

Official Transcript of Proceedings
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

Title: Public Scoping Meeting

Docket Number: N/A

Location: Albuquerque, New Mexico

Date: 05-22-18

Work Order No.: NRC-3722

Pages 1-166

NEAL R. GROSS AND CO., INC.
Court Reporters and Transcribers
1323 Rhode Island Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20005
(202) 234-4433

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

+ + + + +

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

+ + + + +

TUESDAY,

MAY 22, 2018

+ + + + +

ALBUQUERQUE, NEW MEXICO

+ + + + +

The Public Scoping Meeting was convened in
the Crown Plaza Albuquerque, Southeast Ballroom, 1901
University Boulevard, at 6:00 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)

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 JILL CAVERLY, Environmental Review Project Manager,
2 Environmental Review Branch, NMSS

3 JOSÉ CUADRADO, Licensing and Safety Review Project
4 Manager, Spent Fuel Licensing Branch, NMSS

5 DAVID McINTYRE, Public Affairs Officer, Office of
6 Public Affairs

7 JOHN McKIRGAN, Chief, Spent Fuel Licensing Branch,
8 NMSS

9 ANGEL MORENO, Congressional Affairs Officer, Office
10 of Congressional Affairs

11 CINTHYA ROMAN, Chief, Environmental Review Branch,
12 NMSS

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

T-A-B-L-E O-F C-O-N-T-E-N-T-S

Opening Remarks and Introductions.. 4

Welcome and Meeting Purpose.. 4

NRC Licensing Review/EIS Process. 10

Receive Public Comment. 24

Closing Remarks.. 165

P-R-O-C-E-E-D-I-N-G-S

6:04 p.m.

1
2
3 MR. CAMERON: Well, good evening,
4 everyone. My name is Chip Cameron and it is going to
5 be my pleasure to serve as your facilitator for
6 tonight's meeting, and in that role I'll try to help
7 you all have a productive meeting tonight.

8 And this is a meeting that's been convened
9 by the NRC. That's the United States Nuclear
10 Regulatory Commission. And we're going to try to not
11 use many acronyms tonight. You will hear NRC. You're
12 also going to hear NEPA. That stands for the National
13 Environmental Policy Act. And you're going to hear
14 EIS. That stands for Environmental Impact Statement.

15 And that's the focus of the meeting
16 tonight, the NRC's environmental review of a license
17 application that they received from the Holtec
18 International Company to build and operate an interim
19 spent fuel storage facility in Lea County. So the NRC
20 is going to present information to you. It will be
21 brief, but they're going to present information to you
22 on the environmental review that they do and the
23 safety review. Those are the two main components of
24 the NRC review of the license application to help them
25 determine whether they should grant the application;

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 in other words, grant the license.

2 After the NRC presentations we're going to
3 go to the most important part of the meeting, and
4 that's to give the NRC an opportunity to listen to
5 you, to your comments, your advice on the issue of
6 scoping.

7 Now scoping is a term that's used in
8 connection with the preparation of an Environmental
9 Impact Statement. And it's very simple: It's what
10 should be evaluated in the EIS; what doesn't need to
11 be evaluated in the EIS? And scoping is the very
12 beginning of the NRC's licensing review, so we're
13 right at the start of this particular process.

14 Your comments are going to be on the
15 formal record tonight. We have Bruce Carlson over
16 here. He's our court reporter, or stenographer. He's
17 going to be transcribing your comments. That
18 transcript will be available to you within about two
19 weeks. And the NRC is going to tell you how you get
20 access to that transcript so you can read all the
21 comments that were given tonight.

22 Now I have a list of names of people who
23 want to speak tonight from the blue cards that you
24 filled out when you came in, if you filled out a blue
25 card to speak. And I'm going to call your name. And

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 I'll call a few names at a time so that you'll have a
2 preview of when you're coming up next. But I'll call
3 your name and I'll just ask you to join me up here and
4 to give your comment to us.

5 Now we have many speakers tonight, so I'm
6 setting a four-minute limit for each comment. And at
7 the end of that comment I'm going to ask you sit down
8 and we're going to the next speaker.

9 Now fortunately you can also submit a
10 written comment to the NRC so you can amplify on your
11 four minutes in writing. And the NRC will tell you
12 how to do that, how to submit comments in writing.

