1 we're not here to debate the nuclear energy industry.  
2 We're here to talk about the waste and find a safe  
3 solution for it. Right now it's a temporary solution,  
4 and we realizes that. We've heard a lot of people  
5 talk about the possibility of a repository. And it's  
6 a while off. I mean, anybody that looks at that, that  
7 reads the documentation, you know that a repository is  
8 out there, but it's out there in the future.

9 I have a little more positive outlook on  
10 that. From an economic development standpoint I see  
11 the opportunity here. I see the opportunity of taking  
12 care of this waste in a safe manner temporarily until  
13 one of two things happens: We all know about the  
14 repository. Nuclear energy, it's no carbon emission,  
15 it's a great source of baseload energy. And you know  
16 the one issue we got to deal with is what do we do  
17 with that waste afterward? That's what we're to talk  
18 about.

19 You can reprocess it. Technology and  
20 economics are coming to such a place that it will be  
21 feasible in the United States to reprocess this, to  
22 recycle it. Eighty percent of that power is left in  
23 that rod when it's pulled out of our reactor.  
24 Wouldn't it be great if we couldn't just recycle that  
25 and end up with a soup can full of waste instead of

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1 something larger than that? I don't look at it as  
2 waste. I see it as a resource.

3 And it's something in the future that if  
4 you're going to look at the possible negative things  
5 in an EIS, you got to look at the possible positive  
6 things as well. This gives our country another  
7 solution, maybe a more permanent solution to deal with  
8 that nuclear waste in the future. And I think that's  
9 something worth mentioning and it's something to look  
10 forward to in the future from our perspective to solve  
11 another problem.

12 The operation of a such a facility would  
13 also offer an opportune place to study the aging  
14 process in the -- with the fuel and the containers.  
15 It's my hope that the NRC's Regulatory Research  
16 Program would take advantage of the central facility  
17 as the Department of Energy has with WIPP and fund  
18 some of those research projects to take a look at and  
19 learn as much as they can about the temporary solution  
20 so they learn more about the permanent solution.

21 So again, I have comments that are written  
22 here. I certainly will submit those, but I tried to  
23 summarize them. Thank you again for coming to  
24 Carlsbad.

25 (Applause.)

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1 MR. CAMERON: Okay. Thank you. Thank  
2 you, John.

3 We're going to go to Karen Howard-Winters  
4 now and then Kyle Marksteiner, Anthony Lee Alanzo and  
5 Ralph Jennings. This is Karen.

6 MS. HOWARD-WINTERS: Hi, y'all. I'm back.  
7 (Laughter.)

8 MR. CAMERON: And you -- okay. You're  
9 going to go to the mic?

10 MS. HOWARD-WINTERS: Yes.

11 MR. CAMERON: Yes, okay.

12 MS. HOWARD-WINTERS: Hi, y'all in  
13 Carlsbad. Thank you for having me and thank you,  
14 Nuclear Regulatory Commission for listening to me  
15 again tonight. And I know there's a lot of folks out  
16 there in Carlsbad. I'm from Odessa, Texas. Y'all may  
17 not think that I'm a stakeholder here, but yes I am,  
18 too, because y'all are thinking about putting this  
19 project on an aquifer that I use, too. So don't think  
20 that I'm not a stakeholder in this project because  
21 y'all are thinking about Holtec putting this project  
22 on oil that I use. So that makes my livelihood in  
23 Odessa, Texas. So don't y'all think that I'm not a  
24 stakeholder, too, because I am. Okay?

25 And also we're talking about an

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1 Environmental Impact Statement. There's a little  
2 lizard that was causing the oil field a whole lot of  
3 trouble back in 2011-2012. It was called the Dunes  
4 Sagebrush Lizard and it was causing -- oh, the oil  
5 people, they -- oh, they don't like him at all. It  
6 was causing them a lot of trouble back then. But I  
7 don't know what happened to this little guy back then  
8 or what's happened to him now, but I'd sure like for  
9 y'all to check him out, because I'm pretty sure that  
10 he hangs around this area, too. It's called the Dunes  
11 Sagebrush Lizard. And they were going to make him an  
12 endangered species back then. But I think the oil  
13 people kind of got involved in that and -- I don't  
14 know what happened to him. Anyway, he became  
15 unendangered. So anyway, I think he's probably still  
16 endangered, but anyway not according to oil.

17 Okay. So at any rate I'm worried about  
18 him because that ground out there where Holtec is  
19 going to put this stuff in the ground gets really,  
20 really hot, so I worry about that little guy, you  
21 know, and what's going to happen to him and all of his  
22 little lizard babies and what's going to happen to him  
23 and his family, her and her family. So maybe we ought  
24 to check the environment about the Dune Sagebrush  
25 Lizard and what's going to happen to -- how it's going

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1 to impact him and her.

2 Now as far as a ideal site, yes, it's only  
3 interim. And there's a lot of fracking that goes on  
4 around here, too. And I have family that lives in  
5 Oklahoma and Oklahoma never used to have any  
6 earthquakes, but since they started fracking there  
7 there's a whole lot of earthquakes that have been  
8 going on. They had only three way back when before  
9 they started fracking, but now that they've started  
10 fracking they've had well over 100. So that's kind of  
11 something to think about because if we're going to  
12 have some earthquakes around here with all the  
13 fracking that's going on, that's something to think  
14 about when we start thinking about putting this stuff  
15 in the ground here.

16 Okay. Social injustice and the railroads.  
17 These rails, like I said before, are not meant to  
18 carry this load. They are old, they're antiquated,  
19 we're going to be carrying across D- bridges. Who's  
20 going to -- where's the money going to come from to  
21 beef up these rails? Who's going to pay for that?  
22 And who's going to pay for -- when there is some kind  
23 of radioactive -- oh, let's say a rail car falls off  
24 the track or whatever and there is a radioactive spill  
25 or something, just an accident that nobody's counting

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1 on. Because when we're talking about odds, maybe  
2 Holtec has never had an accident, but just because  
3 they've never had an accident yet doesn't mean they're  
4 not going to have one. We can't count on that.

5 So who's going to pay for that? What kind  
6 of insurance is Holtec going to have to pay for  
7 damages done to folks that in the farming industry or  
8 whatever -- do I need to wrap up?

9 MR. CAMERON: Yes, if you could, please.

10 MS. HOWARD-WINTERS: Yes, sir. For the  
11 farming industry or folks that are damaged by a  
12 radiation spill or whatever? At any rate, I think  
13 that pretty much -- I think I pretty much got  
14 everything. Oh, I do want to say one more thing.  
15 These caverns out here are a beautiful natural wonder  
16 and it would really be a shame if anything were to  
17 happen to harm them. And once the genie's out of the  
18 bottle, you can't put him back in. Thank you.

19 (Applause.)

20 MS. HOWARD-WINTERS: I'm Karen Howard-  
21 Winters and I appreciate your time. Thank you very  
22 much.

23 MR. CAMERON: Thank you. Thank you,  
24 Karen.

25 Kyle?

1 MR. MARKSTEINER: I might register to  
2 speak a second time so I can stand up some more. This  
3 feels good.

4 I want to thank you all for coming out  
5 here today. We've got a lot of out-of-town visitors  
6 and we welcome them all to Carlsbad.

7 My name is Kyle Marksteiner and I've been  
8 in Carlsbad for about 20 years now. I first moved  
9 here as a reporter for the local newspaper and when I  
10 got here there was this project I was supposed to  
11 learn about called WIPP, Waste Isolation Pilot Plants,  
12 and I thought what is this? I don't know about it.

13 So I went through the newspaper archives;  
14 they actually had old microfiche back then, and I  
15 found a column written by the former publisher named  
16 Ned Cantwell. It was a fascinating column. It was  
17 right when WIPP was first introduced to the community.  
18 And at the time there were a few people who were  
19 hesitant about WIPP and a few opposed to WIPP. There  
20 were anti-nuclear activists from other parts of the  
21 state ready to go against WIPP. There were people at  
22 the meetings holding signs, similar signs.

23 But what Mr. Cantwell suggested is that  
24 the citizens of Carlsbad at that time just get all the  
25 facts. He didn't take a stand for or against the

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1 project. He said Carlsbad residents should keep an  
2 open mind and keep themselves informed. How  
3 revolutionary is that, just to suggest that instead of  
4 automatically opposing something because it feels like  
5 we should be afraid it that we keep an open mind and  
6 inform ourselves?

7 WIPP has turned out to be a huge success,  
8 and I say that in -- considering and including the  
9 events of 2014. The residents of this community  
10 helped get WIPP open and confidently helped get WIPP  
11 back open over the past few years.

12 This project, I encourage my fellow  
13 Carlsbad residents to follow the original  
14 recommendation of Ned Cantwell to reject the NIMBY  
15 approach and to keep an open mind. Show me how this  
16 will be done safely and I will support it.

17 I would also ask my Carlsbad residents  
18 here tonight to be cautious about the tactics utilized  
19 by some anti-nuclear groups. The reality is that we  
20 have well-funded organizers from Texas and Northern  
21 New Mexico here today to do what they can to heighten  
22 the illusion of opposition to this project. These  
23 same groups will then go to other communities and do  
24 everything they can there to also delay or halt other  
25 projects all associated with the nuclear industry.

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1 I've stayed in Carlsbad for the past 20  
2 years because I believe the residents here are better  
3 than that. We put science first. We get all the  
4 facts and we keep an open mind. I encourage everyone  
5 to do so with the consolidated interim storage  
6 facility. Thank you.

7 (Applause.)

8 MR. CAMERON: Okay. Thank you. Thank  
9 you, Kyle.

10 Anthony? Anthony Lee Alanzo is coming up  
11 and then we'll hear from Ralph Jennings.

12 Anthony?

13 MR. ALANZO: Good evening. My name is  
14 Anthony Lee Alanzo. I was recently running for city  
15 councilman here in Carlsbad, New Mexico. A  
16 opportunity came for me, but I'm very proud to be a  
17 citizen of Carlsbad and I thank you guys coming here  
18 to Carlsbad and to listen to the people that are  
19 opposed for it and the ones that are disagreeing to  
20 it. Thank you for the opportunity.

21 It's been very good to me and my family  
22 for the years that I've been here. I love Carlsbad.  
23 This is a community I love. I've raised two of my  
24 sons here. I've been married 20 years. And I'm also  
25 an employee of the WIPP site. I'm actually an RH and

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1 a CH waste handler.

2 And hearing the design of Holtec, it is  
3 almost similar to what we do with RH shipments, and  
4 I'm very strongly proud of what I do, especially with  
5 my colleagues. If you heard our councilman J.J.  
6 Chaves, he pretty well understands the concept. He's  
7 one of my colleagues up there at the site. And  
8 hearing your project, I've heard of it, we've talked  
9 about it at WIPP and I'm more than willing to give a  
10 great opportunity not only for me, but for also for my  
11 family to get the opportunity to educate us, because  
12 we are educated to keeping this nuclear issue that we  
13 have across the nation. And we've done a great job.

14 In the 20 years that I've been at WIPP I  
15 seen the first shipment come in. I was part of the  
16 project when we reopened. And you guys actually  
17 overlooked us. And we did a great excellent job of  
18 reopening WIPP and we're still running the project.  
19 And seeing this new opportunity for Carlsbad and also  
20 the local areas in Hobbs, it's been wonderful to all  
21 of us. And now that we have another opportunity, at  
22 least my children will have an opportunity to not only  
23 get educated, but also have an opportunity in the  
24 future to find a great facility also to store nuclear  
25 waste here and clean up the sites.

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1 I mean, I didn't think I was going to  
2 capitalize on what John Waters said. Clearly we've  
3 cleaned up quite a few sites. I've been at those  
4 milestones. I was part of that project. And seeing  
5 that we have another opportunity for us to expand the  
6 nuclear industry, we have the place for it. Some may  
7 oppose to it, but I highly recommend and I'm very,  
8 very proud of what we do here in Carlsbad.

9 If you take in consideration, please look  
10 at us. We've got the knowledge. We have the IQ here.  
11 I've got the colleagues. I stand behind then 100  
12 percent. And this is the reason why I came tonight to  
13 let you guys know we have the knowledge. And now if  
14 you guys give another opportunity, that even expands  
15 our mission. Thank you.

16 (Applause.)

17 MR. CAMERON: Okay. Thanks. Thanks,  
18 Anthony.

19 And we have Ralph Jennings coming up. And  
20 then we're going to go to Kevin Kamps, Karen Hadden,  
21 Charlene Hernandez, Dave Rogers and Gail Seydel.

22 MR. JENNINGS: My name is Ralph Jennings.  
23 I spent 15 years in the Navy, 9 of those in nuclear  
24 submarines, so I'm exposed to radiations of various  
25 difference.

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1           One of the things that I saw here was  
2           WIPP. I became aware of WIPP back in 1976 when I was  
3           a high school student at Thomas Jefferson in El Paso.  
4           That's where I'm originally from. The -- I had to do  
5           a toxicology report on nuclear radiation as part of my  
6           continuing education to college and eventually went  
7           and submitted this to the Dallas Symposium, Science  
8           Symposium, and got selected. I went into the Navy,  
9           did my time, came back out, came back to Carlsbad. I  
10          recruited here 1984 through '87.

11                 WIPP was still having a hard time trying  
12          to get out of the ground and into the -- putting waste  
13          in there after 10,000 that they -- everybody wanted  
14          and everybody had ideas of. Well, the time came when  
15          they finally put nuclear waste underground. That was  
16          one milestone that I saw that was the best thing that  
17          had happened for the country. Not for Carlsbad, but  
18          for the country. There's no place to put a lot of  
19          this trash. We got to select one place in the world.  
20          This is probably the most studied area in the whole  
21          country for radiation.

22                 I would suggest that we keep an open mind.  
23          This nuclear waste, there's got to be a better place.  
24          I've been to San Onofre, I've been to the Cherokee,  
25          and I've been to Three Mile Island nearby. And same

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1 thing. You're close to water. Look what happened to  
2 Fujiyama. They're close to water and they got water  
3 -- now radiation almost every part of the ocean. It's  
4 not going to go away, folks, but we can keep our  
5 country clear and eliminate it to one certain  
6 location. And that's what I'm going to do. We have  
7 the Gnome Project here, so it's already been  
8 radioactive. For you guys forgot Gnome Project, that  
9 was a nice cavern for fracking. Thank you very much.

10 (Applause.)

11 MR. CAMERON: Okay. Thanks, Ralph.

12 We're going to have Kevin Kamps come up  
13 now and then we're going to hear from Karen Hadden,  
14 Charlene Hernandez, Dave Rogers and Gail Seydel.

15 MR. KAMPS: Good evening. My name is  
16 Kevin Kamps with Beyond Nuclear and I've spoken at the  
17 previous meetings, so this will be a supplement to  
18 that. And I wanted to get back to this issue of  
19 temporary or permanent.

20 So regarding the risks of a phrase  
21 "institutional control being lost," the risks of loss  
22 of institutional control. And what this means is that  
23 this facility instead of being temporary could become  
24 de facto permanent surface storage, or a parking lot  
25 dump. And if abandoned and containers failing and

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1 releasing catastrophic amounts of hazardous  
2 radioactivity into the environment -- that is a  
3 distinct risk with this proposal.

4 Loss of institutional control is  
5 guaranteed to take place over a long enough period of  
6 time. No society can last forever. In fact, the very  
7 oldest human institutions are at most a few to several  
8 thousand years old such as Roman Catholicism,  
9 Christianity, Tibetan Buddhism and Judaism, to name a  
10 few examples, and of course Native American cultures,  
11 which date much longer than that, actually. But  
12 highly radioactive irradiated nuclear fuel is  
13 hazardous for a million years. It's deadly  
14 forevermore, in other words.

15 The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
16 was forced to acknowledge this million-year hazard by  
17 a court order over a decade ago. EPA had wanted to  
18 cut off regulations at Yucca Mountain, Nevada, the  
19 proposed national burial dump, after just 10,000  
20 years, but a coalition of environmental groups,  
21 including years in public citizen, as well as the  
22 State of Nevada, challenged the EPA legally. But even  
23 a million years of hazard is a huge underestimate.

24 Artificial iodine-129, a reactor product,  
25 an alpha emitter, is present in irradiated nuclear

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1 fuel. It's ultra-hazardous and it has a 15.7 million  
2 half-life, which means 157 million years or more of  
3 hazardous persistence.

4 The Department of Energy in its February  
5 2002 Yucca Mountain final Environmental Impact  
6 Statement warned that irradiated nuclear fuel, if  
7 abandoned at reactor sites with a loss of  
8 institutional control, would eventually leak  
9 catastrophic amounts of radioactivity into the  
10 environment over time as dry casks containing it  
11 failed as due to corrosion, exposure to the elements,  
12 etcetera. They were saying that in the context of  
13 trying to sell the Yucca Mountain dump to the rest of  
14 the country. You'd better get rid of it quick before  
15 the worst happens. But the same of course would be  
16 true at an abandoned centralized or consolidated so-  
17 called interim storage facility such as here at  
18 Holtec.

19 Up to 173,000 metric tons of highly-  
20 radioactive waste, more than twice what currently  
21 exists, could leak into the environment from this  
22 shallowly sub-grade storage at this location, and that  
23 would be truly catastrophic. The forever-deadly  
24 radioactive wastes would blow with the wind and flow  
25 with the water harming people and other living things

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1 downwind, downstream, up the food chain and down the  
2 generations forevermore.

3 *Forevermore* happens to the title of a 1986  
4 book by Barlett and Steele, subtitled *Nuclear Waste in*  
5 *America*. The book contains a compelling chapter about  
6 the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant located so close to  
7 the targeted Holtec site.

8 WIPP, as has been mentioned tonight, made  
9 claims about start clean, stay clean and the supposed  
10 impossibility of leaks over 10,000 years, or even  
11 200,000 years, but it leaked after only 15 years.  
12 Holtec has made similar claims about centralized  
13 interim storage. Fool me once, shame on you. Fool me  
14 twice, shame on me.