13 Now the NRC staff is here tonight to
14 listen carefully to your comments. They're not going
15 to be responding to any questions that you might
16 include in your comments, but they're going to be
17 listening and then we're going to carefully evaluate
18 your comments, your questions as they prepare the
19 draft EIS, the draft Environmental Impact Statement.
20 And you're going to hear about that in a few minutes.

21 And we do have a representative from
22 Holtec International here, representatives. They're
23 the license applicant. And they'll be available after
24 the meeting if you have any questions for them. And
25 I'll just introduce Joy Russell who's right here. And

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 I should tell you that we also offer the -- a
2 representative of the license applicant an opportunity
3 to speak for their four minutes during the public
4 comment if they want to do so, and I think we're going
5 to have a speaker from the license applicant. So I
6 don't want anybody to be shocked or surprised by that.

7 Let me introduce some representatives of
8 the congressional staff who are here tonight to be
9 able to tell their members what transpired here
10 tonight. And first of all, let me introduce Poqueen.
11 Poqueen Rivera is right back there, and she's from
12 Congresswoman Michelle Lujan Grisham's staff.

13 We have Barbara Romero. Barbara?

14 MS. ROMERO: I'm right here.

15 MR. CAMERON: There's Barbara. Barbara is
16 from Congressman Steve Pearce's staff.

17 We have Bill Goldman who's right back
18 here. And Bill is with Senator Tom Udall.

19 And we also have Joshua Sanchez. This is
20 Joshua. And he is with -- also with Senator Udall's
21 staff.

22 But thank you for being here and thank
23 your representative, your senator for sending you here
24 tonight.

25 Let me introduce the NRC staff to you, and

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 then we're going to get -- we'll get started with the
2 meeting.

3 First of all, we're going to hear from
4 Cinthya Roman. This is Cinthya. And Cinthya is the
5 Chief of the Branch -- Environmental Review Branch at
6 the NRC in the Office of Nuclear Material Safety and
7 Safeguards.

8 Then we're going to hear from the key
9 person here, Jill Caverly, who's right here. And
10 she's the project manager for the environmental
11 review. She's going to give you the most information.
12 We also -- she works for Cinthya in the branch.

13 And we do have a senior NRC representative
14 here, a senior manager who's with us, and that's Brian
15 Smith. Okay? And Brian is the Deputy Division
16 Director of the Division of Fuel Cycle, Safeguards and
17 Environmental Review.

18 I also mentioned the safety review. We
19 have representatives on the NRC staff who are here
20 from the safety side. And where's José? Ah, Jose
21 Cuadrado. He is the project manager for the safety
22 review. We also have José's branch chief John
23 McKirgan who's here, and that's the Spent Fuel
24 Licensing Branch.

25 Dave McIntyre back here is from the NRC's

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 Office of Public Affairs. And if there's any media
2 people that haven't talked to Dave yet, please see him
3 and he'll fix you up.

4 MR. McINTYRE: And just if I could
5 interrupt. We had a couple of requests for the pass
6 code for the WiFi. It is in all caps HPHK.

7 MR. CAMERON: So hold on a minute. Let me
8 get that on a microphone.

9 MR. McINTYRE: We've had a couple requests
10 for the pass code for the meeting room WiFi. It is
11 HPHK, all capitals.

12 MR. CAMERON: Okay. Thank you, Dave.

13 And finally we have a representative here
14 from the NRC's Office of Congressional Affairs in
15 Quantico, Maryland.

16 Thank you all for being here.

17 And the last thing is I would just ask
18 everybody to be courteous, all of us to be courteous.
19 You may hear opinions tonight that don't agree with
20 your own opinions, but just be courteous. And I would
21 have to say this is our fifth meeting in New Mexico
22 and the meetings have been pretty courteous, which is
23 wonderful, and we've had good comments. But there was
24 a slight kerfuffle, okay, at the Carlsbad meeting
25 about time keeping. So we have new time keepers.

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 They fired me. Okay?

2 (Laughter.)

3 MR. CAMERON: I was the kerfuffle, I
4 guess. But any rate, we have time keepers down here
5 and we have Marla S. Morales, right, and Miriam
6 Jucket, and they're going to be here. And when you
7 have -- when three minutes has gone by, Marla is going
8 to hold this up so you know to finish up. And then
9 when the four minutes is up, she's going to hold this
10 up for you. And then we're going to go on from there.
11 So I just wanted you to plan accordingly for that.