15 And I'd like to conclude with a warning  
16 from two whistleblowers, one an industry whistleblower  
17 named Oscar Shirani and another, an NRC whistleblower  
18 named Dr. Ross Landsman, regarding quality assurance  
19 on the Holtec containers, which is non-existent  
20 actually. They -- Shirani led a team of Holtec user  
21 group utilities that inspected that Pittsburgh factory  
22 that Joy Russell mentioned earlier tonight, and in a  
23 short three-day period they documented nine categories  
24 of quality assurance violation on the fabrication of  
25 these containers. The NRC design criteria are

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1 inadequate to begin with and these quality assurance  
2 violations associated with Holtec that NRC has done  
3 nothing about in 18 years after they were documented  
4 risks a catastrophic radioactivity release.

5 Shirani questioned the structural  
6 integrity of these containers sitting still at zero  
7 miles per hour, let along going 60 miles per hour down  
8 the railways. Thank you very much.

9 (Applause.)

10 MR. CAMERON: Okay. Thank you, Kevin.

11 And this is Karen Hadden coming up. And  
12 then we're going to go to Charlene Hernandez.

13 MS. HADDEN: Good evening. My name is  
14 Karen Hadden and I'm with the Sustainable Energy and  
15 Economic Development Coalition. I'm one of those  
16 outside agitators that people have been talking about;  
17 and proud of it, and I want to tell you why I'm here.

18 First of all, we've been working in  
19 coalition with folks in Texas and New Mexico. We've  
20 been invited to be part of this work because we all  
21 share the love of this region. We have a proposal for  
22 a site in Texas as well. They're both a risk to this  
23 region. And while there's a border lying in between,  
24 this is the same area of the country. We share a lot  
25 in common. We love our communities. We want to

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1 protect them. We want to be safe. We love our  
2 families. We share those values, and we need to move  
3 forward with that in mind.

4 I am unhappy about some of the statements  
5 made earlier that somehow those who do not favor  
6 bringing the nation's radioactive waste to this  
7 community are ill-informed or are fear mongering. In  
8 fact, the people I know that are working on this issue  
9 spend a great deal of time diving into documents,  
10 studying, doing the homework, asking the questions.  
11 And this is a project of huge magnitude that could  
12 impact the future of the entire country and it should  
13 not be taken lightly.

14 We should be studying. We should know.  
15 I think that the environmental report should include  
16 the SMU study that was just done about this region of  
17 the world having problems with the land rising and  
18 falling. I mean, that's an issue here in Carlsbad.

19 The trains that would carry this  
20 radioactive waste and their rail cars, they would be  
21 very heavy. I have read 196,000 tons and up. The  
22 rails are rated for 143,000. This is heavier than the  
23 rails are rated for. So you've got a sinkhole here.  
24 And I'm sorry, but I think it's an important image.  
25 "Radioactive Waste Train Meets Sinkhole." What

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1 happens? I mean I think that should be analyzed in  
2 the environmental report, because it's the things that  
3 you don't think of. It's the things that we didn't  
4 count on, that we didn't plan for. We have to look at  
5 those on the front end. It's not good enough to find  
6 out afterwards that, oh, we were wrong.

7           And you know, mistakes happen and I'm not  
8 casting aspersions, but the WIPP site had a very  
9 serious accident that cost billions of dollars and put  
10 people at risk. People had health impacts. So we  
11 can't afford to have those kind of accidents. And  
12 this is not WIPP waste. This is the fuel rods from  
13 inside nuclear reactors that come out of the reactor  
14 a million times more radioactive than the fuel that  
15 went in.

16           So we have an inflatable prop that we've  
17 been using. It's quite large, about 16 feet long, 8  
18 feet tall. That's the kind of waste we're talking  
19 about. This is not small. It's very heavy, very  
20 large. Each rail car would carry as much plutonium as  
21 was in the bomb dropped on Nagasaki. It is not in  
22 bomb form. No one is saying that. But just for  
23 perspective we're talking about a lot of radiation.  
24 This is not something that can be taken lightly.

25           The NRC's own studies say that if a person

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1 is three feet away from unshielded waste, they would  
2 be immediately incapacitated and would die within a  
3 week. That's not me. That's the authorities. This  
4 waste can cause health impacts, cancers of various  
5 kinds. It can cause genetic damage leading to birth  
6 defects, permanent changes to our DNA. These things  
7 need to be looked at.

8 Now if this is fear mongering, I want to  
9 know why considering the health and safety of the  
10 community is fear mongering. I resent that. This is  
11 looking out for the health and safety of people and  
12 wildlife.

13 I'll wrap in a minute.

14 Okay. The other things that need to be  
15 included in the environmental report is a clear total  
16 number of tons of waste because there is ambiguity in  
17 this report. There is also a lot of information  
18 missing. The most recent version of the environment  
19 report is much smaller than the first one. Both of  
20 them are available in the library here. And you can  
21 see that it has shrunk. I'm very concerned about what  
22 got left out. I think what needs to be included is  
23 the Ogallala Aquifer, the depth at which it is, where  
24 it is. Under the site, near the site needs to be  
25 clarified. There's very little discussion about that.

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1 Also how much water goes into Lake Laguna Gatuna and  
2 other playas and how much comes down.

3 I'll wrap up quickly.

4 But with groundwater, subsurface water 35  
5 to 50 feet underneath the ground and canisters that  
6 come down however deep they're coming down -- somebody  
7 help me out. So in Texas the entire Radioactive Waste  
8 Division at the TCEQ, the Texas Commission on  
9 Environmental Quality, voted that the agency should  
10 not approve the license application for waste control  
11 specialists to have even low-level waste because there  
12 was only 14 feet of water -- of distance before they  
13 could hit water.

14 MR. CAMERON: And, Karen, I'm sorry, but  
15 we're going --

16 MS. HADDEN: I am wrapping up. I am  
17 wrapping up.

18 MR. CAMERON: Well, you said you were  
19 wrapping up and you're not.

20 MS. HADDEN: I am wrapping up.

21 MR. CAMERON: So we're going to bring  
22 Charlene on.

23 MS. HADDEN: I'm wrapping up.

24 MR. CAMERON: Okay.

25 MS. HADDEN: And for that reason they

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1 recommended denying the license. Three employees quit  
2 over that. I think we should be looking at how much  
3 distance there is to water and whether it could shut  
4 off the cooling systems which are supposed to be air  
5 flow. Thank you.

6 MR. CAMERON: Okay.

7 (Applause.)

8 MR. CAMERON: And this is Charlene  
9 Hernandez.

10 MS. HERNANDEZ: Yes, I'll introduce  
11 myself. Charlene Hernandez. And for those Spanish  
12 speaking people here, yo soy Charlene Hernandez. I am  
13 a semi-retired RN. I was born in Lincoln County. I  
14 moved to California. Then I came back here in 2007  
15 and I was shocked to find that this was the situation  
16 in my state of my birth.

17 Okay. I will begin with this information  
18 of which I did begin to do my own self-education, and  
19 these are some of the things that I found. I wasn't  
20 looking for them, but they showed up. And then I did  
21 do -- take some action to see if we could change the  
22 situation a little bit.

23 The latest estimate for clean-up at LANL  
24 is 2.9 billion over 19 years. And I'm going to read  
25 this a little bit about clean up at Los Alamos. That

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1 LANL is Los Alamos. "The Federal Government now  
2 estimates that it will cost 2.9 billion through the  
3 year 2035 to clean up the radioactive and hazardous  
4 waste left over from decades of nuclear weapons work  
5 at Los Alamos National Laboratory. That's on top of  
6 3.2 billion already spent on clean-up work at LANA  
7 according to presentation made Wednesday." And this  
8 is an old article. Well anyhow, I will end that part  
9 right there because this is a paper article that I  
10 found.

11 Another thing, another article. "UT  
12 Research Links Most Recent Texas Quakes to Oil  
13 Activity." "Dallas. A new study by researchers at  
14 the University of Texas at Austin concludes that human  
15 activity, particularly oil and gas production, has  
16 been a factor in earthquakes throughout the state for  
17 nearly 100 years. The study's conclusions are in a  
18 paper to be published Wednesday in the journal  
19 *Seismological Research Letters*. The *Dallas Morning*  
20 *News* reported the study concludes that manmade  
21 earthquakes in Texas began in 1925 and that activity  
22 associated with oil and gas production almost  
23 certainly or probably triggered 59 percent of the  
24 earthquake in the state in 1975 and 2015 including  
25 recent seismic activity in North Texas. Another 28

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1 percent of the quakes were possibly triggered by oil  
2 and gas exploration production and just 13 percent  
3 were caused naturally."

4 Now, this area is not a stable area. Most  
5 recently I learned that Fort Stanton has discovered  
6 some caves 30 miles long from one end of Fort Stanton  
7 all the way to underneath the airport in Ruidoso.  
8 Caves. Then I talked to cousins in Lincoln County and  
9 they said, Charlene, those caves go all the way to  
10 Carlsbad. I said I see.

11 And then you think about the water -- what  
12 you call, the bottomless lakes. Okay. Potential for  
13 problems. I don't think it's a safe thing.

14 I want to go onto another thing real  
15 quick. This is another issue I found. "The civil  
16 rights complained to EPA about Triassic Park 13 years  
17 and no resolution. The 202 complained that allegedly  
18 the department discriminated against Chaves County  
19 residents on the basis of race, color and national  
20 origin and violation of the Title V of the Civil  
21 Rights Act of 1964. During the Triassic Park  
22 permitting process CARD alleged that the department  
23 did not examine possible disparate impacts on the  
24 basis of race, ethnicity and conducted an  
25 administrative process in a manner hostile to Spanish-

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1 speaking residents. Chaves County residents are  
2 mostly Hispanic New Mexicans and New Mexicans of  
3 Mexican origin. A high percentage live in poverty and  
4 infant mortality rates are high. The complaint also  
5 alleged the department obstructed -- well, anyway  
6 CARD.

7 All of this is on the computer. This is  
8 stuff that I found, okay, trying to educate myself.

9 And finally, here's one thing. "Federal  
10 Report Slams Safety Lapses at New Mexico Nuclear  
11 Facility." All this. HR 994 in the House of  
12 Representatives. Ugh, a bill to amend the Radiation  
13 Exposure Compensation Act. That's the RECA Act. Look  
14 that up on the computer. The RECA Act, New Mexico.

15 And finally, we didn't discuss the permit  
16 which is the license request. There are 10 parts to  
17 the permit. I have not yet heard the name of this  
18 project and I don't even know what -- like for  
19 example, No. 1, general permit conditions, 20.41. NMAC  
20 incorporating -- well, that's in regulations anyway.  
21 But I will give these to you so that you can review  
22 them and look at -- and think about this issues  
23 because they're a reality. Thank you very much.

24 MR. CAMERON: Thank you.

25 (Applause.)

1 MS. HERNANDEZ: And thank you all for  
2 being here.

3 MR. CAMERON: And Dave Rogers and then  
4 Gail Seydel and then Danny Cross.

5 Okay. We're going onto the next speaker.  
6 And so the NRC staff has to give their attention.

7 NRC staff, we're going to go onto the next  
8 speaker, so let's pay attention to that.

9 And, Charlene, if you could give that to  
10 them later on so that we can go on with the meeting?

11 MR. ROGERS: Good evening and thank you  
12 for coming to Carlsbad. My name is Dave Rogers. I  
13 have been a resident of this community for 16 years as  
14 a local pastor and hospice chaplain. My family lives  
15 here. I have children here, grandchildren here and my  
16 wife and I intend to live here for the rest of our  
17 lives. We love Carlsbad.

18 But what I want to share with you is a  
19 story from my own family. It's about my late-  
20 grandfather Richard Caldwell Rogers. Grand-dad fought  
21 in World War II. He was a Navy Seabee in the South  
22 Pacific during the war. And professionally he was an  
23 electrical engineer and worked his entire civilian  
24 career in Kentucky Utilities. But one of the things  
25 that grand dad always shared with us from his

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1 experience in the war was being in the South Pacific;  
2 quite some distance from Japan mind you, but still in  
3 the South Pacific, when Hiroshima and Nagasaki were  
4 bombed.

5           When he came back working in the  
6 electrical industry for Kentucky Utilities he would  
7 always say that the real problem with nuclear power  
8 was that it was introduced to the world in such an  
9 unconscionable horrific manner and that the use of  
10 nuclear weaponry to introduce the world to the  
11 potential of nuclear would forever create a fear  
12 factor that would be very difficult to overcome and  
13 very easy to exploit.

14           I will not say that nuclear is perfectly  
15 safe and wonderful and I certainly recognize that it  
16 is dangerous. I don't think anybody in this room  
17 would say that nuclear is not dangerous. That's why  
18 there are so many very strong safety precautions put  
19 in place. But I also remember, just as an example, in  
20 the 2014 accident that happened at WIPP when even  
21 reputable organizations across the United States were  
22 showing images of this toxic death radioactive plume  
23 that was going to take out half of the United States,  
24 which obviously was fear mongering. It never  
25 happened.

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1           Look at the facts. Do the science. Also  
2           look at the safety record of the nuclear industry as  
3           a whole. Yes, it has its problems, but as a safety  
4           record it's probably one of the safest industries on  
5           the planet. There are a lot of dangers, but there is  
6           also a lot of potential. And as one who raises his  
7           family here and plans to stay here, who loves Carlsbad  
8           and also who has a great appreciation for the sage  
9           wisdom of my late-grandfather, I am in support of  
10          this. All I ask is listen to the facts, not the fear.  
11          Thank you.

12                           (Applause.)

13           MR. CAMERON:    Okay.    Thank you, Dave.  
14          Thank you.

15                           And this is Gail.

16           MS. SEYDEL:    Hey, folks. Thanks. I think  
17          I'm a known quantity to most of you having spoken to  
18          many of you in Roswell. And thanks again for coming  
19          out. Can you hear me -- am I --

20           MR. CAMERON:    That's good.

21           MS. SEYDEL:    Okay.    There you go.

22                           So I guess I am one of those outside  
23          agitators. I live south of Albuquerque. I'm proud to  
24          be one of those outside agitators. I live south of  
25          Albuquerque in a farming community about a little less

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1 than two miles from the railroad tracks. And like  
2 many people here, my home is my major investment in my  
3 life. And if there to be an accident along those  
4 railroad tracks, I would lose probably everything. Do  
5 I'm hoping that you will -- in your socio and economic  
6 area of inquiry that you will please find ways to  
7 assure that Holtec and insurance companies can  
8 indemnify us and make us whole if there's an accident.  
9 That is a key concern for many of us.

10 I also have been hearing a lot of folks  
11 saying that these casks have been tested extensively  
12 and dropped on all sorts of things. My understanding  
13 is all those tests were done in the '70s at Sandia  
14 Labs. If there are new tests, I would like to know  
15 where they are written about and what reports there  
16 are.

17 I would like to have those new tests  
18 included in the EIS. We have a very different  
19 technological awareness these days. There are all  
20 sorts of people who might do us harm. And those tests  
21 might have been appropriate in the computer modeling  
22 that they did in the '70s at Sandia. Might have been  
23 appropriate then, but I don't believe that it's still  
24 appropriate now almost 50 years later. And so I would  
25 require from both Holtec and Sandia, or whoever wants

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1 to do those testings, that we do a whole other spate  
2 of testing given what we are facing in terms of what  
3 we saw at 9/11 and so many other things that are going  
4 on in the world now that were not going on in 1970.

5 I also want to just say that I come from  
6 a community that was promised that a nuclear facility  
7 was going to be safe and clean forever. I am also  
8 from a community that experience cancer clusters and  
9 had a variety of deaths including my mom who died  
10 really young, my aunt who died after fighting three  
11 kinds of pretty unusual cancers, and all sort of other  
12 health effects throughout the neighborhood that could  
13 not be said to be genetic because it's of the same  
14 family, but neighbors all around us and all through  
15 the community.

16 And so the promises of Holtec and the  
17 promises of so many other people that it's going to be  
18 safe and clean forever, I just can't believe it and  
19 I'm not buying their bridge. So I hope that you will  
20 please really look very carefully. Accidents will  
21 happen even when they're not thought that they're  
22 going to happen and we just cannot believe those  
23 promises. We will experience those releases. We will  
24 cause other cancer cluster and health problems in our  
25 communities, and that really needs to be taken into

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1 consideration.

2 Thanks so much for coming to hear us. I  
3 hope that you will hold hearings in Albuquerque so I  
4 don't have to come five hours away from my little farm  
5 to speak to you. So thanks a lot.

6 MR. CAMERON: Okay.

7 (Applause.)

8 MR. CAMERON: Thank you, Gail.

9 And before we go to Danny Cross, let me  
10 bring Jack up.

11 And, Jack, you can introduce yourself.

12 And then we'll go to Danny Cross, Denise  
13 Madrid Boyes, Phil Green, and Lon Burnam.

14 MR. VOLPATO: My name is Jack Volpato.  
15 Thanks for coming to our neck of the woods. I'm a  
16 lifelong resident of Eddy County, born and raised in  
17 Carlsbad. I am also one of the founding members of  
18 the ELEA group. We saw an economic opportunity to  
19 partner with Lea County and the City of Hobbs to bring  
20 this to our area. We see it as a very valuable asset  
21 to the community. We've looked at Holtec's system and  
22 vetting it from all the other systems, and by far it's  
23 one of the best. You have licensed them in other  
24 places and we feel they're the safe and most reliable  
25 system on the market.

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1           We see the economic benefit to the income  
2 to come back to our schools and to our roads which we  
3 desperately need in this area due to our extreme  
4 growth due to the oil and gas industry boom that we're  
5 experiencing.

6           We have been slowly and deliberately  
7 moving forward with this project and we feel that you  
8 coming to our community and listening to us is very  
9 important. Good or bad and people that are for and  
10 against it, I'm sure they appreciate the opportunity  
11 to talk to you. I believe this project will benefit  
12 our community. I have done the research and I feel  
13 completely safe. I'm going to live here for the rest  
14 of my life and I don't mind having it my back yard.

15           Just one point of clarity. I've heard  
16 several people say it's over the Ogallala Aquifer. It  
17 is not over the Ogallala Aquifer. That is a  
18 misconception. There is -- the only aquifer near  
19 there is the Rustler Formation, not the Ogallala.

20           In closing I want to say thank you for  
21 coming. And the nuclear industry is one of the safest  
22 industries. if you compare it to the oil and gas  
23 industry or mortalities, injuries and deaths, the  
24 bottom line is that more people get killed in one year  
25 in the oil and gas industry than have in the history

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1 of the nuclear industry. Relatively risk and safety  
2 is very important and I think that this project has a  
3 very high safety margin and a very low risk margin as  
4 well. Thank you very much.

5 MR. CAMERON: Thank you.

6 (Applause.)

7 MR. CAMERON: And this is Danny.

8 MR. CROSS: He cut in front of me. That's  
9 not fair.

10 My name is Danny Cross and I'm a local  
11 businessman, long-time resident, my family Carlsbad,  
12 and I just want to say that we've been around URENCO  
13 and WIPP for many, many years. They have been great  
14 partners for our community. They've enriched our  
15 schools. They've enriched our economy. Like they  
16 say, we have more Ph.D. scientists in this area than  
17 almost anywhere in the state except for maybe Los  
18 Alamos.

19 I think this is a great project. I've  
20 looked at the science. I've listened to all the  
21 people talk and I just want to say that we welcome  
22 nuclear projects in this part of the country. We  
23 believe that you guys do a great job as well as Holtec  
24 in keeping us safe and we really need that kind of  
25 infrastructure and tax base and stuff that this stuff

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1 brings to our local economy and our businesses. And  
2 thank you and we -- I support this project.

3 MR. CAMERON: Okay. Thank you. Thank  
4 you, Danny.

5 (Applause.)

6 MR. CAMERON: Is Denise Madrid Boyes --  
7 okay. Denise is coming up. Then we'll go to Phil  
8 Green, Lon Burnam, Ford Stone and Wally Taylor.

9 MS. MADRID BOYES: Good evening. Thank  
10 you for coming to our community. I greatly appreciate  
11 your time and attention this evening.

12 I've lived in Carlsbad for 35 years. I  
13 moved here to start my career as an attorney. I'm a  
14 private attorney and I've represented many individuals  
15 over the last 35 years in many different areas of the  
16 law. In addition, I own a charter bus company that  
17 provides charter bus transportation to many local  
18 businesses including the employees that work at the  
19 WIPP site, which is located here in our area.

20 My husband just recently retired; he's  
21 with me here in the audience today, from the WIPP site  
22 after serving with that facility for 30 years. We are  
23 -- I have neighbors, I have friends, I have employees  
24 all who support the WIPP site, and they're all used to  
25 the regulation and the oversight that occurs as a part

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1 of the same regulations that you all are looking at  
2 with this particular facility that Holtec is  
3 proposing.

4 I believe that there is a safe and  
5 appropriate way that this facility can go into our  
6 area. I believe that they will be very good community  
7 partners with both Lea County and Eddy County if they  
8 perform similar to what the WIPP site has done. And  
9 I am in favor of this project and I ask that you  
10 strongly consider allowing this application to be  
11 approved. Thank you.

12 (Applause.)

13 MR. CAMERON: Okay. Thank you. Thank  
14 you, Denise.

15 And Phil, Phil Green. Oh, okay. This is  
16 Phil Green and his dog Porter is coming up to help  
17 him. And Lon Burnam is also helping.

18 MR. GREEN: Okay. Hello. My name is Phil  
19 Green. I live in Fort Worth, Texas. I'm retired from  
20 the government. I worked at the Centers for Disease  
21 Control in Atlanta for 19 years. The first nine years  
22 of that work I was in contracting. The last 10 years  
23 of my work I worked in the Radiation Studies Branch,  
24 which is within the National Centers for Environmental  
25 Health. My job at the Radiation Studies Branch was to

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1 perform as a designated federal official managing the  
2 Public Health Effects Subcommittee at Savannah River  
3 site for six years and to be the project manager at  
4 Los Alamos for a Document Retrieval and Assessment  
5 Program for 10 years. So my perspective entirely  
6 comes from public health. I'm going to have to say up  
7 front I do not agree that this is a good idea from a  
8 public health perspective.

9 Now I've heard a lot about how safe this  
10 community is, how willing you are to take on this  
11 enormous project, but I wonder in this slice of heaven  
12 whether you really know what you have here. Do you  
13 know what rates of diseases, cancer, birth defects and  
14 all of these environmental hazards and regular disease  
15 hazards may bring to you?

16 So I'm offering you an assignment. That  
17 assignment is to visit the Centers for Disease web  
18 site and to go to two different locations. They're  
19 both databases in which you can look for various  
20 diseases and environmental hazards and their effects.  
21 You can use these query tools and print out maps,  
22 charts and graphs about disease rates by county and by  
23 ZIP code. So you can go in to this area and you can  
24 find out what your community is really experiencing at  
25 the current time.

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1           And that may be important because you may  
2           find that everything is great, you are safe, or you  
3           may find that you're not safe, which means you're  
4           either going to bring incredible amounts of hazardous  
5           waste into your safe community, or, if you find out  
6           that your community is not safe, you may not want to  
7           bring in more of it and make it even more unsafe.

8           Now I hate that word "safe" and "unsafe,"  
9           and I'm amazed that the government is still using it,  
10          because I never used it in my work because there is no  
11          -- in public health "safe" is not an accurate word to  
12          use for public health risk.

13          I am I guess an outsider, although I own  
14          property in San Miguel County. I pay county taxes  
15          there. I grew up in New Mexico, met my wife at the  
16          University of New Mexico, and I come here two or three  
17          times a year. So I guess if I'm an outside, I like  
18          being an outsider.

19          I'm very impressed with this area of New  
20          Mexico. I have old college friends that live down  
21          here, and they love it. And I'm impressed that your  
22          infrastructure, your roads -- your city halls are  
23          wonderful. In -- what we just -- what -- oh, I can't  
24          remember the name of the town. Well -- yes, well,  
25          Roswell, of course. But -- and you have universities

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1 here. It appears to me on the outside from looking at  
2 it, in what we call in public health is a windshield  
3 tour, that it's a great place.

4 But I encourage you to look at these  
5 sites. And I also encourage the Nuclear Regulatory  
6 Commission to include a public health assessment as  
7 part of the EIS. Public health assessment is separate  
8 from an EIS. The CDC and its sister agency, the  
9 Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry,  
10 regularly have done these over the years at all the  
11 DOE sites that our radiation studies worked at and at  
12 the two sites that I worked at.

13 I'm reminded that -- this whole process  
14 reminds me of a book written in the '60s by John  
15 Nichols called *The Milagro Beanfield War*, and it  
16 parallels this because there's a lot at risk, a lot at  
17 stake. And in that there are classic battles between  
18 state, stakeholders, agitators, politicians, health.  
19 It's in a microcosm and in a very humorous book, but  
20 it's very serious. In *The Milagro Beanfield War* a man  
21 plants beans in a place where he's not supposed to, in  
22 a place where he's not to get water.

23 Well, this place you're attempting to  
24 bring thousands of what I call radioactive beans and  
25 eventually, as beans do, beans blow. Thank you.

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1 (Applause.)

2 MR. CAMERON: Okay. Thank you. So and  
3 thank you, Lon. And Lon's going to be up to talk to  
4 us as soon as he gets Phil settled.

5 Okay. There he is.

6 MR. BURNAM: As you might guess by my  
7 friendship with Phil, I'm one of those Texans. And so  
8 the first thing I'm going to say to NRC is when are  
9 you coming to Fort Worth? I'm a stakeholder. And the  
10 165,000 people that I represented for 18 years --  
11 165,000 people from Central City, Fort Worth, that's  
12 a larger population than the three Southeastern New  
13 Mexico counties combined. The 165,000 people that I  
14 represented for 8 years -- 18 years in the Texas  
15 legislature knew that I spent a disproportionate  
16 amount of my time fighting waste control specialists  
17 because they consistently lied, including about the  
18 aquifers, because the WCS facility is over the Edwards  
19 Aquifer. They moved the maps. Ogallala. I'm sorry.  
20 Over the Ogallala. The point, the relevant point is  
21 this industry has consistently lied to people over the  
22 decades.

23 I'm here at state expense in that my  
24 retirement check is from the State of Texas, but every  
25 Texan that's here tonight that has spoken is here

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1 because we are stakeholders and we're here at our own  
2 expense.

3 So first, you guys are invited to come to  
4 Albuquerque and Midland, Odessa, and Fort Worth. Fort  
5 Worth is known as Tarantula City because we have eight  
6 railroad lines coming through Fort Worth. I'm very  
7 familiar with Union Pacific and the management  
8 problems there. I'm very familiar with Tower 55 on  
9 the Southeast edge of downtown Fort Worth where over  
10 half of what we comb into the Port of Los Angeles goes  
11 through and sits for hours at a time waiting to make  
12 it through Tower 55. I'm familiar with a lot of  
13 things that make me very concerned about both the WCS  
14 facility proposal and this one.

15 One, Holtec is looking at trying to become  
16 a vertical monopoly. I'm one of those old-school  
17 people that thinks almost all monopolies are a bad  
18 idea. They're usually under and inadequately  
19 regulated and are a threat to our health and safety  
20 and welfare.

21 Chip, I blew it during the process  
22 questions. I wanted to remind you that there is a  
23 considerable question whether or not there is  
24 congressional authority to be holding these public  
25 meetings at this time, because there's certainly not

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1 NRC authority to authorize the application. But if  
2 you're going to hold three in Southeastern New Mexico  
3 with a population less than the district I  
4 represented, you might as well come to Fort Worth.  
5 You should recognize that there's a constant threat of  
6 artificial segmentation. The transportation lines are  
7 important.

8 This week in the three public meetings  
9 there have been two derailing of rail cars in Texas on  
10 the local racks downtown Fort Worth, seven or eight  
11 blocks from our courthouse on North Main just today.  
12 This is all about risk management. I'm one of those  
13 people that opposed the local nuclear power plant in  
14 the first plant because I knew we didn't have the  
15 answer to dealing with waste. I know the problems  
16 with this. I've been studying it since 1970.

17 I'm here because I think what I'm really  
18 hearing from these communities is concrete contracts  
19 are more important to some of you than public health.  
20 Let's get our value system in order.

21 (Applause.)

22 MR. BURNAM: Oh, and finally, we've talked  
23 a lot about cumulative impacts. I'd like to make  
24 certain that this map of New Mexico is entered into  
25 the record. So, Chip, I'm going to hand it to you.

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1 I was born in Artesia. My grandmother died at age 62.  
2 Our family will always suspect it was because she  
3 worked at the Artesia General Hospital in the X-ray  
4 lab before they knew enough to know that she should  
5 have been shielded. Carlsbad, we're 70 years into  
6 this. You need to know some things.

7 MR. CAMERON: Okay. Thank you. Thank  
8 you, Lon.

9 (Applause.)

10 MR. CAMERON: Ford? Ford Stone? Ford  
11 Stone, Wally Taylor. Come on up, whoever you are.  
12 This is Wally Taylor. Are you Ford Stone?

13 MR. STONE: Yes, I'm Ford Stone.

14 MR. CAMERON: You're Ford Stone. Okay.  
15 Good.

16 MR. STONE: I'm Ford Stone. I've lived  
17 here for 35 years. I rise in opposition. I have no  
18 experience with this whatsoever. I'm sorry.

19 I want to preface this by simply saying  
20 the problem is not the casks, the problem is the  
21 pools. All right? That will become clear in a  
22 minute.

23 The proponents of the Holtec Eddy Lea  
24 Alliance proposal advance four main arguments  
25 justifying the transfer of the nation's depleted fuel

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1 rods to Eddy Lea County. I have found these arguments  
2 unconvincing for the following reasons:

3 First the moral argument. The depleted  
4 fuel rods are stored in two modes depending on how  
5 hot, both thermally and radioactively, they are. The  
6 fuel rods that are no longer thermally hot enough to  
7 boil water in the reactor are removed and replaced  
8 with new ones. The removed ones are still plenty  
9 thermally hot such that they need to be kept  
10 constantly water-cooled in cooling pools lest they be  
11 exposed to air, in which case they could get so hot as  
12 to cause their zirconium alloy tubes to catch fire.

13 If such were to happen, the result could  
14 be a catastrophe on the order of Chernobyl spewing  
15 radiation far and wide and requiring permanent  
16 evacuation of everyone for miles around. This is the  
17 real liability of spent fuel reactor rods, a matter of  
18 real concern and a genuine first class moral problem  
19 for the risk that they represent to the population at  
20 each and every one of the 100 or so power plants where  
21 they are located. It's a big problem, but this  
22 serious problem is not addressed at all by the Holtec  
23 and Eddy-Lea Alliance proposal.

24 These hotter fuel rods are mandated by the  
25 Nuclear Regulatory Commission to remain in their water

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1 cooling pools for a minimum of five years. You could  
2 bring all of the cooler fuel rods currently in dry  
3 cask storage at their present locations here tomorrow  
4 and not change this situation one bit. You simply  
5 cannot speed up the heat generating nuclear decay  
6 process. This is -- can you hear me?

7 PARTICIPANT: No, there's something wrong  
8 with that mic. We can't hear you very well and I  
9 don't know what it is.

10 MR. STONE: Can I just talk?

11 (Simultaneous speaking.)

12 MR. CAMERON: I can hear you fine. I can  
13 hear you perfectly well.

14 MR. STONE: All right.

15 MR. CAMERON: So go ahead.

16 MR. STONE: All right. Anyway, you can't  
17 speed up the heat generating nuclear decay process.  
18 It must run its course. What you will do is encourage  
19 the nuclear industry to produce still more of this  
20 waste once they see they can put their spent rods out  
21 of sight and out of mind.

22 Now, the problem is the casks. I've heard  
23 -- all right. Second, they say the above-ground  
24 aspect of the present casks designs places them at  
25 risk at aircraft crash. Well, as to their putative

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1 vulnerability to air crash you will note that in 1945  
2 a B-25 two-engine bomber crashed into the Empire State  
3 Building in New York City with virtually no damage to  
4 the building's structural integrity. To a structure  
5 of concrete or steel an airplane is just a thin-  
6 skinned aluminum balloon full of people and fuel.

7           The Twin Towers which might come to mind  
8 in this context collapsed not due to their steel  
9 framework being damaged by the aircraft's impact,  
10 which it was not, but by their steel structures being  
11 weakened by the prolonged exposure to the subsequent  
12 fuel-fed fire. Any structural engineer or architect  
13 will tell you that steel loses all its strength in a  
14 fire. The Twin Towers' steel insulation was never  
15 conceived to be exposed to the amount of prolonged  
16 heat to which the fuel-feed fire brought by the planes  
17 exposed them.

18           Now, why did I go and say all that? In  
19 total contrast the dry storage fuel rod casks  
20 currently where these rods are -- the cooler rods are  
21 stored are double-layer welded steel containers with  
22 thick steel reinforced concrete cladding. They would  
23 be fairly impregnable to this kind of impact.

24           Third, that the casks in their present  
25 locations above ground are vulnerable to terrorist

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1 attack --

2 MR. CAMERON: Can I get you to just sum  
3 up, please, Ford?

4 MR. STONE: Yes.

5 MR. CAMERON: Thank you.

6 MR. STONE: The cooler rods would not  
7 catch fire if they were exposed to an attack, however,  
8 there would be a problem, but it would not be a  
9 Chernobyl-type problem. It would be nasty, but the  
10 thing about it is these casks are specifically  
11 designed to be capable of withstanding just such an  
12 attack. The NRC describes the dry casks used in the  
13 U.S. as "designed to resist floods, tornados,  
14 projectiles, temperature extremes and other unusual  
15 scenarios." I quote. So these present storage  
16 containers weigh hundreds of tons. They ain't going  
17 nowhere.

18 How much more do I -- no more time?

19 MR. CAMERON: You're over time.

20 MR. STONE: Oh, okay. I'm so sorry.

21 MR. CAMERON: So I just wanted to give you  
22 as much time as --

23 (Simultaneous speaking.)

24 MR. STONE: All right. I got it all -- if  
25 you want to go to [fordstone.wordpress.com](http://fordstone.wordpress.com), you can see

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1 the rest of the argument.

2 MR. CAMERON: You can -- and if you want  
3 to give that to the NRC staff, you can.

4 MR. STONE: I've made so many marks on it  
5 that it's illegible.

6 MR. CAMERON: Okay. All right.

7 PARTICIPANT: Mail it in.

8 MR. CAMERON: Thank you, Ford.

9 MR. STONE: All right.

10 (Applause.)

11 MR. CAMERON: Thank you very much. Thank  
12 you.

13 And now we're going to hear from Wally  
14 Taylor and then Chad Ingram and Tom Martin.

15 Go ahead.

16 MR. TAYLOR: Thank you for allowing me to  
17 comment. I have three comments on the scope of the  
18 EIS. Others have touched on these, but I want to  
19 expand a little bit.

20 The first is about earthquakes. The  
21 environment report submitted by Holtec pretty much  
22 dismisses the idea of earthquakes impacting this  
23 project, but the ER is based on historic data,  
24 historic incidents. There is much more recent data  
25 which I will give to you in written comments that the

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1 drilling and fracking for oil and gas in this area has  
2 increased dramatically in the last few years. And a  
3 recent study by some geophysicists at Stanford, which  
4 was published in February of this year, documents  
5 recent faults in the area of the Holtec site and  
6 around the Holtec site that weren't there  
7 historically. And it's a proven fact; someone  
8 mentioned Oklahoma, where fracking for oil and gas  
9 does induce earthquakes. And that's been shown in  
10 Texas as well. So you need to do a really thorough  
11 review for the impacts from earthquakes.

12           Secondly, the no-action alternative, which  
13 means basically leaving the waste at the reactor site.  
14 The ER submitted by Holtec admits that the no-action  
15 alternative is a reasonable alternative, but it tosses  
16 it aside saying, well, it's safer to put it in a  
17 consolidated -- in a storage facility. But the NRC's  
18 own continuous storage rule determined that it's  
19 perfectly safe to leave the waste on site basically  
20 forever. You remember you had to do -- because the  
21 court said so you had to do an evaluation for  
22 indefinite storage on site, and you found that it was  
23 safe. The Blue Ribbon Commission, which Holtec cites  
24 as the basis for supporting a CIS site, said also that  
25 on-site storage was just as safe as a CIS site. So

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1 with all of that you need to really take a strong  
2 thorough look at the no-action alternative.

3 Thirdly, you must evaluate for indefinite  
4 storage at the CIS site. That's exactly what the  
5 circuit court in D.C. said back in 2012 in New York v.  
6 NRDC that NEPA requires an evaluation for all possible  
7 scenarios including indefinite storage. And if there  
8 is never a permanent repository sited, this CIS site  
9 will become a de factor permanent repository. You  
10 need to evaluate that in the EIS.