12 And with that, Cinthya, do you want to
13 take us away here?

14 MS. ROMAN: Good evening. First I just
15 want to say a couple of remarks in Spanish.

16 (Foreign language spoken.)

17 MS. ROMAN: Good evening. As you
18 mentioned, staff in my branch will be working with the
19 Environmental Review Branch on the environmental
20 review and the application. Our main goal today is to
21 hear from you, so I'm going to be very brief.

22 First I want to give you a very brief
23 overview of what NRC does and our role in the Holtec
24 project. Our agency is charged by federal law to be
25 the nation's only regulator of commercial --

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 PARTICIPANT: You're speaking too fast and
2 you're not loud enough.

3 MS. ROMAN: Okay. Can you hear me better?

4 PARTICIPANT: Yes.

5 MS. ROMAN: Our agency is charged by
6 federal law to be the nation's only regulator of
7 commercial nuclear materials in the (unintelligible)
8 ensuring these materials are used, handled and stored
9 safely and securely. Our nation is protective of its
10 health and safety for both the common defense and
11 security and protect the environment by regulating the
12 use of hazardous materials. So our mission we
13 currently review each license application we receive
14 before making a decision on whether or not to grant an
15 applicant's request.

16 Next slide. NRC regulates the operation
17 of many kinds of nuclear power reactors that generate
18 about 20 percent of the electricity in the United
19 States. We also regulate the significant use of
20 nuclear materials, research reactors at universities,
21 transportation of nuclear materials and their storage
22 and disposal. NRC is trying to be open and
23 transparent in its review. As such, stakeholders have
24 many opportunities to participate in public meetings
25 on environmental and safety issues. This scoping

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 meeting is one of those opportunities.

2 Next slide. As an independent regulator
3 the NRC determines whether it is safe to build and
4 operate a storage facility at those sites. The NRC
5 does not promote or build any nuclear facilities. We
6 also do not own or operate the facilities. Again, our
7 mission and our regulations are designed to protect
8 both the public, workers and the environment.

9 Holtec is applying for a license to store
10 waste. Holtec is not asking NRC for permission to
11 reprocess or generate more waste. NRC does not select
12 locations for a storage facility which is the impact
13 of building and operating a storage facility at a
14 location proposed by the licensee.

15 As we will explain later in this
16 presentation there is also an environmental review
17 that will be documented in an Environmental Impact
18 Statement, which is up on the documents. This
19 analysis along with other factors will form the basis
20 for this -- our decision to issue a license or not.

21 These are all of my remarks and now Jill
22 Caverly will provide additional details about the
23 Holtec project and the environmental review process.
24 Thank you.

25 MS. CAVERLY: So hello. My name is Jill

1 Caverly and I'm going to be acting as the
2 environmental project manager for this review.

3 The next few slides we have will be
4 specific to the Holtec storage facility application
5 we're reviewing.

6 So Holtec has applied for a license to
7 construct and operate a storage facility under 10 CFR,
8 Part 72. That's NRC's regulations governing the
9 storage of spent fuel and reactor-related greater than
10 class C waste.

11 So if granted, Holtec would receive a 40-
12 year license to construct and operate a consolidated
13 interim storage facility. The current application
14 before the NRC requests construction and operation of
15 only the first phase of up to 20 planned phases. In
16 this current application Holtec is requesting storage
17 of up to 500 canisters of spent nuclear fuel. The
18 spent fuel would come from shut down and operating
19 power plants around the country.

20 Holtec anticipates applying for up to 20
21 phases of construction and operation of 500 canisters
22 of spent nuclear fuel for a total of 10,000 canisters.
23 However, these additional phases would require
24 separate applications from Holtec and would be subject
25 to their own safety and environmental reviews. The

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 Environmental Report provides information on the full
2 build-out of the site for 10,000 canisters.

3 Next slide, please. This slide shows the
4 approximate location for the proposed consolidated
5 interim storage facility in Southeastern New Mexico.
6 The facility will be located approximately halfway
7 between the cities of Carlsbad and Hobbs in Lea
8 County.

9 Next slide. Holtec plans to use a HI-
10 STORM UMAX system for the storage of spent fuel. HI-
11 STORM UMAX stands for Holtec International Storage
12 Module Underground Maximum Capacity, and it is an NRC-
13 certified design, which means that we have evaluated
14 it and determined it meets NRC regulations and can
15 safely store spent fuel.