11 (Applause.)

12 MR. CAMERON: Thanks, Wally.

13 And is Chad Ingram --

14 MR. INGRAM: Yes, right here.

15 MR. CAMERON: Okay. Good. Thank you.

16 MR. INGRAM: Good evening. We sure do  
17 appreciate you all being here in Carlsbad, and what a  
18 community we have, huh? You know, I've been standing  
19 over here and I've heard a lot of my fellow  
20 Carlsbadians come up here and I've had to change my  
21 speech three times because they keep stealing my  
22 lines.

23 Bottom line is that we know nuclear here.  
24 We have some of the smartest people on the planet in  
25 Carlsbad, New Mexico, and people around the world

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1 backing them up with the science. Holtec has shown in  
2 their testing that this can stand up to an airplane  
3 strike. The science is there. The science is sound.  
4 Carlsbad is a perfect location to have such a  
5 facility. We have the WIPP site here already. We are  
6 willing to take this on.

7 We've heard a lot tonight as well it could  
8 be and it sits above ground and we've got these  
9 problems. The science has already been done. And  
10 we're here tonight to ask you to approve Holtec.  
11 Let's get it here. Let's get this stuff stored. Even  
12 if it's on a temporary basis, it's the best  
13 alternative for us at this point. Appreciate you all.  
14 Thank you.

15 MR. CAMERON: Okay. Thank you, Chad.

16 (Applause.)

17 MR. CAMERON: I'm going to go to Tom. Tom  
18 Martin with us?

19 Okay. Richard Doss, John Buchser, Doug  
20 Lynn, Bob Forrest. Richard? Richard Doss? And John.  
21 John -- he was here. Okay. Oh, here he is.

22 MR. BUCHSER: Thank you. Thank you to  
23 everybody for hanging in there. I am -- there is a  
24 lot of audience that has disappeared from the front.  
25 My name is John Buchser. I am here representing the

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1 10,000 members of the Rio Grande Chapter of the Sierra  
2 Club. I worked about ten years at Los Alamos, five  
3 years at Sandia, half a dozen years in public health.  
4 I am a computer geek. I am also a crazy activist and  
5 I am from Santa Fe.

6 I agree with statements that city and  
7 county officials stated early on that some storage  
8 sites at reactors of cast fuel rods need to be  
9 evaluated for risk and are potentially not safe -- as  
10 safe as they could be. The goal of waste management  
11 should be to minimize risk in management of used fuel  
12 rods. If a storage location at a given reactor is  
13 determined to be at risk, moving as short a distance  
14 as possible is best unless we know where the long-term  
15 location is. Current law does not allow a CIS site.  
16 I am impressed that the whole tech system, as proposed  
17 here, appears to be safe. However, this is only the  
18 case for the permitted 20-year period for this  
19 storage.

20 The storage site problems are one, helium  
21 leakage should be continuously monitored. As far as  
22 I can tell, it's not monitored at all, so you don't  
23 know if anything is linking. Murphy rules. No long-  
24 term storage management exists to handle leaking  
25 casks. Radiation and heat will degrade casks. It

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1 actually starts peaking out at about year ten through  
2 about year 25 -- it gets pretty darn hot. It actually  
3 makes a case for not putting it underground until the  
4 heat diminishes, there is so much heat coming off of  
5 it. I really like to use my car. I heat my house  
6 with gas. Guess where it comes from -- this area  
7 around here. Until we get to the point in technology  
8 where I can use something else, I don't want to  
9 destroy the oil and gas boom here. I need it. I like  
10 it. I want to transition, but I -- we're not there.

11 I like dairy and meat. Same problem. I  
12 don't want to make it go away. Tourism is safe,  
13 mostly. Lots of jobs. Holtec is only providing 50 or  
14 100. That is not many. Transport, to me, is the  
15 biggest problem. An anti-tank missile will cause a  
16 failure. It's not clear to me how awful that failure  
17 will be, but I happened to be at Los Alamos watching  
18 the satellite photos of Chernobyl the day after it  
19 happened, and I have watched videos of people going in  
20 there for half-an-hour just to do some videos of  
21 Chernobyl -- nobody lives there, except some of the  
22 animals are managing to. The Yucca Mountain analysis  
23 was extensive. It showed that in the transport  
24 process to Yucca Mountain, which is actually less  
25 waste than this is proposing over the 20-year renewals

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1 that they will be looking at, that there will be a  
2 failure in transport of this waste. Same problem with  
3 releasing that waste.

4 There is -- I have three things in  
5 conclusion. One is, stop the production of this  
6 dangerous waste. Two is, don't reprocess and  
7 perpetuate the problem. The only way this project can  
8 actually be profitable to the community in the long  
9 run is to reprocess it, and you are just perpetuating  
10 the problem, creating bomb-grade material. I don't,  
11 you know -- I don't nuclear war any more than anybody  
12 else does, except for the folks building things for  
13 war. We have a wonderful thermonuclear process a few  
14 million miles away. The region is already putting it  
15 to great use with wind and solar collectors. It  
16 generates a whole heck of a lot more jobs and is a  
17 whole heck of a lot safer. Thank you very much for  
18 your time, and I appreciate your being here for us.

19 (Applause.)

20 MR. CAMERON: Thank you. Thank you, John.  
21 Is Doug Lynn? Here is Doug. And then we will go to  
22 Bob Forrest, Larry Mitchell and then Gene Harbaugh.  
23 And this is Doug.

24 MR. LYNN: Thank you. I appreciate the  
25 opportunity to speak to everyone tonight. It's

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1 getting a little cold in here. Is everybody kind of  
2 --

3 (Simultaneous speaking.)

4 MR. LYNN: Yes, I was going to hang some  
5 meat back there, but --

6 (Laughter.)

7 MR. LYNN: I too am kind of a life-long  
8 resident of this area. My family homesteaded a ranch  
9 between Carlsbad and Jal. It's not that far south as  
10 the crow flies from the proposed Holtec site. I have  
11 a great deal of passion for the desert. I was trained  
12 as a range land ecologist. My first 12 years -- most  
13 of them are gone now. I was going to have them raise  
14 their hand. But for the first 12 years of my  
15 professional career, I was a school teacher. I taught  
16 biology and environmental ecology. Oh, there's one  
17 right there. One of my old students. But I -- we had  
18 a whole room full of them. I counted about 15 or 20  
19 in here -- my old kids. And my -- my kids, in fact,  
20 received state and national accolades for excellence  
21 in environmental education and ecology and  
22 contribution -- and their contribution to America's  
23 resources -- natural resources.

24 We have -- I would like to preface one --  
25 one further comment I would like to make is that we --

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1 we looked up here a while ago about things like  
2 wildlife. And there was a comment made tonight about  
3 the dune sage brush lizard. There were questions  
4 asked of us yesterday -- I was a tour guide out there  
5 -- and we were -- I was asked very politely and very  
6 graciously, questions about the lesser prairie  
7 chicken. Both of these species are species of concern  
8 to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. And they  
9 currently have agreements in place to help manage the  
10 conservation of both species. And I can state  
11 unequivocally, I've been -- I've been sitting on these  
12 boards since 2002 -- I have sat on every single  
13 working group that has -- that was -- that were the  
14 main contributors to the strategic plan to manage both  
15 the dune sage brush lizard and the lesser prairie  
16 chicken. I can tell you unequivocally, with absolute  
17 surety, that that area out there is not conducive, it  
18 is non-suitable habitat. Neither of those species  
19 reside there, nor will they ever reside there. It is  
20 hardpan muskee (phonetic). Those -- neither species  
21 does that.

22 So, now that being said, I will go on --  
23 after my -- after my career as a school teacher I went  
24 -- I actually got hired by the WIPP site. I was a  
25 little uncomfortable. I had a little bit of fear

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1 about nuclear. And I got hired at the WIPP site and  
2 went out as one of their primary land use  
3 coordinators. I was their wildlife guy. I was their  
4 range specialist. I was their reclamation specialist.  
5 I wore a lot of hats. And I also was assigned the  
6 principal investigator and the team leader for all of  
7 the radiological environmental sampling. And when you  
8 do that, they send you to Oak Ridge Associated  
9 Universities in Tennessee and they put you through  
10 some of the most rigorous and intensive training on  
11 radiological environmental sampling that you can go  
12 through.

13 And as I -- as I got smarter about  
14 radiation, I got less fearful about radiation. As I  
15 learned more about how radioactive materials behave --  
16 as I learned more about how radionuclides behave -- I  
17 became a lot more comfortable in how I went about  
18 doing my business as an environmental sampler. And  
19 they had us at Oak Ridge -- I told some people  
20 yesterday, they had me, in my frame, crawling around  
21 through duct work over laboratories with pitot tubes  
22 taking air samples. So once I learned about the  
23 behavior -- how a radionuclide behaves, I became more  
24 comfortable. And I became less fearful. And I -- so  
25 I conducted that for 15 years at the WIPP site.

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1 That's what I did. All of those different activities  
2 I just described.

3 Based on my training and my experience in  
4 that arena, I can state that there is a reality -- I  
5 tell this to my employees all the time. You know,  
6 they want to do the right thing sometimes, or they  
7 want to -- they have a lot of passion or emotion  
8 wrapped up in things. I have a lot of passion about  
9 the Chihuahuan desert. I love the desert. That's why  
10 I choose to live here. And that's why I choose to  
11 learn about the desert and was trained in the desert.  
12 But there is a reality. The reality here is that we  
13 have spent nuclear fuel. The reality is is that fuel  
14 is not particularly in the best place. And in my  
15 opinion, based on my training and experience, the  
16 Holtec facility is by far the best option that we have  
17 to handle that reality. And so, that being said, I  
18 thank you again for your time.

19 (Applause.)

20 MR. CAMERON: Thank you very much. And  
21 how about Bob? Bob Forrest?

22 (No audible response.)

23 MR. CAMERON: Larry Mitchell? Gene  
24 Harbaugh? Oh, here is Larry. Okay, and then we will  
25 go to you, Gene. We have Larry right here. Go ahead.

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1 MR. MITCHELL: Good evening, ladies and  
2 gentleman. We welcome you to Carlsbad and my name is  
3 Larry Mitchell. I am speaking on behalf of myself as  
4 a citizen. I've been in Carlsbad for almost -- well,  
5 it was over 24 years. I was imported here, so I too  
6 am from Texas. Been proud to be here. Again, I am  
7 speaking as a businessman and as a citizen. We -- I  
8 am pleased that Holtec is showing interest. I am  
9 pleased that you have shown up here as well to hear  
10 what the concerned citizens have to say -- whether  
11 they be from here or from outside. I mean, we -- we  
12 welcome everybody. This is -- this is our backyard  
13 and I heard one -- can't remember who it was that said  
14 not in my backyard. Well, I followed what he was  
15 saying. I said, we do welcome Holtec to our backyard.  
16 And one of the things that we see -- the promises that  
17 we've -- that we've -- or, the promise I see in this  
18 program is that, you know, this -- the program we have  
19 right now as far as WIPP, it has been a fantastic  
20 contribution to this community, not just by what it  
21 does for employees and what the employees do for  
22 Carlsbad and for the surrounding areas, but what -- I  
23 believe it does a service. And it does come at a  
24 cost, but that cost, considering what could be done  
25 with it, is minimal. This is, as many others have

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1 said, this is a well-educated community. I have never  
2 felt like I was being misled or, you know,  
3 misinformed. I believe the kids in this community  
4 know more, being that they are raising up in this --  
5 being raised up in this, that they know more about it  
6 than many others. And so this is, I believe, a well-  
7 educated community.

8 One of the things we've seen over the  
9 years when I -- when I moved out here is potash was  
10 beginning to decline. Tourism has been pretty much  
11 waning off a little bit. It's -- now you see what oil  
12 and gas does. It is extremely volatile. If it's up,  
13 it's up. If it's down, then the whole region can be  
14 down. But one of the things I have noticed here ever  
15 since WIPP came on board, it's really kind of leveled  
16 out the economy. It's been that constant -- and I  
17 know that you -- your profession, your job, you want  
18 to make everything as safe as possible. And I do  
19 believe that Holtec has a solution, be it temporary or  
20 whatever it is -- but we certainly would like to  
21 welcome Holtec to our community. Thank you.

22 (Applause.)

23 MR. CAMERON: Thank you. This is Gene,  
24 right?

25 MR. HARBAUGH: I admire you folks so much.

1 You have sat there so patiently. Wouldn't you like to  
2 stand up? I mean, goodness, goodness.

3 (Laughter.)

4 MR. HARBAUGH: Anyway, I appreciate the  
5 opportunity speak to you tonight. My name is Gene  
6 Harbaugh. I am a retired Presbyterian pastor,  
7 approaching 82 years old. And I have lived in  
8 Carlsbad 32 years. I live within 300 yards of a  
9 switching rail yard, which makes me nervous when I  
10 think about the condition of the railroad  
11 infrastructure across this country and how much time  
12 some of these canisters will spend on a siding. The  
13 proposal that we have before us is for a temporary,  
14 interim storage facility. And even though, obviously,  
15 a lot of attention has been given to the safety of  
16 these canisters, the fact that this is a temporary  
17 storage facility is its fatal flaw. Until a permanent  
18 repository is authorized by Congress, it is  
19 counterintuitive to move radioactive material around  
20 the country.

21 (Applause.)

22 MR. HARBAUGH: We have had experience in  
23 Carlsbad with private companies. As you know, about  
24 our brine well situation. And if there is to be a  
25 national repository for nuclear waste, the federal

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1 government, not a private company, should be  
2 responsible for the conducting of the entire project  
3 and its design. We are talking not just 100 years, we  
4 are talking thousands of years when we are talking  
5 about finding a repository for this kind of waste.  
6 Another point that I would make is that this proposal  
7 is not in any way connected to WIPP. WIPP is a  
8 project that those of us in this community have come  
9 to accept and, in fact, for me personally, if we were  
10 putting these canisters 2,000 feet below the surface,  
11 that would be a different story. That is not the  
12 case, obviously. It is disingenuous to suggest that  
13 the proposed storage will be temporary when there is  
14 as yet no permanent site for the waste.

15 So Holtec is obviously motivated by profit  
16 in this plan. Nothing wrong with that. However, I  
17 wonder how much attention and how much information we  
18 have about the impact on farming and ranching, on  
19 tourism, on retirement, on the oil and gas industry,  
20 on the dairy industry, on the mining industry. I  
21 think all of that needs to be looked at. And my hunch  
22 is that, as I talk to people, the impact is going to  
23 be negative.

24 And finally, I would just say that we have  
25 a situation in this community that is not unique. But

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1 due to the fact that we are in a community that has  
2 only one newspaper -- one community newspaper -- which  
3 has dramatically declined in circulation and is now  
4 published in El Paso, Texas, and has no effective  
5 network for public communication, this project is  
6 virtually unknown in Carlsbad. I will wager that you  
7 cannot talk to 20 people that you don't know on the  
8 streets of Carlsbad and find one of them that has even  
9 heard of this project. This has been under the radar  
10 for a long time. I appreciate the opportunity to  
11 speak to you, and I am amazed at your stamina.

12 (Applause.)

13 MR. CAMERON: Well, you're not doing too  
14 badly yourself at 82, you know. Are the Squires here?  
15 Yes, Mrs. Squires goes first. If you still want to  
16 talk. And then we are going to go to the Hoffmans --  
17 after Mr. Squires. This is Linda Squires.

18 MS. SQUIRES: Good evening, I -- I spoke  
19 at the Roswell meeting. And I just wanted to make a  
20 few comments about what occurred at the Roswell  
21 meeting. And I am addressing you tonight as a -- a  
22 dairy owner, a veterinarian and most of all as a mom.  
23 But also as a Baby Boomer. We old farts at the  
24 meeting in Roswell were schooled by the nuclear  
25 engineering students in the many benefits of having

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1 Mr. Atom in our lives. Reminded, pretty much, of the  
2 benefits that x-rays gave us for diagnosis of our  
3 cancers and determining which teeth to have pulled --  
4 and to be told we had -- if we had a banana that day,  
5 we had just consumed radioactive material.

6 Basically, what they were ridiculing was  
7 the fears of the old people. And as baby boomers, I  
8 think we have every right to be -- have some fear of  
9 radioactive materials. When I was a kid, we had a  
10 shoe store in the little town that I grew up in, and  
11 we had a fluoroscope in that shoe store. And I  
12 remember standing in front of that thing and wiggling  
13 my toes in my new shoes. But the fluoroscope was not  
14 shielded. It provided no protection whatsoever. And  
15 I often wondered if I had received radiation that  
16 caused some physical problems that I had later on in  
17 life from that machine. But I never -- I would never  
18 know.

19 Then every person that's -- that was born  
20 after World War II, every person alive in the United  
21 States during those years in the '50s and '60s was  
22 exposed to huge amounts of unprecedented radiation  
23 falling from the skies. They did studies in -- in St.  
24 Louis on baby teeth that were submitted by moms. And  
25 then they followed these teeth throughout the years of

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1 the people's lives. And this was called the baby  
2 tooth study. And they tested for strontium 90 levels  
3 in those baby teeth. And they found that with  
4 increasing strontium 90 there was increased cancer  
5 rates and decreased survivability of those baby  
6 boomers.

7 Many of our friends and neighbors are  
8 already gone. We have a very close friend right now  
9 who is fighting cancer. Nobody knows what causes  
10 these things, but the fact remains that fear is a  
11 protective mechanism. It allows us to raise children  
12 successfully without them dying, and it allows us to  
13 do all the things in our lives that we need to do  
14 safely, because we have respect for what can happen in  
15 the worst-case scenarios. Now, all these years later,  
16 baby boomers face devastating debilitating  
17 neurological diseases for which nobody knows the cause  
18 and there is no prevention and no cure. And I am  
19 referring to Alzheimer's, Parkinson's and a horrible  
20 disease called Creutzfeldt-Jakobs disease, which is the  
21 human form of mad cow disease. All of these diseases  
22 are now linked to prions. And this is the same tiny  
23 particle known to be present in cows with BSE, or mad  
24 cow disease, and it -- they are also present in deer  
25 and elk with chronic wasting disease and in sheep with

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1 scrapie. But scientists don't know anything about how  
2 these particles initiate disease or how they can be so  
3 resistant to disinfectants.

4 I have been studying cluster patterns of  
5 all the prion-related diseases for quite a few years  
6 now -- just an independent study. And I -- as I  
7 mentioned at the other meeting, I came up with four  
8 factors -- radionuclides, various combinations of  
9 heavy metals such as lead or manganese, and fluoride  
10 and aluminum.

11 And I am turning in a copy of my notes and  
12 summary paper to you tonight so that you can be free  
13 to take this information and create studies so that  
14 you can find out -- work with the Department of  
15 Defense, who is now doing research on prion diseases,  
16 for some strange reason. Find out if you can do some  
17 studies. I have a suggestion for a study for CWD in  
18 Colorado. Find out if -- what is causing these. If  
19 there is indeed any link to radioactive materials, we  
20 need to find out before we create more contaminated  
21 places. And I urge you to -- to follow up on this. If  
22 I am wrong, I will be surprised. But if I am right,  
23 you will be glad that you checked this out first.  
24 Thank you.

25 (Applause.)

1 MR. CAMERON: And Mr. Squires? Then we're  
2 going to go to -- to Shareon and Ace Hoffman.

3 MR. SQUIRES: Thank you for the  
4 opportunity to speak to you folks again. I spoke the  
5 other night in Roswell for a few minutes. My wife  
6 Linda and I both -- we are both graduate  
7 veterinarians. We graduated from Ohio State a few  
8 years ago. We now own a dairy in Hagerman, which  
9 coincidentally, I guess one of the railroads that is  
10 going to transfer this nuclear waste goes right  
11 through the town of Hagerman. We currently have over  
12 50 employees. And one of the things I would like to  
13 talk about tonight is one of the things that we have  
14 learned in veterinary medicine -- one of the more  
15 important aspects of it, we feel, is preventive  
16 medicine. This is something not a lot of people think  
17 about. They think about what pill can I take to fix  
18 this problem? And in preventive medicine, it's what  
19 we use when we are working with herds, with animals,  
20 just to try to evaluate the situation. We evaluate  
21 the risks of the disease. We evaluate the costs of  
22 the disease. And then we evaluate the cost of the  
23 prevention and what methods we can use to prevent a  
24 disease. And after that, we try to make a plan to  
25 help prevent disease, whether it is something to do

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1 with nutrition, cow comfort, calf comfort,  
2 vaccinations, immunology -- all of those things. And  
3 we use that to help run our dairy as well as -- when  
4 I was consulting for other dairies, we -- we would use  
5 that same information in those cases.

6 A lot of our dairy feeds are transported,  
7 as I said the other night, on the same railways that  
8 the proposed nuclear fuel rods would use. The rest of  
9 the feed is raised locally, and as I said the other  
10 night, the risks of contamination of any of our feeds  
11 or any of the milk supply, or even the hint of  
12 contamination would devastate our industry. I am not  
13 a -- I am not an anti-nuclear activist. We believe in  
14 a lot of the uses of radiation and things like that.  
15 But there's a place and a time for it.

16 I feel that it's impossible for us to  
17 prevent some kind of accident of any kind from  
18 happening with a railroad or a truck. Murphy, that's  
19 running the loader, when they're -- when they're  
20 moving these canisters. Any accident leak or any  
21 other problem. And it is nearly impossible to know  
22 when it is occurring because you can't see it, smell  
23 it or tell it by any of your other senses. So we have  
24 to rely on responsible people who are around there to  
25 let us know if something happened. And we are

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1 dependent upon their honesty and integrity to report  
2 these problems.

3 I am not really comfortable with that  
4 situation. Even though I have been told that it is,  
5 I do not believe that it is my moral and patriotic  
6 duty to take the high-level nuclear waste from around  
7 the country. I think it should be stored where it  
8 already had a contaminated home. And that's all I've  
9 got to say tonight. Thank you.

10 (Applause.)

11 MR. CAMERON: And here is Ace Hoffman.  
12 Ace?

13 MR. HOFFMAN: Good evening. I am a  
14 stakeholder. I am from Carlsbad. Not Carlsbad, New  
15 Mexico; Carlsbad, California, which is about 15 miles  
16 as the crow flies, or the plutonium flies, from San  
17 Onofre. So it was very important to me that we do  
18 something about this waste. However, Rocky Flats  
19 still has a dead zone where people can't live.  
20 They've made it into a nature preserve, it's -- it  
21 doesn't preserve anything. Chernobyl has a dead zone.  
22 Fukushima has a dead zone. Hanford has a dead zone  
23 and no money to build it.

24 I did a mathematical calculation of the  
25 thickness of the dry casts. They're not much thicker

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1 than an egg shell, proportionately. And if you  
2 imagine an egg shell filled with lead -- well, uranium  
3 is 1.7 times heavier than lead. So this -- these are  
4 not safe canisters. The drop tests, all those other  
5 tests, they're not nearly as strict as the tests that  
6 they give them in Europe. The tests are really  
7 designed so that the dry casts that they can -- that  
8 they want to build will pass the tests. They're not  
9 real -- they don't have anything to do with the real  
10 world and what can really happen.

11 The -- the -- what we're talking about is  
12 probability versus possibility. So by considering  
13 only the first 500 casks, that's one-twentieth of the  
14 probability of an accident. How bad that accident --  
15 well, it's 20-times more likely that it's -- that it's  
16 going to happen if you're taking the whole 10,000. If  
17 you take all of those. And another thing is, if you  
18 built this thing, the nuclear industry is going to  
19 say, well, we have a solution to the nuclear waste  
20 problem. But what kind of a solution is it? It's a  
21 -- it is supposed to last 40 years? That's one number  
22 that I hear. A hundred-and-twenty years is another  
23 number. Three hundred years is a number we have been  
24 tossed at as well. But the truth is, it may be there  
25 forever because those casks corrode. And trying to

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1 move them after 40 years may be an extremely risk  
2 thing if you can do it at all.

3 Now, we spent the day at the Carlsbad  
4 Caverns. And you've got a lot of wind here. Oh, it  
5 was windy. And you've got a lot of water seeping  
6 through your ground constantly. So if there is a  
7 problem it is going to affect everything. It is going  
8 to affect your tourism. It is going to affect your  
9 livestock. It is going to affect your environment in  
10 so many different ways. And let's talk about  
11 terrorism. They are not prepared to -- they are not  
12 going to protect against an airplane strike -- even an  
13 accidental airplane strike. The turbine -- the center  
14 of the turbine of an airplane is a very solid rod.  
15 And that will go through just about anything. And the  
16 fuel test -- the fire that would occur if an airplane  
17 actually crashed into this enormous place -- would  
18 burst these casks. So they're not protected against  
19 any kind of terrorism -- not to mention, I mean, we  
20 had a -- a drug guy that they dug a 500-foot tunnel in  
21 Mexico to get him out. Just this one person. If  
22 somebody wants to get into this thing, fence isn't  
23 going to -- isn't going to stop anybody. They can go  
24 under it. They do that all the time in California.

25 (Laughter.)

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1 MR. HOFFMAN: Also, the bill that -- that  
2 is being proposed, it -- they need -- they need a new  
3 bill because legally they can't build this thing yet.  
4 And part of the bills -- it's being rewritten just in  
5 the last day or so -- such that nobody can sue if the  
6 DOE doesn't put enough money in to solve the problems  
7 that might come up. So, I mean, if -- from top to  
8 bottom, it's a farce. Twenty years ago we were told  
9 at San Onofre that the casks they were going to use  
10 were going to be two inches thick and a quarter of an  
11 inch lead. And they are actually five-eighths of an  
12 inch thick. And that's thicker than they used to be.  
13 The ones that we were going to get when they were  
14 telling us they would be two inches thick were only  
15 half-inch thick. So don't expect anyone to be telling  
16 you the truth about what is possible or what is going  
17 to happen. And I strongly advise -- even though I  
18 would love to get rid of the waste, and I would love  
19 to find a sucker that will take it -- but don't be  
20 that sucker. Thank you.

21 (Applause.)

22 MR. CAMERON: This is Sharon -- Sharon  
23 Hoffman. And then we're going to go to Robert Defer  
24 and Robert Baldrige. Sharon?

25 MS. HOFFMAN: Thank you, Chip. And thank

1 you to the -- to everybody for staying this long and  
2 listening. And thank you to Carlsbad for welcoming us  
3 here. As my husband said, we are from Carlsbad,  
4 California and we -- we recognize the -- the sentiment  
5 that says we can take this problem. But this is  
6 everybody's problem. And it cannot be moved to any  
7 one place. So I want to ask the NRC if you are going  
8 to consider this -- if you are going to do an  
9 environmental impact, then do an environmental impact  
10 of what is really going to happen. This is going to  
11 become a de facto permanent repository. We are still  
12 going to have waste at every nuclear power plant in  
13 the country that is open. We are very happy that San  
14 Onofre is closed. It is a really bad place for the  
15 waste. But that doesn't mean that we solve the  
16 problem by moving it to a different place. We have to  
17 look at the transportation. we are talking about  
18 moving the most dangerous stuff on the planet all over  
19 the country. And if we moved it all today, we would  
20 have more tomorrow.

21 So if we are going to do an environmental  
22 impact, let's do an environmental impact of what is  
23 really going to happen. So the real question here is,  
24 when are we going to shut down all these plants and  
25 stop making more waste? That's really the problem.

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1 (Applause.)

2 MS. HOFFMAN: The other thing that I think  
3 is very important to consider is nobody has ever  
4 opened a cask. There has been a lot of discussion at  
5 San Onofre about the casks and a lot of questions  
6 about that. And we had some folks come in from the  
7 nuclear industry group and say, well, we are starting  
8 some studies about what might happen if we ever had to  
9 open a cask. But nobody has ever opened a real cask.  
10 So nobody knows what would happen. This is a  
11 beautiful place, as so many of you said -- as we saw.  
12 And it might be contaminated forever. This is not  
13 something that you want to take on for the rest of the  
14 country. Yes, you can help the rest of the country.  
15 You can say, stop making this, and then let's figure  
16 out together the best thing to do with what is left.  
17 Thank you.

18 (Applause.)

19 MR. CAMERON: Okay, and I think this is  
20 Mr. Defer. I am not sure if I am pronouncing that  
21 correctly, but I just wanted to report on -- they  
22 tried to -- to shut the cold air off here, okay? And  
23 apparently it's computer controlled and it's still  
24 going to be cold. So we apologize for that. And we  
25 have a -- we have a number of people left. And I am

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1 going to go to the people who we haven't heard from  
2 this week. And -- and I am sure there's one right  
3 back there waving her hand at me. And I am -- I am  
4 going to go to them and I would ask, when I call the  
5 people who have already talked to us, just try to make  
6 your main point. Be crisp. So before this poor woman  
7 freezes up here. But anyway, I am sorry. Go ahead,  
8 Mr. Defer.

9 MR. DEFER: Good evening. Thank you very,  
10 very much for coming. I thank you for allowing me to  
11 come and share some thoughts with you. Your task that  
12 you've got was very daunting and very, very serious.  
13 And it affects our whole -- not just our community, it  
14 affects our whole United States. And let me say that  
15 I am for and in support of moving and bringing it here  
16 to Carlsbad. I do live here. I am a resident of  
17 Carlsbad. And I plan on being here for quite some  
18 time. It is very, very serious, not just for us but  
19 for the whole world. And not just the whole world --  
20 for the United States, for what you're doing. And  
21 you've got a hard task.

22 But I think that this is a beginning, or  
23 a start, for a solution to be able to house the  
24 nuclear waste. And we've got to make those decisions,  
25 even as hard as they are, and as daunting as they are

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1 and whether we like them or not, but we've got to make  
2 those decisions to look to the future to get to the  
3 results that we need. Thank you again so much for  
4 coming. I am in support. Thank you so much for what  
5 you're doing, and for your decisions that you have to  
6 make.

7 MR. CAMERON: Thank you very much. Is Mr.  
8 Baldrige -- here is Mr. Baldrige, and then we are  
9 going to go to Marie Johnson.

10 MR. BALDRIDGE: Good evening. When you  
11 sit back and you think about an EIS process, I think  
12 it's an incredible thing. And so, part of the goal --  
13 and having gone through it and coming out of the  
14 mining industry -- the key -- the thing that I think  
15 is so important is that all of the pieces are heard.  
16 Every concern needs to be considered inside of the  
17 process, and that's why we're here. So whether you're  
18 for it or not, getting the pieces and parts the facts  
19 out so that those can be evaluated is critical.

20 I am a long-time Carlsbad resident --  
21 Native New Mexican. I have raised my family -- my  
22 wife and I have two kids and we've raised our family  
23 here in Carlsbad. I have been involved in the  
24 extraction industry through potash mining for over 30  
25 years. And so that's a little bit about what I am

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1 going to talk about today is because there has been  
2 some -- some concern raised in and around potash  
3 mining and what the impacts and the considerations in  
4 and around that and oil and gas. I am very fortunate  
5 to participate and sit on the joint technical  
6 committee with oil and gas development and look at the  
7 risk factors between those two operations and how the  
8 interface with each other. And so, when we have  
9 underground employees and we have oil and gas  
10 drilling, and the safety and hydro-carbons involved  
11 and those factors come to play, understanding those  
12 and understanding the science behind that becomes  
13 critical. And as the general manager for Intrepid's  
14 operations here in New Mexico, I take that very  
15 seriously -- the safety of our employees and -- as we  
16 go through that process.

17 And so one of the things that we  
18 determined after taking quite some time to look at  
19 that was -- is that we saw that it was -- we didn't  
20 see a credible risk factor in drilling, in fracking,  
21 underneath our operations. And let me explain why  
22 that is. And so, when fracking takes place, one of  
23 the things is is you're applying pressure. And that  
24 pressure, the release of that pressure is driven  
25 horizontally along the bedding plains from a

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1 geological feature that exists. And so, that's the  
2 natural tendency is for it to release that. It  
3 doesn't mean that it doesn't ever go vertically. But  
4 what it has to do to reach the surface, or even reach  
5 the -- the salt formation that we mine potash in, is  
6 that it has to go through numerous bedding plains.  
7 And so every time that occurs, there is a place for  
8 the release of that energy that exists. And so, it is  
9 -- we are extremely confident. And the fact is is  
10 that we can frack and mine potash safely and coexist  
11 with each other in the same basin.

12 And so, when you think about that, now  
13 taking a look at that surface expression and it does  
14 -- fracking or oil and gas development or potash  
15 mining have an impact inside of this operation, and  
16 you have to sit back and think, look, not only do you  
17 have the bedding plains that exist between where the  
18 oil and gas development is, you have over 150 bedding  
19 plains that exist inside of the salt formation to the  
20 surface for addition. As well, one of the unique  
21 things that -- in and around salt, is -- is that it  
22 absorbs energy. And so, whether that is from any  
23 potential seismic or fracking or anything that is,  
24 what a unique place in geologic feature to place this  
25 facility over the top of is our very salt bed? It is

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1 an extremely unique, safe location to be able to do  
2 that.

3 So, because of these things as well, I had  
4 the opportunity when Holtec came in, they were looking  
5 for a facility, and who ended up having the mining  
6 leases where they were looking at happened to be our  
7 facilities. And so took a great deal of time to take  
8 a look at their project -- the technology that they  
9 were utilizing and the licensing behind it. So we  
10 felt comfortable because we are going to be neighbors  
11 with that project before we agreed and signed  
12 contractually with them to release our mining leases  
13 to support this project.

14 So, not just from a -- a personal  
15 standpoint, or from a business standpoint, and a  
16 community standpoint, the organization that I work  
17 for, Intrepid Potash, was willing to release their  
18 mining leases for this to exist because we think that  
19 this economic development will help and support the  
20 quality of life for our employees here in Carlsbad.  
21 So, thank you for your time.

22 MR. CAMERON: Thank you, Mr. Baldrige.  
23 We are going to Marie. And then we are going to go to  
24 Roxanne Lara, Jay Jenkins, Norbert Rempe. This is  
25 Marie.

1 MS. JOHNSON: Let's see how this works.  
2 Okay, it works pretty good. My name is Marie Johnson  
3 and I want to thank my husband there because, like,  
4 when we came in I said, baby, we are only going to  
5 stay for a few minutes. We are not going to stay that  
6 long. And when I started hearing these people talk.  
7 And then I -- it got to me. Our lives begin to end  
8 the day we become silent about the things that matter.  
9 And this matters to me. I am from Carlsbad. I am a  
10 mother. I am a grandmother. I have got a son that  
11 was on a nuclear submarine. They called him a nuke.  
12 So I am not anti-nuclear. But what I have heard  
13 people talk about -- talk about the animals, talked  
14 about how safe it was -- right? Talked about, oh, it  
15 is only going to be temporary. So, like, permanent?  
16 When you've got to get them every six weeks? You  
17 know? Because you've got to get a touch-up, but it  
18 ain't really permanent?

19 (Laughter.)

20 MS. JOHNSON: That's what I hear you  
21 talking about. So I want to take a line from  
22 Hamilton, and it says, hear ye, hear ye, Nuclear  
23 Regulatory Commission. The elected officials, the  
24 city councilman, the businessmen, do not speak for me.  
25 I am Carlsbad.

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1 (Applause.)

2 MS. JOHNSON: Let me tell you about the  
3 people that aren't here that look like me and who  
4 don't look like me. This is a sparse population. We  
5 have transportation problems. We have things coming  
6 up. People can't get around if you don't have a car.  
7 We don't have mass transit here, okay? So the people  
8 that look like me, they aren't here. So guess what,  
9 who is going to speak for those people?

10 PARTICIPANT: You are.

11 MS. JOHNSON: Yes. I thought I was  
12 through doing this kind of stuff.

13 (Applause.)

14 MS. JOHNSON: But I guess I am not.  
15 Because let me tell you something, just because we  
16 have a sparse population, did we matter less than  
17 somebody who has 160,000 people? Or has 2 million  
18 people? Do we matter less?

19 (Simultaneous speaking.)

20 MS. JOHNSON: So, when you're doing that  
21 impact statement, I want you to look at the people and  
22 think about what happened to the people in New Orleans  
23 when the levy broke. Oh, yes, the PhDs got out. The  
24 people with the Mercedes got out. But guess what  
25 happened, we -- we couldn't get out. So what happens?

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1 Think about that, okay? And I know I am getting a  
2 little excited, so let me just take a breath.

3 (Laughter.)