16 This system is a dry in-ground spent fuel
17 storage system. Each of these modules hold one
18 canister of spent fuel and Holtec has applied for
19 storage of 500 canisters. The canister transfer
20 facility will be below ground. And you can see from
21 the picture that this is a low-profile design. This
22 is the conceptual drawing from the Holtec application.

23 Next slide. So this flowchart provides an
24 overview of the license application process which can
25 be described as three -- a three-program reviews

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 process. So after the application is submitted NRC
2 conducts an acceptance review to determine if the
3 application has sufficient enough information to begin
4 a detailed technical review. If so, the NRC docket
5 the application and this begins the safety and
6 environmental review task.

7 So from a safety standpoint we work
8 through a separate review to decide if the license
9 should be issued. The results of that safety review
10 is the Safety Evaluation Report. That's graphically
11 represented on the left column of the flowchart. The
12 environmental review results in an Environmental
13 Impact Statement which describes the impacts on the
14 environment of the proposed project.

15 On the right side you'll see the box
16 saying adjudicatory hearings. That blue box on the
17 figure refers to the opportunity for the public to
18 request a hearing on the application. These hearings
19 would be held if a petition to intervene was granted.

20 The results of these three processes is a
21 hearing if granted. The results of the environmental
22 review documented in an Environmental Impact Statement
23 and the safety review documented in a Safety
24 Evaluation Report will factor into NRC's final
25 decision whether or not to grant the license to Holtec

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 for the storage facility. It's important to reiterate
2 that the focus of tonight's meeting will be on the
3 environmental review process.

4 Next slide. So this flow diagram outlines
5 the environmental review process, or the middle column
6 of the previous slide. The opportunities for the
7 public involvement are highlighted in light blue. The
8 NRC starts the environmental review by publishing a
9 notice of intent to inform the public of our plans to
10 prepare an EIS and to conduct these public hearings.

11 The light blue box on the right side
12 identifies the current scoping process of which this
13 meeting -- of which this meeting is included. The
14 purpose of this phase is the added information to use
15 to help us to prepare the EIS. Comments gathered from
16 this meeting as well as other information collections
17 will be independently evaluated for the impacts to
18 this particular project. We will document your
19 comments today in a meeting transcript, and the public
20 can also provide written comments through the end of
21 the scoping period.

22 We'll analyze all the information
23 gathered, develop an EIS and issue it again for public
24 comment. At that time we will again invite public
25 comments on the draft EIS and that will be below the

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 blue box. We'll come out and schedule to hear those
2 comments on the draft EIS. We'll evaluate your
3 comments and adjust our EIS if necessary.

4 Next slide, please. So our environmental
5 review is based on the requirements of the National
6 Environmental Policy Act, or NEPA. NEPA requires that
7 federal agencies apply a systematic approach to
8 evaluate impacts on the environment. NRC will prepare
9 the EIS in accordance with those regulations.

10 Next slide, please. So this is a
11 graphical representation of the types of sources of
12 information that NRC gathers when preparing an EIS.
13 We will conduct site visits. We'll meet with local
14 and state officials and other federal agencies. We
15 are currently gathering that information for scoping
16 comments to determine which issues should be
17 considered in our review. We also expect to request
18 additional information from Holtec after the
19 completion of this portion.

20 Next slide. So the NRC will gather
21 information on a wide range of topics related to
22 environmental issues. And this slide shows for a
23 period we will consider in our Environmental Impact
24 Statement.

25 Moving on, this slide is a high-level

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 timeline for our anticipated environmental review.
2 This stepwise approach meets our responsibility under
3 the National Environmental Policy Act. We've started
4 the review with the notice of intent to conduct
5 scopings and prepare the EIS, and that started the 60-
6 day scoping period. NRC received several requests to
7 extend the scoping period, and did so. The revised
8 scoping period will now end on July 30th.

9 We will continue to gather and analyze
10 information related to the review and develop and
11 publish the draft EIS. At that point we'll publish a
12 notice of availability, and that will start a 45-day
13 period for the public and other agencies to comment on
14 the draft EIS. Again, those comments will be
15 addressed.

16 Next slide. So the scoping process helps
17 the NRC to determine the scope of the EIS and identify
18 significant issues to be analyzed in depth. It also
19 identifies and eliminates issues which are not
20 significant. It also identifies other environmental
21 reviews and computational requirements related to the
22 proposed action.