4 MS. JOHNSON: Namaste, whatever. All I  
5 want to say to you is that -- think about the people.  
6 And just because we are not a lot of people -- this is  
7 only 35 miles away from a population center. We live  
8 in the desert where -- it's not like a place where  
9 you've got lots of rain and lots of water and if you  
10 mess up you go, oh, that's all right, baby, we'll  
11 clean that up. And there's going to be some rain and  
12 it's going to grow again. Once you mess us up, we're  
13 stuck like Chuck. Thank you very much.

14 (Applause.)

15 MR. CAMERON: Thank you. Thank you,  
16 Marie. And this -- Rocky?

17 MS. LARA: Now, if you hear me shiver,  
18 it's not because I am nervous. I have been shaking  
19 the last few minutes here. Good evening, my name is  
20 Rocky Lara. And I am a former county commissioner, a  
21 former member of the Eddy-Lea Energy Alliance -- a  
22 former officer with the Energy Communities  
23 Association, former member of the Mayor's Task Force  
24 and all of those things. But more importantly, I am  
25 a citizen and resident and business owner in this

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1 community. I was born and raised in Carlsbad. My  
2 parents were born and raised in Carlsbad. My husband  
3 was born and raised in Carlsbad. All of our family  
4 remains here. We built our business here and we never  
5 look to live anywhere else.

6 And that's more important than all of  
7 those jobs I've had because I would never support  
8 anything that I thought was not safe for our community  
9 and not safe for our family. And I support this  
10 project because here's the thing, experience is what  
11 counts. I come from a background of law and politics,  
12 and the one thing that carried across the board was  
13 the likelihood of success often depended on  
14 experience. And this community has unique  
15 considerations. This community has experience --  
16 experience in knowing its Cinderella geology. It's  
17 just right. Experience in knowing the processes and  
18 the procedures. Experience in dealing with nuclear  
19 waste for a number of years.

20 So what that brings is the fact that we  
21 know what questions to ask. We know when something  
22 doesn't sound right. We know when we should be  
23 looking out for our families and our community. And  
24 those questions have been asked. And that's why so  
25 many leaders and so many residents of this community

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1 support this project. So you will hear a lot of  
2 opinions and a lot of opinions that are built on what-  
3 ifs and built on fears and built on not taking the  
4 time to really become educated about this particular  
5 project and the things that are involved in this  
6 particular and very specific process. And opinions  
7 are great for discussion. But decisions are made of  
8 acts. And the facts, coupled with our experience,  
9 support the licensing of this project. I worked on  
10 this project many years ago for several years. I  
11 supported it then. I support it now, and my family  
12 stands with me. Thank you.

13 MR. CAMERON: Thank you. And here is a  
14 former, student, right? Okay, it's Jay -- Jay  
15 Jenkins. And then we're going to go to Norbert Rempe  
16 and we're going to go to Sister Marlene.

17 MR. JENKINS: Thank you. Good evening,  
18 thank you, my name is Jay Jenkins and I am a local  
19 businessman here in Carlsbad. I grew up, attended  
20 Carlsbad schools, moved away to go to college. Ended  
21 up getting a job, but had an opportunity to relocate  
22 back to Carlsbad in 1998 and I have been here ever  
23 since. My family lives here and I plan on being here  
24 the rest of my life. I have had the opportunity to be  
25 involved in the community in several different aspects

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1 and love Carlsbad. I am a resident now of Eddy  
2 County. I live south of Loving and with that I have  
3 had the opportunity also to serve -- and currently  
4 serve on the Mayor's Nuclear Task Force. I chose to  
5 do that to educate myself with the nuclear industry.

6 As such, I had the opportunity with a  
7 separate group about two to three years ago to travel  
8 to Minnesota and tour the Xcel nuclear facility known  
9 as the Monticello Plant. I got to witness firsthand as  
10 a lay person what that whole facility was about. I  
11 also got to witness and visualize the spent nuclear  
12 fuel at that facility. I also got to see and listen  
13 to the challenges that they face with the facility  
14 that they're out of room with storing that particular  
15 product. And I come today to speak in favor of this  
16 project. I speak in favor of Holtec for all the  
17 reasons that have been voiced before.

18 With that, it was said earlier, just like  
19 with WIPP, it's great that we are providing solutions  
20 for the country. Here is another opportunity that we  
21 have chosen to be a part of and provide another  
22 solution for the country. In some of the involvement  
23 I've been -- I have had the opportunity to go to  
24 Washington, D.C. on several occasions, and there is no  
25 more pride that someone as a local person can have to

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1 go to the Department of Energy facility and you see  
2 that big map when you walk in, and there's a little  
3 dot -- there's dots for the Department of Energy  
4 facilities around the country, and there's one dot  
5 right there that shows Carlsbad, New Mexico. It will  
6 be great to show another dot representing this  
7 facility. So thank you for hearing our comments this  
8 evening and thank you for the opportunity.

9 MR. CAMERON: Thank you very much, Jay.  
10 Is Norbert here? Okay. And then we will go to Sister  
11 Perrotte.

12 MR. REMPE: Good evening. I am Norbert  
13 Rempe, a resident of Carlsbad. I am going to speak  
14 from a perspective as a U.S. taxpayer and electric  
15 rate payer because they will eventually pay for this.  
16 There are currently three options that are apparently  
17 reasonably viable -- and that's Yucca Mountain,  
18 Holtec, and WCS. I count Yucca Mountain among them  
19 because the regulations say Yucca Mountain has to be  
20 retrievable for up to 300 years if it ever starts  
21 operating. And the blue ribbon commission was  
22 mentioned several times. It was basically political  
23 cover for the attempted assassination of the Yucca  
24 Mountain project by the previous administration in  
25 collusion between the Senate majority leader at the

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1 time and the president.

2 Without the Yucca Mountain politics, I  
3 don't believe we would even be looking at either the  
4 Holtec or the WCS proposal. This project is therefore  
5 premised on the ultimate death of Yucca Mountain. I  
6 have been to Yucca Mountain twice. I have read a lot  
7 of literature about it. I can't think of a real show  
8 stopper of why it wouldn't work. So that up front.

9 Now about trust in the NRC. I think the  
10 trust in the NRC has been compromised over the last  
11 few years, and I will give you two examples why.  
12 First, the NRC under its previous chair -- two chairs  
13 back -- collaborated in the attempted assassination of  
14 the Yucca Mountain project for political reasons. And  
15 it has now for over three years already virtually  
16 ignored a former petition to challenge the discredited  
17 linear north-end theory and the ALARA concept. And  
18 both of those have recently been discredit for this --  
19 for decades and lead to enormous cost for the  
20 taxpayer. Many decisions are not driven by science,  
21 not even by evidence. And I can quote a bunch of  
22 examples from the DOE National Labs and I just did  
23 from the NRC.

24 So the NRC really must reestablish the  
25 reputation it once had. And it can do that only if it

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1 look not only at nuclear safety -- and say nuclear  
2 safety is number one. It needs to look at the whole  
3 safety. My guess is Holtec is probably safe from a  
4 nuclear perspective. But we have one recent bad  
5 example here in Carlsbad. For example, tonight, when  
6 there was the talk about the 2014 incidents at WIPP,  
7 everyone was talking about the radiological incident.  
8 The fire was the one that was the one that was most  
9 threatening to the workers at WIPP at the time. The  
10 radiological consequences were insignificant compared  
11 to the potential hazard from the fire.

12 So we need to ask ourselves, do the  
13 radiological risks really outweigh the simple risk of  
14 industrial and transportation accidents? For example,  
15 if we have interim storage instead of taking this  
16 stuff to a final repository, we need to double handle  
17 it. We need to transport it twice instead of once.  
18 And that would, of course, not be needed if we  
19 proceeded with the Yucca Mountain project instead. So  
20 I am very doubtful that the Holtec proposal, or the  
21 alternative CWCS proposal would be a good and prudent  
22 use of taxpayer funds. I do remain open to be  
23 convinced otherwise, but that has not yet happened.  
24 If I may be allowed to make one other brief comment  
25 and that is, it was mentioned by a previous speaker

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1 about the death zones in Hanford, Rocky Flats,  
2 Chernobyl, Fukushima, et cetera. That's utter  
3 nonsense. I personally have been to Chernobyl three  
4 years ago and I got five to six times more radiation  
5 exposure in flying over there than I got in the same  
6 time that I spent in the exclusion zone. So, we need  
7 to really talk about facts rather than emotional  
8 claptrap.

9 MR. CAMERON: Okay, thank you. Thank you,  
10 Mr. Rempe. Sister Perrotte? And then we are going to  
11 go to Dayton McCullough and Mark Schinnerer. I'm --  
12 I know I mispronounced that. But, Sister?

13 SISTER MARLENE PERROTTE: Good evening.  
14 I am sister Marlene and I am a Sister of Mercy. And  
15 I am here just to bring up a few considerations. One  
16 of the consideration that I think happens is that  
17 we're looking at the interim depository. However, I  
18 think before we look at that, there's a false  
19 assumption. And I think the false assumption is that  
20 communities that already have spent rods want them  
21 moved. I have signatures of over 100 Sisters of Mercy  
22 that live in different parts of Connecticut; New  
23 Hampshire; Vermont; Maine; New York; Omaha, Nebraska;  
24 and California. And the conversation was ethical  
25 consideration. Because there is no endpoint.

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1 Endpoint in no more nuclear spent rods -- no more  
2 nuclear power plants and no permanent repository.  
3 Therefore, what this permit is is just in the middle.  
4 It doesn't consider the beginning, getting the rods to  
5 the place. All it is is the middle. So I think this  
6 is a real ethical dilemma because what we're talking  
7 about is the cumulative issues. And we're also  
8 talking about the precautionary principle. And I  
9 would just want to say, there are accidents. They --  
10 several people brought up the accident at WIPP, which  
11 was not supposed to happen, and it happened in 15  
12 years. But what is not said is how many other  
13 canisters have the same material? And could it happen  
14 again?

15 So, precautionary principle -- there is no  
16 way that we can see within those canisters whether  
17 there's cracks, how we can remedy them, et cetera. So  
18 on behalf of over 100 sisters, I would say we do not  
19 consent to New Mexico becoming a national radioactive  
20 waste dumping ground for all the high-level nuclear  
21 waste from commercial power plants nationwide. We do  
22 not consent to transporting up to 10,000 canisters of  
23 highly radioactive waste through thousands of  
24 communities nationwide and subject them to  
25 possibilities of accidents. While we do support the

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1 alternative of hardened onsite storage at the DEER  
2 (phonetic) reactor sites. And I believe Don Hancock  
3 said we should be looking at comparative values.  
4 Thank you.

5 MR. CAMERON: Okay, thank you Sister.  
6 Thank you. And is Dayton here? Come on up Dayton and  
7 then we'll see if Mark is here. This is Dayton.

8 MR. MCCULLOUGH: It's actually Denton.

9 MR. CAMERON: Oh, Denton. Okay, sorry.  
10 This is Denton.

11 MR. MCCULLOUGH: It's a common mistake.  
12 My name is Denton McCullough, I am a resident at  
13 Carlsbad and I'm here to protest this project.

14 Carlsbad is a very unique place. We have  
15 a river runs through it, we have two national parks,  
16 we have the forest, Sacramento Mountains, Guadalupe  
17 Mountains. It's a very wonderful recreation area.

18 We have a lot of tourism and a lot of  
19 retirees. I think if we have a nuclear facility like  
20 this it's going to impact our city. As a city, it's  
21 going to change and it won't be recognizable if this  
22 project goes through.

23 I've heard people say that this is a  
24 remote area. Actually, it's not so remote anymore.

25 We've had a population of 26,000 people

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1 here for the last 50 years. And I've heard in the  
2 last, last year, now we have a population of 70,000,  
3 with the oil and gas industry, Caroline is supposed to  
4 be talking to you on, 70,000 people in Carlsbad.

5 So, with the local, total population, I  
6 think with Eddie Lee and Chaves County, is probably  
7 over 200,000 by now. So it is not a remote sparsely  
8 populated area anymore.

9 So I don't think it's fair this many  
10 people to take the risk of having this nuclear waste  
11 here. Let's see if I had something else to say here.

12 Basically, I think it would actually  
13 destroy the character of Carlsbad. I live here and I  
14 like this place, it's a great place. It's a good  
15 place to live. We have great weather, we have a  
16 river, we have lots of recreation, lots of things to  
17 do.

18 So I think it's a matter of perception.  
19 If people are aware of that this nuclear waste is  
20 going to be sent to Carlsbad, I don't think that many  
21 people want to come here. They're not going to want  
22 to retire here. And I'm pretty sure it will affect  
23 our tourist industry as well.

24 So, I do not consent, I don't support this  
25 program. Thank you.

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1 MR. CAMERON: Okay, thank you. Thank you,  
2 Mr. McCullough. Is Mark, no, okay.

3 Sister Joan, do you want to come up?  
4 Thanks. Thanks, Jose. This is Sister Joan Brown.

5 SISTER JOAN: Good evening and thank you  
6 for being here again, and I'm here again. I was in  
7 Roswell and back to Albuquerque and back here again.

8 And I am because this is a very important  
9 issue. And I want to speak to the environment justice  
10 concerns again.

11 In our religious traditions, we really  
12 believe that we need to be prudent in making decisions  
13 and care for generations. And we have not been in the  
14 past.

15 And I don't think that by moving this  
16 nuclear waste from one place to another without a  
17 permanent repository is being prudent. Because we  
18 haven't dealt with the waste, moving it to another  
19 spot is not solving the issue.

20 And the environmental justice concerns are  
21 huge. And so the map that Lon put forth earlier, I  
22 have an original copy of that.

23 We did this in collaboration with  
24 community organizations throughout the state to help  
25 in education so that they saw that their accumulative

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1 effects of the choices that have been in this state in  
2 regard to the nuclear fuel chain.

3 People have talked about health concerns.  
4 Maybe we need to put money into cleaning up the  
5 uranium mines and the contamination that's causing  
6 cancer and polluted water in our state.

7 Maybe we need to be addressing that  
8 nuclear problem that we have below Los Alamos National  
9 Lab with the San Ildefonso Santa Clara and the Acequia  
10 People. Those are some of the issues.

11 Its compounded upon compounded here in the  
12 state. So if we're looking at environmental justice  
13 it's for this region, but it's actually the entire  
14 state.

15 Which is, if this industry were so good,  
16 we would not be the poorest in the nation, the 50th in  
17 education, 50th in health, 50th in poverty, 50th in  
18 children's poverty. Those continue to be realities  
19 for the entire state. And the great deal of that is  
20 here.

21 No matter what people say about, this is  
22 a very wealthy area, it belies that if you look at the  
23 statistics. So I invite you to look at those  
24 statistics for the entire state.

25 One last thing that I would like to just

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1 mention is, we, the faith leaders that, and I  
2 appreciate your reading the letter that we had with 70  
3 faith leaders signing that, and I am reporting back to  
4 them some more information, but there is a concern for  
5 things like the seismic activity.

6 Bloomberg put out, several weeks ago, a  
7 study from Stanford stating that in Oklahoma, and the  
8 headline stated, Mexico and Texas you need to look at  
9 this, but in Oklahoma, within a five year period,  
10 there was seismic activity for 6,000 years. And so we  
11 are looking at a boom here in this area, in the  
12 Permian basin, that will be happening into the future,  
13 that I am sure the research that you have, or that has  
14 been presented, is old and it is no longer accurate.

15 Added to that is one other piece of  
16 science so folks here are so into science, which I am  
17 so grateful for, is climate science. And I would like  
18 to have you look at the future and what would be the  
19 challenges in terms of heat here and also  
20 unprecedented flood, torrential flood.

21 Which this region has had. Which is  
22 predicted for our region to have with climate change.  
23 So I think those are things that also need to be  
24 considered. So thank you very much.

25 MR. CAMERON: Thank you, Sister. Rose

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1 Gardner. And then Noel.

2 MS. GARDENER: I'm so glad you called.

3 MR. CAMERON: Does it make you feel  
4 warmer?

5 MS. GARDENER: A little bit. A little  
6 bit. Hi everybody, I'm Rose Gardner from Eunice, New  
7 Mexico, also a member of the Alliance for  
8 Environmental Strategies.

9 I wanted to ask if at all possible if we  
10 could have some of these applications available to  
11 some of the other communities? For instance, Eunice,  
12 Jal, Lovington, Tatum and other communities in Eddy  
13 County which are too numerous to name.

14 I just feel like a lot of times we don't  
15 have the access to computers, the internet is slow,  
16 the ADAMS system doesn't always work like it needs to.  
17 Anyway, we need to have more information, if at all  
18 possible, please.

19 I would also ask for an extended comment  
20 period. It's way too short, the deadline is coming up  
21 and there is a lot of community work being done right  
22 now.

23 I would ask that you extend meetings to  
24 many, many more communities that are in the transport  
25 routes. Some are small, some are big but there are

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1 major hubs especially that I feel need to have the  
2 knowledge about what's fixing to happen if this thing  
3 gets approved.

4 I'm also concerned, and feel like the  
5 communities need to be informed about H.R.3053. That  
6 has not been passed, it has not been changed therefore  
7 it makes this NRC scoping hearing not legal.

8 I would also ask that additional  
9 characterization of the site, it has been several  
10 years since it was done for the GNEP project. Things  
11 change, the land changes.

12 We know that there are studies already  
13 showing that things are happening. I would request  
14 that additional studies be made.

15 We've already been made aware of the two  
16 train derailments on May 1st in Barstow, Texas and  
17 Odessa, Texas. The head-on train wrecks in Monahans,  
18 Texas, which is another hub where trains are very  
19 numerous.

20 Numerous political leaders today made  
21 reference to the WIPP facility, how they feel it's a  
22 success. It's a \$2 billion failure.

23 My information is that also, these testing  
24 that were done on some casks, not necessarily the  
25 Holtec casks, are not really legitimate and valuable

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1 in this situation since they were not Holtec casks.  
2 Were those casks loaded with radioactive materials,  
3 probably not. Because that would be very dangerous to  
4 do tests on materials like that, wouldn't it?

5 We've been told that they've been having  
6 drop tests and missiles, but not with loaded casks.  
7 So how can those be postulated and made more real.  
8 Again, those tests need to be redone using the casks  
9 that are being considered.

10 My community of Eunice is becoming very  
11 concerned about what's going on. A lot of the Eunice  
12 folks that have never turned out to these hearings  
13 showed up in Hobbs.

14 They came home calling me up and asking  
15 me, what are we going to do, what can we do to stop  
16 Holtec. They are asking me to give them information  
17 that you people need to give. That --

18 (Off microphone comment)

19 MS. GARDENER: Yes. I believe that there  
20 is a lot of anxiety and angst that questions have been  
21 raised. And the NRC needs to deal with it not just  
22 the local community.

23 I want to also add that I vehemently  
24 oppose the transportation of the high-level nuclear  
25 waste on our rails and roads in New Mexico and Texas,

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1 for the purpose of consolidated interim storage. It's  
2 not that I'm unpatriotic, I'm just not stupid.

3 (Laughter)

4 MS. GARDENER: We are considered the land  
5 of enchantment with a wonderful forest and mountains  
6 and these rivers that are so precious. We are not  
7 going to be considered the land of high-level nuclear  
8 waste. I will continue to fight against this  
9 facility. Thank you.

10 MR. CAMERON: Okay, thank you.

11 (Applause)

12 MR. CAMERON: Thank you, Rose. And Noel.  
13 And since it is so cold in here I would just ask,  
14 those of you who have talked before to speak to Chris.

15 (Off microphone comment)

16 MR. CAMERON: They've tried everything,  
17 you know. Go ahead, Noel.

18 MR. MARQUEZ: Noel Marquez, Artesia, New  
19 Mexico.

20 (Speaking foreign language)

21 MR. MARQUEZ: If you feel left out of this  
22 conversation, think about what we feel.

23 (Applause)

24 MR. MARQUEZ: As a Chicano and Mexican  
25 community, we are being targeted by not only the DOE

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1 as a sacrifice zone, but also by other government  
2 agencies which are aiming to deport us and put us in  
3 detention centers.

4 It is no wonder our communities hesitate  
5 to come to these badly designed meetings over two  
6 hours long and limited to a very short statement on  
7 such an advertent and extremely important issue. All  
8 our lives are at stake.

9 If we still live in a democracy, this  
10 eminent domain attack should be put up for a vote for  
11 the citizens of New Mexico to decide whether they want  
12 this Holtec high-level radioactive storage business  
13 that will be subsidized without tax dollars in the  
14 long run.

15 These NRC meetings should also be in Gala,  
16 Las Cruces, Albuquerque, Alamogordo and Santa Fe.  
17 This should start at no later than 4 o'clock for  
18 citizens to speak and exercise our responsibilities.

19 We are the protectors of our freedoms and  
20 our environment better than the flawed, the business  
21 of flawed science. We have been overwhelming, we have  
22 been the overwhelming opposition, a number of voices  
23 of repeating in Hobbs, Roswell and Artesia where we  
24 were not invited.

25 Will the NRC listen and take our voices

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1 seriously.

2 MR. CAMERON: And, Noel, could you sum up  
3 for us please?

4 MR. MARQUEZ: The racism of this area has  
5 a long dark history of deportations and segregation.  
6 My mother was a student in the loving schools which in  
7 the mid-1940's put Black, Indian and Chicano students  
8 out in the small shack apart from the White students  
9 in the new school building. U.S. Senator Denis Chavez  
10 came to Carlsbad and Loving and threatened to end  
11 federal funding if this racist practice was not ended.

12 An attack on the money made to school  
13 system complied to let in all students, stay in the  
14 same building together. But that did not end the  
15 racism as we are seeing today.

16 I honored these brave and hard-working  
17 ancestors, grandparents and parents in my mural in  
18 front of the Carlsbad Library.

19 During that segregated period, my aunt  
20 told me they were constantly told they were not meant  
21 to have an education, they were born to work the  
22 fields like burros. They worked very hard so we could  
23 go to universities and get our education so we could  
24 defend our communities, and ourselves, and tell their  
25 stories.

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1 I appeal to the good people of Carlsbad,  
2 which are the majority. Don't let John Heaton and his  
3 group of compromised politicians have their way.  
4 Thirty state representatives already came out in favor  
5 to slow this process down --

6 MR. CAMERON: Okay, Noel, thank you.

7 MR. MARQUEZ: -- in order to allow them --

8 MR. CAMERON: I'm going to have to ask you  
9 to stop.

10 MR. MARQUEZ: -- and the people to have an  
11 --

12 MR. CAMERON: Noel?

13 MR. MARQUEZ: -- opportunity --

14 MR. CAMERON: Noel?

15 MR. MARQUEZ: -- to make --

16 MR. CAMERON: Noel, come on, we got a lot  
17 of people.

18 MR. MARQUEZ: -- an informed decision.

19 MR. CAMERON: Thank you. Okay, goodnight.

20 MR. MARQUEZ: It's fine, you allow us to  
21 speak.

22 MR. CAMERON: Goodnight.

23 (Applause)

24 MR. CAMERON: Okay.

25 (Off microphone comments)

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1 MR. CAMERON: At four minutes, hey, look

2 --

3 (Off microphone comments)

4 MR. CAMERON: No. Some people, okay.

5 (Off microphone comments)

6 MR. CAMERON: Mary Beth Brangan. We're  
7 going to go on. Is she here?

8 (Off microphone comment)

9 MR. CAMERON: I said that. I said that.

10 (Off microphone comments)

11 MR. CAMERON: Okay.

12 (Off microphone comments)

13 MR. CAMERON: Phillip Valdez. Phillip  
14 Valdez?

15 (Off microphone comments)

16 (Applause)

17 MR. CAMERON: We're not switching minutes,  
18 sorry. Okay?

19 (Off microphone comments)

20 MR. CAMERON: Oh, good. Good. Glad  
21 you're there. Thank you. Are you going to talk?

22 MR. VALDEZ: I'm going to talk briefly --

23 MR. CAMERON: Good. Okay.

24 MR. VALDEZ: -- but I'm asking that you  
25 give Noel his proper time.

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1 MR. CAMERON: I did give Noel his proper  
2 time.

3 MR. VALDEZ: People are timing.

4 MR. CAMERON: Four minutes.

5 (Off microphone comments)

6 MR. VALDEZ: People are timing.

7 MR. CAMERON: That's right, and I said it  
8 was a four minute thing at the beginning.

9 (Off microphone comment)

10 MR. CAMERON: Okay.

11 MR. VALDEZ: So you're not cutting him  
12 off?

13 MR. CAMERON: I asked him to sum up, I  
14 wasn't badgering him.

15 MR. VALDEZ: He is from here --

16 MR. CAMERON: Okay? Do you want to talk?

17 MR. VALDEZ: I do want to talk --

18 MR. CAMERON: Then go ahead and we'll  
19 talk.

20 MR. VALDEZ: -- I want to address what  
21 just happened.

22 MR. CAMERON: Go ahead. Nothing happened.

23 Okay, Noel, we're going to give you one  
24 more minute and, Kevin, Kevin?

25 MR. KAMPS: Yes.

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1 MR. CAMERON: Will you time the minute and  
2 when it's up --

3 MR. KAMPS: Hey, Chip, I'll time you any  
4 time you want.

5 MR. CAMERON: Go ahead. Go ahead. Go  
6 ahead, you got a minute, Noel. Go ahead.

7 MR. KAMPS: -- because I don't trust you.

8 MR. MARQUEZ: As I was saying, if we live  
9 in a democracy, the same eminent domain and time  
10 should be put up for a vote for the citizens of New  
11 Mexico to decide whether they want Holtec high-level  
12 radioactive storage business that will be subsidized  
13 with their tax dollars.

14 These NRC meetings should also be in  
15 Gallup, like I said, Los Cruces and Albuquerque and  
16 Alamogordo and Santa Fe.

17 We are the protectors of our freedoms and  
18 our environment better than the business of flawed  
19 science. Okay, so, I appeal to the good people of  
20 Carlsbad, which are the majority, not to let John  
21 Heaton continue.

22 John continues to repeat the same target  
23 mantra over and over, that the community is extremely  
24 informed on nuclear issues and everybody in Eddy  
25 County is in favor of nuclear waste. Not true, money

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1 is their religion. A very few bad jobs are not  
2 anywhere close to our livelihood and health of future  
3 generations of the southwest region of the USA.

4 (Foreign language spoken)

5 MR. MARQUEZ: The ecology is all  
6 connected, as my daughter has told you in Roswell.

7 (Native and foreign languages spoken)

8 MR. MARQUEZ: Power to all the people.

9 (Applause)

10 MR. CAMERON: Okay, thank you, Noel. And  
11 is this Shaughnessy?

12 MR. SHAUGHNESSY: My name is Brendan, yes.

13 MR. CAMERON: Yes, Brendan Shaughnessy.  
14 Go ahead.

15 MR. SHAUGHNESSY: You incorrectly assumed  
16 that we were married? Yes, thank you. I don't trust  
17 you either.

18 MR. CAMERON: I don't care.

19 MR. SHAUGHNESSY: This should be fair.  
20 Every person should get the same amount of time,  
21 that's basic.

22 MR. CAMERON: Why don't you use your time  
23 now.

24 MR. SHAUGHNESSY: Yes, I will.

25 I'm using it. This is my voice and guess

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1 what, I'm using it. That's your job, at the very  
2 minimum.

3 I'd like to thank all of us stakeholders  
4 gathered here in this cold garage that care about our  
5 one and only planet earth that we all live on and call  
6 home, that came out to these hearings to speak truth  
7 to our educated concerns. You don't need to be a  
8 local PhD to share concerns for this project that has  
9 a far greater impact than is easily comprehensible.

10 I do not consent to bringing the highest  
11 level of radioactive nuclear waste from the nation,  
12 none of which New Mexicans benefitted from, to New  
13 Mexico. I ask that the scoping period be extended and  
14 that additional hearings be added in communities on  
15 and around proposed transport routes.

16 Because this isn't just about Carlsbad,  
17 Hobbs or Roswell, this stuff is coming from all over  
18 the United States, to here. And even if you want it  
19 here, what about all those people, those children,  
20 those schools, those hospitals that are near the  
21 trains, those highways, the truck drivers, the  
22 conductors, all of those people that don't have a  
23 voice tonight.

24 (Applause)

25 MR. SHAUGHNESSY: Thank you. So I ask



1 that the scoping period be extended and I also ask  
2 for, sorry, I'm trying to find it, additional hearings  
3 be added in those communities.

4 Some may shortsightedly think that this  
5 project is okay in the short-term, but what about the  
6 voiceless and their fragile future. The born and  
7 unborn children whose fragile futures we are talking  
8 about, plants, aquifers, wildlife and livestock who  
9 are vital to our sustain survival, who aren't  
10 represented at these hearings.

11 And just one final thought, the  
12 stakeholders aren't just Carlsbad residents but the  
13 entire nation and ecosystem. Thank you.

14 (Applause)

15 MR. CAMERON: Mary Beth.

16 MS. BRANGAN: I realized I should have  
17 spoken as a Texan as well as from California, because  
18 I am from San Antonio and I'm very concerned about my  
19 Texas family as well as all of the other people in the  
20 country.

21 I wanted to add to the comments that I  
22 made the other night, about the huge number of train  
23 accidents that are occurring every year. Even though  
24 it's not a good idea to leave the canisters on the  
25 beach in San Onofre, we're concerned that even moving

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1       them minimally may be disastrous, because we don't  
2       know what's inside.

3               I hope you can add to the scope the  
4       examination of the contents of the canisters should  
5       happen. And they can't be, right now with the method  
6       used by Holtec, which is to weld them shut.

7               And currently the use of high burn up fuel  
8       is effecting all of this as well. And that should be  
9       investigated and added to the scope.

10              The high burn up fuel increases the  
11       buildup of hydrides, which cause a buildup of gases  
12       that are explosive. We don't know whether the train  
13       vibrations will be enough to cause those hydrides that  
14       are building up because of the high burn up fuel.

15              High burned up fuel is more than twice as  
16       radioactive as the old kind of fuel and more than  
17       twice as thermally hot. This really stresses the  
18       zirconium cladding on the fuel rods and causes  
19       potential, incredible, explosions.

20              So, this all needs to be added to the  
21       scope. We need to make sure that, we would like to  
22       move it, but minimally, minimal movement to the  
23       closest appropriate place. Not to New Mexico.

24              So, as it stands now, Holtec's canisters  
25       can't be inspected, they can't be repaired, you can't

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1 open them to see what's going on. And currently,  
2 that's an NRC requirement, if I'm not mistaken. So  
3 that should be looked into as well.

4 There is no guarantee that, and these are,  
5 again, containing the equivalent, roughly, amount of  
6 cesium in each canister as was released in Chernobyl.

7 We have, one of our researchers in  
8 California calls them Chernobyl cans. So we need to  
9 look into all of those things in order to even do the  
10 minimal transport.

11 Not to mention putting them on the rails,  
12 which as I said the other day, we are having an  
13 average of 12,000 major train accidents a year just  
14 for the oil trains. An average of 8,000 to 9,000  
15 injuries and an average of 800 fatalities per year.  
16 Thank you.

17 (Applause)

18 (Off microphone comments)

19 MR. VALDEZ: Hello, everybody. And I'd  
20 like to thank you guys again for taking the time,  
21 everybody here, to listen to the comments and  
22 concerns. I know it's cold and late, I just want to  
23 say I appreciate it.

24 Some of the comments that I have for  
25 tonight, the proposal says that it's 32 miles away

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1 from population. It's been spoken about tonight,  
2 multiple times, but that's just not so.

3 Traveling along the roads, the highways,  
4 the lease roads around this proposed site are 1,000's  
5 of members of this community. It happens 24/7. It's  
6 part of our economy.

7 It kind of like be saying that the area  
8 between Dallas and Fort Worth is a safe place to store  
9 highly radioactive nuclear waste. I mean, there's  
10 literally that much traffic and population around this  
11 proposed site, all day, all the time.

12 So, for it to be said that it's 32 miles  
13 away from population is just simply not true.

14 Also, I know it was stated earlier that it  
15 wasn't effecting the Ogallala aquifer, the maps that  
16 I've looked at shows that it is. And 32 miles is a  
17 lot greater distance than 50 feet.

18 Fifty feet to the water table that effects  
19 millions of people in many different states in this  
20 country. So, that was a concern that I had, that I  
21 wanted to bring to you all's attention.

22 Also, this future site that they're, I'm  
23 sorry, one second, let me find, I just wanted to add  
24 that, and this is taken from my friend Lorraine  
25 actually, that they're calling the state a future site

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1 as if it's already been approved. That's not the  
2 case, this is just a proposal and its consent based.  
3 So it sounds like to me that the members of this  
4 community do not consent to this.

5 So, I wanted to also make a point, I  
6 wanted to speak for those who cannot speak, that don't  
7 have a voice, in the wildlife.

8 In 2008 the Bureau of Land Management  
9 approved a consent plan for two rare species in  
10 Southeastern New Mexico. And I know this has been  
11 covered, it's the prairie chicken and the sand dune  
12 lizard.

13 One of the actions taken in this  
14 protection of one of these species, the prairie  
15 chicken, is that they designate times where there can  
16 be no activity in these areas during the mating  
17 season. And I've worked in the oil field for 16 years  
18 and I've been witnessed to, jobs don't go out until  
19 9:00 a.m. because the hours prior to that is  
20 designated for these prairie chickens.

21 I would just ask, how can it be said, as  
22 it was earlier, that they do not inhabit the area when  
23 the conservation plan covered 465 square miles that  
24 include this proposed site?

25 A gentleman earlier said he had never seen

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1 a prairie chicken, I have never seen a prairie chicken  
2 or these lizards. One individual's opinion that they  
3 aren't in this site is not factual. He's not out  
4 there all the time. Not to mention the other forms of  
5 wildlife that are in the area.

6 So, those are points that I wanted to  
7 bring up for the animals that cannot speak. And so I  
8 just ask that you will consider that.

9 And I just wanted to say one more thing.  
10 To the gentleman earlier that said that we need to get  
11 our facts, the fact is that we don't want this here,  
12 that's a fact.

13 (Applause)

14 MR. VALDEZ: So, thank you.

15 MR. CAMERON: Lorraine?

16 MS. VILLEGAS: Hello again. Hello,  
17 everybody. My name is Lorraine. I am not getting  
18 paid to be here. I work in the oil and gas industry  
19 so I am actually losing money for being here.

20 This is absolutely a greater cause. So I  
21 am not from the outside, I am actually from the inside  
22 and I have been inside for a long time. I interact  
23 with my community on a daily basis on a personal  
24 level.

25 I'd just like to repeat something that

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1 seven senators wrote to you in a letter that talks  
2 about the efforts that have been made to fully educate  
3 the general public about the project and to address  
4 concerns that have been raised.

5 And we are constantly reminded by ELEA and  
6 Holtec how concerned they are about our safety and  
7 about our questions and about transparency, of course,  
8 transparency, of course.

9 If we are transparent then why weren't we  
10 allowed to participate in the tour of yesterday's  
11 facility?

12 FEMALE PARTICIPANT: Right.

13 MS. VILLEGAS: I am expected to roll out  
14 this red carpet and accept this waste into my  
15 community but we can't even participate in the grand  
16 tour of where this indestructible fantastic facility  
17 is going to be located.

18 (Applause)

19 MS. VILLEGAS: So I am confused as to  
20 where the transparency is. Today you met in Lea  
21 County, my hood, and I wasn't invited. That meeting  
22 was not open to the public.

23 So you are encouraging public  
24 participation, you've had two chances in two days to  
25 include us, but you did not include us. So I need a

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1 scientist to answer the question as to why we are not  
2 included.

3 I know there is a lot in here who can  
4 answer that, so if anybody is in here who can answer  
5 that question I will be willing to ask it again later.  
6 Thank you, guys.

7 This waste is not welcome, it's not  
8 welcome here. Thank you.

9 (Applause)

10 MR. CAMERON: Susan? Susan Schuurman?

11 MS. SCHUURMAN: Thank you so much. It is  
12 really cold in here. My name is Susan Schuurman. I  
13 am a New Mexico resident. I have lived in New Mexico  
14 for 25 years. I am a cancer survivor and I do not  
15 consent to Holtec International bringing high-level  
16 radioactive waste to our State.