23 Next slide. So the NRC is requesting
24 information that is specific to this proposed facility
25 regarding what should be included or excluded from the

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 EIS. Some examples of that information are: Are
2 there local projects that are being planned or
3 developed nearby? Have you identified wildlife or
4 habitat that should be considered? Are there cultural
5 resources that should be considered in the evaluation?
6 Are there particular populations nearby that should be
7 considered? Are there any unique characteristics of
8 the project site or local community that the NRC
9 should consider in its evaluation?

10 Next slide. So these are the ways you can
11 submit comments on the scope of the EIS. You may
12 present your comments orally today in a public
13 meeting. You may submit comments through the
14 regulations.gov web site. And please search the
15 docket ID, NRC-2018-0052. And you may mail comments
16 to the address on the slide. And finally, you may
17 email your comments to an email address which we
18 recently added. So remember written comments are due
19 by July 30th, and we would appreciate it if you try to
20 get them in by that time.

21 Next slide. So these are ways to get --
22 to find additional information on the application.
23 You can look at the federal OMB web site, or the NRC's
24 public document, or to the NRC's project-specific web
25 site for the Holtec application, which is listed on

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 this slide here.

2 We've also provided copies of the
3 Environmental Report to the public libraries in Hobbs,
4 Carlsbad and Roswell for you to review.

5 If you'd like to be on the mailing list,
6 please make sure that your name and your email address
7 were provided to one of the NRC staff at the
8 registration table. This is one way to ensure that
9 you will be notified of upcoming meetings of issuance
10 the draft and final EIS. At the bottom of the slide
11 are the NRC's points of contacts for this application.

12 And that concludes my portion of the
13 presentation. Please remember that the scoping period
14 will end on July 30th.

15 MR. SMITH: Good evening to all of you and
16 thank you for attending the public scoping meeting
17 tonight. My name is Brian Smith. I'm Deputy Director
18 for the Division of Fuel Cycle Safety, Safeguards and
19 Environmental Review at the NRC Headquarters Office in
20 Rockville, Maryland. Jill and Cinthya work with my
21 division has responsibility for preparing and
22 conducting the environmental review for the Holtec
23 application. It's a responsibility they take very
24 seriously.

25 I know that some of you in audience are

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 supportive of project and there are those of you that
2 may be against the project. We're going to hear from
3 both sides tonight, but most importantly we want to
4 hear from you.

5 One thing I'd like to address like I did
6 last night is in some of our previous scoping meetings
7 the consent-based process was addressed by a number of
8 commenters. This is not a process that the NRC
9 follows. It is a process that DOE undertook an
10 initiative on a while back which they later then
11 stopped. Under the NRC process the NRC writes the
12 regulations that individual applicants have to meet to
13 be able to obtain a license to do work with
14 radioactive materials. An applicant will choose a
15 site and then prepare their application based on
16 regulations and then submit that application to us
17 prior to review.

18 As we complete our review, go through the
19 safety review, security review, environmental review
20 to decide how well we have met all of the regulations.
21 If we determine that those regulations have been
22 satisfied, we can then issue a license. With this
23 particular license application we are nowhere near
24 that point. We're in the very early stages of our
25 review and no decision has been made yet on the

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 whether to issue a license on this project or not.

2 Finally, I'd like to make an apology. In
3 an effort to be more open and transparent for these
4 two meetings we prepared -- we actually had an Navajo
5 translator translate our slides into Navajo.
6 Unfortunately, due to a computing error, when the
7 slides printed off a number of errors worked their way
8 into the slides. So we did not catch that and we did
9 pass out those slides at the meeting and some of you
10 in the audience identified those errors. So we
11 apologize for that.

12 The next slide. Finally, we do want to
13 hear your comments tonight. We look forward to
14 hearing those. This is our sixth meeting that we've
15 conducted on the project. We've received a lot of
16 great comments so far, so we want to hear what you
17 have to say tonight. So with that I'll turn over to
18 Chip Cameron.

19 MR. CAMERON: Thank you. Thank you,
20 Cinthya and Jill and Brian. And let me follow up that
21 apology with another apology to all of you. We have
22 well over 60 people who signed up to talk tonight.
23 And I originally was going to give everybody four
24 minutes. We're going to have to go down to three
25 minutes. And it's not because the NRC staff wants to

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 end the meeting at 9:00. Okay. We're going to stay
2 until we hear from all of you. But I just want to
3 make sure that all of you can get out of here before
4 midnight. Okay?

5 So just try to be brisk in your comments.
6 And if you need to follow it up, send in a written
7 comment. I at three minutes you're going to get the
8 point across. I know many of you who we've heard
9 before, you get the point across right away. We know
10 what it is. So if you could do that.

11 And let me just introduce two more
12 congressional staff. Where's Jennifer? Jennifer
13 -- is it Cataychiss?

14 MS. CATECHIS: Catechis.

15 MR. CAMERON: Ah, Catechis?

16 MS. CATECHIS: Yes.

17 MR. CAMERON: Thank you, Jennifer. And
18 she's with Congressman Ben Ray Lujan. Thank you for
19 being here.

20 And we also have Mike Solomon who's with
21 Senator Martin Heinrich.

22 Okay. Let's get started. And we're going
23 to State Senator Cisco McSorley first.

24 If you could come up here?

25 Then we're going to go to John Heaton, H.

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 Vern Payne, Joe Mumley and Ed Mayer.

2 Senator?

3 MR. McSORLEY: Thank you. I have worked
4 on nuclear waste disposal repository systems since the
5 1970s. I was tasked with researching the low-level
6 nuclear waste site, the WIPP site. At that time
7 UNESCO promised that we'd have a veto. When it became
8 evident New Mexico never agreed to such a ridiculous
9 site, the veto was withdrawn. It was just the first
10 long line of lies that's been told to the people of
11 the State of New Mexico.

12 I have been in the legislature since 1985.
13 Since that time I've served on virtually every
14 committee that -- in both the House and the Senate
15 dealing with the environmental initiatives. We have
16 never had a presentation to the legislature on this
17 site. Your public representatives are totally in the
18 dark.

19 Then a few years ago when Mr. Heaton was
20 giving us a tour of the WIPP site, he claimed that the
21 WIPP site was able to take high-level nuclear waste.
22 I disagreed with him in public and I still disagree
23 with him. That's not true.

24 (Applause.)

25 MR. McSORLEY: The other thing is if you

1 look at what the NRC is supposed to do with it, it's
2 not enough. New Mexico has borne the brunt from the
3 mining of uranium to the atomic bomb to the sites at
4 Los Alamos and each and every time promises were made
5 and not yet -- even right now we're in the process of
6 changing the person -- the group that oversees Los
7 Alamos, and they have a horrible record of safety as
8 it relates to uranium.

9 The idea that we are going to give a
10 company, a for-profit company the ability to handle
11 uranium that is going to be radioactive and deadly for
12 600 years, the ability and the license to do so with
13 a 20-year bonding capacity to me seems absolutely
14 ridiculous --

15 (Applause.)

16 MR. McSORLEY: The other thing I want to
17 say is this: We were promised with WIPP that these
18 safety regulations would be in effect and there would
19 never be a 10,000-year accident like the one we just
20 experienced. My God, if that happened at WIPP, what
21 can happen here?

22 And lastly, this whole thing is like to me
23 saying the sailing of the *Titanic* was a great success,
24 because after all there were four great things. Well,
25 ladies and gentlemen, 20 years are not the four great

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 things that my daughter will be living and your
2 daughter and our people after us. Please require more
3 input by the state legislature, not just the Executive
4 Branch, and expand your consideration of what we must
5 do, because it is certainly not enough. Thank you.

6 (Applause.)

7 MR. CAMERON: Thank you, senator.

8 John Heaton?

9 MR. HEATON: Good evening. My name is
10 John Heaton and I am the Chair of the Eddy-Lea Energy
11 Alliance, and we are the owners of property where the
12 site will occur. We've been involved with Holtec with
13 this and they are absolutely a great company and we're
14 proud to be associated with them. I am a private
15 citizen and a volunteer. For five meetings now I've
16 heard so many what-ifs, and bogus, not factual
17 information. And I'd like to if I could straighten
18 out a couple of those.

19 First, it's illegal to license or build a
20 private storage facility. If it's illegal, why are
21 there 70-some private storage facilities at the sites
22 in the United States?

23 Utilities are responsible for their spent
24 fuel until moved to a repository. Yes, that's true,
25 but in 1998 they were supposed to -- DOE was supposed

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 to take the fuel and didn't take the fuel. The
2 utilities sued and they won. And now you the taxpayer
3 are paying for the maintenance of this material at
4 these sites. And that number is about \$500 million a
5 year.