17 On Tuesday I spoke at the meeting in Hobbs  
18 and shared my concerns that New Mexico has suffered  
19 enough from the hands of the nuclear industry.  
20 Yesterday I traveled with other concerned Americans to  
21 the proposed site where Holtec wants to bring a  
22 100,000 metric tons of high-level radioactive waste  
23 for 120 years, but probably indefinitely.

24 We had been informed that there was going  
25 to be a tour at the site and we wanted to learn more

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1 about the project that this New Jersey based  
2 corporation wants the NRC to approve.

3 To my surprise when we arrived to the site  
4 and tried to join the group of people getting the tour  
5 we were prevented from walking up to the tour by local  
6 law enforcement, armed local law enforcement.

7 The sheriff's deputies very politely  
8 informed us that they were instructed by the tour  
9 organizers, which include the NRC, ELEA, Holtec  
10 International, and a very mysterious non-profit called  
11 the Center of Excellence for Hazardous Materials  
12 Management.

13 It took a lot of work for me to figure out  
14 what that acronym stood for. It was very unclear.  
15 They call themselves the Center for Excellence, but  
16 they are actually the Center of Excellence for  
17 Hazardous Materials Management, and it is chaired by  
18 none other than John Heaton.

19 Anyway, the sheriff's deputies were  
20 instructed to keep the public away from the tour  
21 leader. My question, if this project is as safe as  
22 the booster's claim why prevent the public from going  
23 on the tour? What do they have to hide?

24 And since you are spending taxpayer money  
25 on this project why are you leaving taxpayers out of

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1 the process? I also would like to respond to Carlsbad  
2 City Councilor Eddie Rodriguez who spoke tonight. He  
3 brought up environmental justice.

4 He read the first part of EPA's definition  
5 of environmental justice, he didn't read the second  
6 part, and I quote, the second part says environmental  
7 justice "will be achieved when everyone enjoys the  
8 same degree of protection from environmental and  
9 health hazards and equal access to the decision-making  
10 process to have a healthy environment in which to  
11 live, learn, and work." I and many others --

12 (Applause)

13 MS. SCHUURMAN: It's kind of obvious,  
14 right, what got left out. I and many others argue  
15 that New Mexico, a majority minority State, has not  
16 enjoyed the same degree of protection from  
17 environmental and health hazards already from the  
18 contamination from the nuclear industry since the mid-  
19 1940s.

20 You've heard of the term piling on in  
21 football, when more players than necessary jump on the  
22 quarterback after he's already been sacked. Approving  
23 -- You know where I'm going with this?

24 (Multiple yeses)

25 MS. SCHUURMAN: Approving CIS in New

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1 Mexico would be just that, piling on to a community  
2 that has already been tackled with an immense health  
3 burden from uranium mining, spills, bombs, leaks,  
4 nuclear stockpiles, and cancers. Don't pile on New  
5 Mexico.

6 As for our funding, we are all unpaid  
7 volunteers who are passionate about protecting New  
8 Mexico from all things nuclear. Hold off, Chip. And,  
9 finally, I just want to share --

10 MR. CAMERON: That's four minutes, go  
11 ahead.

12 MS. SCHUURMAN: -- that any attempts, I  
13 just want to share this, any attempts at intimidation  
14 by project leaders will only strengthen our resolve.  
15 And, finally, this is finally --

16 MR. CAMERON: I got it.

17 MS. SCHUURMAN: -- if we can't operate the  
18 air conditioning how can we handle spent fuel rods?

19 (Applause)

20 MR. CAMERON: Leona?

21 MS. MORGAN: Okay. Good evening. To all  
22 of those who were not at the previous scoping meeting  
23 I am just going to introduce myself in my language  
24 which is our traditional way that we, Dine, identify  
25 ourselves, it's a form of kinship, a system that

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1 existed long before the United States, and so I would  
2 like to remind everybody that we are on stolen land of  
3 the Mescalero Apache and the Comanche peoples, whom of  
4 none I see here.

5 And so my people are from the northwestern  
6 part of New Mexico and earlier I heard a lot of talk  
7 and just these warm sentiments about how this part of  
8 the State knows about nuclear science and how much you  
9 all welcome it.

10 Well in our corner of the State we know  
11 about uranium mining, we know about the cancers, we  
12 know about the birth defects, we know about  
13 contamination to our lands, our water, our air, our  
14 plants, our people, and we know that this will impact  
15 us for generations to come.

16 Uranium mining is no joke. The  
17 contamination that was left by the United States  
18 Government is an atrocity, it's a sin. It's a  
19 violation against our human rights and it's a form of  
20 genocide, and that's exactly what this project is.

21 New Mexico should not be proud of its  
22 nuclear legacy. New Mexico is the birthplace of  
23 nuclear colonialism and you all today have a lot of  
24 power in your position to stop this from continuing  
25 and you all have a huge responsibility to our future

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1 generations.

2 And I want to remind you that all of us in  
3 this room are here because we care about this issue  
4 and are passionate about it. Some people might be  
5 passionate in support of it, but a lot of those folks  
6 already left because they were lucky enough to be  
7 called first, they were lucky enough to be at the head  
8 of the line, all of whom are proponents of this  
9 project, representatives of ELEA.

10 And it's really not a surprise to me that  
11 the first brown man to speak against this project was  
12 cut off before his time. This is a joke. This is  
13 something that should not happen at a public meeting,  
14 the same thing that happened yesterday when we were  
15 all excluded from your site visit.

16 And so the other people I would like to  
17 acknowledge here who are not here are the multitudes  
18 of communities along the transportation routes who are  
19 not here today, many of which do not even know about  
20 this project.

21 So today I am going to read several  
22 statements from folks who cannot be here today. And  
23 so today our organization, the Nuclear Issues Study  
24 Group, has a box of letters that we have collected  
25 from New Mexicans and residents and community folks

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1 who are very concerned about this project.

2 And I see you looking at your watch and I  
3 am not going to stand here and take less time than you  
4 gave other people earlier today. So --

5 MR. CAMERON: Let me get one thing clear  
6 is that I gave all the people --

7 MS. MORGAN: You're taking some of my time  
8 right now.

9 MR. CAMERON: Well I gave all the people  
10 more time, okay.

11 (Off microphone comments)

12 PARTICIPANT: Please let her finish.

13 MR. CAMERON: Yes, great, I'd love to. Go  
14 ahead.

15 MS. MORGAN: Okay. So right here in my  
16 hand I have a box of more than 1300 signed letters  
17 from people across the State who do not consent to  
18 this project --

19 (Applause)

20 MS. MORGAN: -- most of whom don't even  
21 know that this project exists. There is a lack of  
22 transparency, there is a lack of inclusion, and it's  
23 clear that you have all violated your own public  
24 participatory process by excluding us from your  
25 meeting yesterday.

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1           And so many of these people also feel  
2 excluded. They are not standing here in this cold  
3 room shivering waiting to get their five minutes, or  
4 four minutes in some cases.

5           So I am going to read a couple statements  
6 from some of these folks who deserve to be heard  
7 today. "There is nothing safe about transporting or  
8 storing nuclear waste. Los Alamos is proof enough of  
9 this fallacy.

10           Recent accidents at Los Alamos National  
11 Lab in WIPP indicate the process lacks rigor. The New  
12 Mexico public demands detailed safety and  
13 environmental review of all federal activities."

14           And this one was from a young resident who  
15 was accompanied by their mother. "Hi. I am 14 years  
16 old and I have two brothers, one sister. I don't want  
17 to see my siblings get cancer. Don't put nuclear  
18 waste in my State."

19           And this one comes from an Albuquerque  
20 resident. "We can no longer afford to be the  
21 sacrifice State. We can no longer afford to be at the  
22 bottom in all categories. This effort connects  
23 directly to our democracy, economy, health, and  
24 education."

25           And then this one is also from another

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1 Albuquerque resident. "As a family medicine physician  
2 and public health practitioner in New Mexico I insist  
3 that the full potential impact of this site might have  
4 on my patients and our community be analyzed and  
5 published prior to any further consideration of the  
6 project."

7 And this, I'm going to skip a couple  
8 because I know we are short on time and it is really  
9 late. "New Mexico is worth more than to be a  
10 wasteland. The United States should be a leader in  
11 environmental solutions, not destroying it more.  
12 Thank you."

13 And this one is from someone from Sandia  
14 Park, New Mexico. "The choice to once again non-  
15 consensually expose residents to these dangerous  
16 materials reflects poorly on you and yours. You work  
17 for the citizens, yet your choices imply you believe  
18 otherwise. Rectify this."

19 And the last comment I want to save is  
20 from someone who worked at a nuclear facility that  
21 caused a lot of contamination and was not properly  
22 cleaned up. It says "used to work at Fernald in Ohio  
23 as a union concrete finisher. This should be stopped.  
24 Very dangerous."

25 So with that I will hand these over to you

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1 all to add to your comments and I assure you we will  
2 be sending plenty more before the deadline and I  
3 formally request that you extend this public comment  
4 period to have more meetings and to also give time to  
5 the Tribes who will be later in getting themselves  
6 involved in this process, because there is not just  
7 community folks left out, there is also several  
8 indigenous nations that I mentioned at the previous  
9 meetings. Thank you.

10 (Applause)

11 MR. CAMERON: Okay, Janet. Janet, do you  
12 want to -- Go ahead.

13 MS. GREENWALD: So I am Janet Greenwald  
14 and I am a co-coordinator of Citizens for Alternatives  
15 to Radioactive Dumping. I am from Albuquerque and I  
16 raised my children in Dixon, New Mexico, where some of  
17 my children and grandchildren still live.

18 Dixon is a bedroom community and a  
19 downwind community from Los Alamos National Lab and it  
20 has been for 50 years. So from my perspective all the  
21 projects, other nuclear projects except uranium  
22 mining, are pretty youthful compared to Los Alamos.

23 And I wanted to say that when people get  
24 up here and say that nuclear is good and nuclear isn't  
25 dangerous I'd like to invite them to come with me to

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1 a meeting of a contaminated Los Alamos workers support  
2 group on Saturday mornings in my library, or to come  
3 with me to go through what a lot of pregnant couples  
4 go through up there, and that is having to consider  
5 whether their babies are going to be born deformed, or  
6 come with me to talk with farmers who don't know  
7 whether they are going to be able to sell their crops  
8 because the headwaters of the river has been  
9 contaminated with cesium, you know.

10 Our organization has monitored WIPP  
11 forever and what we saw was that as time went by that  
12 safety slipped, safety standards slipped, until  
13 finally Susana Martinez decided not to fund the  
14 training for workers from the New Mexico Environment  
15 Department to be in the room with the people that were  
16 packing the barrels to come to WIPP.

17 I think about this a lot. What if those  
18 people had been there? What if they had been in the  
19 room when those barrels were mispacked with the wrong  
20 kind of kitty litter would they have caught it? Would  
21 the workers at WIPP be safer now?

22 That's human nature. It's like I  
23 understand from living in a bedroom community how you  
24 need to sometimes balance safety risks, your own  
25 safety, your own health, with support for your family.

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1 Well it isn't just individuals that have  
2 to make those decisions. Governments, corporations,  
3 everybody makes decisions. They put safety against  
4 money and as a project grows older and nothing has  
5 happened yet then safety starts slipping and cuts  
6 start being made.

7 And in this case with high-level waste if  
8 that happens it could be the end of everything that we  
9 know and love. This whole project needs to be re-  
10 examined and the people that are doing it because of  
11 money I don't know what to say about them.

12 I can only pray that somehow they change  
13 their minds. It's a crazy project. It's so crazy.  
14 It would endanger so many people. Thank you.

15 (Applause)

16 MR. CAMERON: And, Cody? Cody? And then  
17 we are going to go to Eileen and then that's the end  
18 of the speakers for tonight. This is Cody.

19 MR. SLAMA: Hello, everyone. So my name  
20 is Cody Slama and today I am turning my back on the  
21 NRC because yesterday they turned their back on me.

22 (Applause)

23 MR. SLAMA: It was a very disappointing  
24 experience yesterday to go out and try to see that  
25 site and learn a little bit, you know, but we didn't.

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1           We went out there and we were intimidated  
2 by some of these elected officials and, yes, we were  
3 intimidated a little bit, but that didn't scare us off  
4 though.

5           We continued on because it was a county  
6 road and you are allowed to go down that county road  
7 and to see the site. But what we didn't do was we  
8 didn't listen to the NRC because they didn't let us.

9           We didn't hear what the Eddy-Lea Energy  
10 Alliance had to say because they kept us on the county  
11 road while they walked a distance where we couldn't  
12 hear them.

13           So that's a little bit about what happened  
14 yesterday and I just wanted to share that with you  
15 all. And there was ten of us out there, ten concerned  
16 public citizens, and you know what, they just ignored  
17 us, they did.

18           At one point one of them walked a few feet  
19 in front of me and I said are you just going to ignore  
20 us and not talk to us at all. Just shook their head  
21 no, not going to talk with you guys today.

22           So, yes, that's how we are being treated,  
23 you know, and here I am 11:00 -- What time is it  
24 anyways, 11:30 at night, probably almost 12:00, I  
25 don't know, but I am from Albuquerque and the reason

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1 I am here is because they are not having meetings in  
2 Albuquerque.

3 That's why these meetings are going so  
4 late. I had to put that out there. I mean, yes, I'm  
5 an activist just really concerned about everyone who  
6 could be affected by this waste, particularly this  
7 community the most because this is where all the waste  
8 is going to end up and if an accident happens, a  
9 barrel explodes, you all will be the most impacted, so  
10 I am really concerned.

11 And, yes, I want to actually take a moment  
12 -- Is Kevin still in here? No, Kevin walked out. I  
13 don't know, I don't trust Chip with the time. Can  
14 someone -- Kevin, one minute.

15 I need one minute, I just want a moment of  
16 silence because as an activist -- It's actually really  
17 hard to be anti-nuke activist because you go out into  
18 the community, right, you collect 1300 letters and all  
19 the time you have these people walk up to you and then  
20 they tell you some horror story, right, like how  
21 someone in their family worked in some uranium mines  
22 and got cancer and they lost like their family, or you  
23 hear about people at the labs who got sick because  
24 they worked there, you know, and there wasn't proper  
25 shielding and what not.

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1                   So, yes, I just want to give one minute of  
2 my time and if Kevin you could just signal whenever  
3 it's up.

4                   (Moment of silence)

5                   MR. SLAMA: All right, so the minute is  
6 up. Yes, let's keep those people in our hearts that  
7 we lose to these issues and let's not let it happen  
8 any more than it has to.

9                   (Applause)

10                  MR. CAMERON: Okay. Eileen?

11                  MS. SHAUGHNESSY: All right. A round of  
12 applause for all of us who are hanging in here with  
13 these freezing garage.

14                  (Applause)

15                  MS. SHAUGHNESSY: Well, I spoke at a few  
16 of the previous meetings and shared my thoughts as an  
17 educator and as a concerned citizen and now I would  
18 like to share my thoughts as a musician.

19                  I believe art can be a powerful medium for  
20 conveying information and I have written a song that  
21 is particularly raising awareness about the  
22 transportation issues with this proposed project, and  
23 we have heard all night about the risks, we have heard  
24 about how the railroad tracks are, they are not built  
25 to hold this waste, and we have heard about how there

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1 are hospitals and elementary schools along the way and  
2 there are risks to the workers as well.

3 I also want to remind us that the U.S.  
4 Department of Transportation says that on average  
5 annually there is about almost 6000 train accidents  
6 and there was a really horrific one in Roswell four  
7 years ago that I want to remind people about.

8 And thank you, Leona, for reminding us  
9 that we are on stolen land. Thank you, Cody, for  
10 reminding us about all of the lives that have already  
11 been harmed by nuclearism, and for the voiceless.

12 So this song, I just want to remind us  
13 that we are all human beings with hearts pumping blood  
14 through our bodies right now, that we are all  
15 breathing the same air that, you know, is refueling  
16 our bodies, and hopefully not hurting us.

17 Obviously when we are talking about  
18 radiation it does hurt us. So I just want to remind  
19 us that we are talking about future generations,  
20 future life on this planet.

21 So this song is called "That Train Ain't  
22 Going Nowhere." George, you worked on your railroad  
23 lines, he loved taking pictures of the sky. What he  
24 didn't know working there on the tracks was that  
25 cancer was growing inside of him fast.

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1           See, he got a dose of radiation each time  
2 he worked there at the station and his whole life he  
3 never saw his mother cry. She never did till the day  
4 he died too young.

5           That train ain't going nowhere. Baby,  
6 that train ain't going nowhere. Baby, that train  
7 ain't going nowhere. Baby, that train ain't going  
8 nowhere. I'm seeing tears in the children's eyes, I'm  
9 seeing broken hearts all down the line.

10           Wherever these trains will go they'll  
11 leave a trail of pain and sorrow. Baby, this train  
12 ain't going nowhere. Baby, that train ain't going  
13 nowhere. Baby, that train ain't going nowhere. Baby,  
14 that train going nowhere.

15           Antonia loved her first grade class. Her  
16 school sat next to a railroad track and she loved to  
17 watch those trains go by, and she'd count the cars  
18 till it got too high.

19           Well she never learned about nuclear waste  
20 or the spent fuel rods passing by her face. Her  
21 family couldn't understand why she got ill, but now we  
22 know radiation kills.

23           Do you hear it? Do you see it? Do you  
24 feel it and believe it? We are the people, our hearts  
25 are broken. We don't want this waste and we have

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1 spoken.

2 Baby, that train ain't going nowhere.  
3 Baby, that train ain't going nowhere. Baby, that  
4 train ain't going nowhere. Let me hear you. Baby,  
5 that train ain't going nowhere.

6 It's not going anywhere. Baby, that train  
7 ain't going nowhere. Baby, that train ain't going  
8 nowhere.

9 (Applause)

10 MS. SHAUGHNESSY: From my heart to yours,  
11 NRC. Don't let this happen.

12 (Applause)

13 MR. CAMERON: Okay. We're giving it over  
14 to Brian Smith to close the meeting out for us.

15 MR. SMITH: All right. Well, thank you  
16 again, everyone, for coming out tonight. We really  
17 appreciate all the comments we received. We will take  
18 them into consideration as we complete our review and  
19 draft our environmental impact statement.

20 We will be back out again probably next  
21 summer after issuance of the draft EIS seeking further  
22 public comment on that, so thank you again and have a  
23 good evening.

24 (Whereupon, the above-entitled matter went  
25 off the record at 11:50 p.m.)