6 The casks -- another point is the casks
7 will break and leak, destroying land everywhere.
8 That's nonsense. Triple-containment -- fuel cladding,
9 the canister and then the cask form a triple
10 containment. These shipments are managed very
11 carefully. Can't say that there won't be a leak, but
12 I can say there -- there won't be an accident, but I
13 can say there won't be a leak.

14 The rail can't handle the weight of the
15 cask and rail car. This too is a ridiculous
16 statement. The train engine that -- weighs more than
17 the rail car and the cask itself and goes up and down
18 the rail every day. Weight is managed with more axles
19 and can distribute the weight.

20 A cask passing me will contaminate me and
21 my children. Again, the outside of the cask is five
22 times less than the NRC standard. You'd have to stand
23 in one place for many, many hours to even get the dose
24 of a dental X-ray, and that would be very close, two
25 meters from the cask. People get X-rays, CT scans,

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 various other scans, valium stress tests with impunity
2 in the U.S. and never are concerned. In fact, there
3 are 50 million of these procedures done in the United
4 States on an annual basis. So is there so much
5 hysteria about a project like this?

6 This is a great project, job-creating and
7 clearly is a very important environmental project. If
8 you are concerned about the environment and where
9 waste is being stored now, you would support this
10 project because it is the responsible action to take.
11 Thank you.

12 (Applause.)

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

15 And this is Mr. Payne coming up join us at
16 the podium.

17 MR. PAYNE: Ladies and gentlemen, I was
18 born and raised down in Southwestern New Mexico.

19 PARTICIPANT: We can't hear you.

20 MR. PAYNE: I'm sorry. Can you hear me
21 now?

22 MR. CAMERON: That's much better. Thank
23 you.

24 MR. PAYNE: I was born and raised in
25 Southwestern New Mexico and early one morning in July

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 of 1945 I was outside and saw a great flash, orange-
2 ish/black flash cover the sky. So I probably am the
3 only person in the room that saw the birth of the
4 atomic age.

5 I've watched closely over those years as
6 work been done and I can't say whether the site in Lea
7 County is good, bad or indifferent, but what I have to
8 offer is that there has been a recent development of
9 an improved cement; it's called ceramic cement, that
10 has about an 85 percent improvement of shielding the
11 rays, gamma rays and other rays, and -- over cement.
12 It has a much longer life. It doesn't leak like
13 colored cement. And there are many, many other
14 favorable things that has been developed.

15 Unfortunately, it wasn't developed 30
16 years ago or 40 years ago, but the scientists from
17 North Carolina State University have improved it. I
18 have provided a white paper and a little summary
19 statement of what this product will do to give comfort
20 to people that are concerned about the containment.
21 And we believe that this would offer an alternative
22 that would solve many of the current problems when we
23 have the storage of radioactive or nuclear waste.

24 I recommend that you get into the
25 transcript of this meeting and read those summaries.

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 I feel that we finally have a breakthrough in terms of
2 a product that will help keep up with the concerns of
3 every single one of you in this room, whether in favor
4 or disfavor of the site and the account. I can only
5 say that if I lived next to a site, I would sure want
6 this product. And it's named ARMAKAP, A-R-M-A-K-A-P.

7 My time is up. I could take five hours
8 and tell you my experiences with the first, last and
9 thereafter, but I shan't do that tonight. Thank you
10 so much.

11 (Applause.)

12 MR. CAMERON: Okay. Thank you, Mr. Payne.

13 Is Mr. Mumley her, Joe Mumley?

14 Mr. Mumley?

15 MR. MUMLEY: Okay. Thank you. I signed
16 up basically because my wife and I started going to
17 fracking meetings in San Juan County, and we've had
18 quite an education that basically there was no
19 protection for the water and air. Wasn't enough air
20 monitors or inspectors for the state. There was no
21 federal input to date. It might exist somewhere, but
22 nothing that protects the water. The Albuquerque
23 geologist that worked for oil and gas is pretty
24 positive that the water is going to be polluted here.
25 Nobody has tried to refute him and it continues.

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 I retired here from Brooklyn. We lived a
2 couple blocks from the nuclear waste storage site. A
3 local school discovered it was there during a project.
4 They went in and took pictures; nobody stopped them,
5 and discovered all the regulations were being broken
6 and not followed.

7 I have a friend in New Hampshire. He
8 worked on the first atomic nuclear reactor's safety
9 features and he said that it was just too expensive
10 and that 40 percent of them had to be eliminated.
11 They couldn't -- and so basically what I learned from
12 the fracking is that the infrastructure, including the
13 rows, the number of inspectors, the monitors will not
14 be -- will be not done in a responsible way. So I'm
15 against this project. Thank you.

16 (Applause.)

17 MR. CAMERON: Thank you, Mr. Mumley.

18 And I mentioned that the representative of
19 the license applicant was going to take three minutes
20 to talk to you about their intentions. And we have Ed
21 Mayer right here.

22 Ed?

23 MR. MAYER: Okay. Good evening. My name
24 is Ed Mayer and I'm a program director at Holtec
25 International, and specifically I'm a program director

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 for the interim storage facility, and it's really an
2 honor to be here tonight to brief you.

3 First I'd like to provide Holtec's
4 commitment to the NRC, that we're going to provide all
5 responses in a timely manner to a short and accurate
6 submission, and also to ensure this NRC schedule
7 review process is met. But I think more importantly
8 we're here tonight to provide the facts about the Hi-
9 STORM facility, the consolidated interim storage
10 facility, and to ask for your support for the project.

11 The Eddy-Lea Energy Alliance, also known
12 as the ELEA, is our partner, and it was formed in 2006
13 with the express mission of bringing economic benefit
14 to New Mexico. Another thing, what they do, all of
15 its members are long-time proud members, or I should
16 say citizens of New Mexico. So ELEA brings the deep
17 understanding of their communities to the team, and we
18 really appreciate the team.

19 Holtec International is a strong
20 technology company. Our core business for the past 32
21 years is safe and secure storage of used nuclear fuel.
22 All the equipment supplied by Holtec has been
23 designed, engineered, licensed, applicated and in many
24 cases operated by Holtec employees.

25 And Holtec is an American company. We

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 have three manufacturing facilities: one in Orrville,
2 Ohio. That's mostly our aluminum work. Pittsburgh,
3 Pennsylvania. Makes sense. Steel work. And then our
4 newest in Camden, New Jersey that does both aluminum
5 and steel work.

6 We have an impeccable safety record. None
7 of our equipment has ever experienced a safety issue
8 that leaked or caused any personal injury. The
9 members of ELEA asked Holtec to be their partner in
10 2013 after careful evaluation of the safety and
11 security of our used fuel storage and transportation
12 equipment.

13 Holtec with outstanding support from ELEA
14 will obtain the NRC license to construct and operate
15 the consolidated interim storage facility. The name
16 of the facility is facility HI-STORM.

17 So once the appropriate contract and final
18 revisions are in place Holtec will construct and
19 operate the facility. Local residents and companies
20 will be hired for the construction and operations, and
21 both will bring high-paying jobs to New Mexico. We
22 expect about 100 construction jobs over the life of
23 the construction, which will be about a decade, and
24 about 100 operations jobs in the facility. And it
25 will pay 60 to \$80,000 a year to the operations jobs.

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 The people of New Mexico are rich in
2 technical knowledge, especially nuclear technology
3 with two national laboratories, three alternate flow
4 path bases and an Army base, the Waste Isolation Pilot
5 Plant and URENCO.

6 The geology site characteristics and
7 environment and other factors for the proposed site
8 are ideal for the storage of used nuclear fuel. Our
9 mission, Holtec's mission is to offer a temporary safe
10 and secure storage facility for the nation's used
11 nuclear fuel. And temporary is measured in decades
12 and the final repository will be the Yucca or another
13 deep repository will be where the fuel will go after
14 this interim storage.

15 MR. CAMERON: Okay. I'm going to have to
16 ask you to finish up.

17 MR. MAYER: I guess the last thing I have
18 to say is that I'll be at the table in the back. I've
19 had some great conversations with some of you and we'd
20 like to continue those conversations. So please come
21 back to meet with us.

22 MR. CAMERON: Thank you very much.

23 (Applause.)

24 MR. CAMERON: We're going to Barney
25 Magrath next and Greg Mello, Stan Fitch, Yemane

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 Asmerom and Terry Sloan.

2 And, Barney? This way the NRC staff will
3 be able to --

4 PARTICIPANT: Can we raise that
5 microphone? It's hard to hear. And they lean down a
6 little bit at the beginning and then we can't hear
7 after they stand up. So can we can raise that? We
8 have the technology, right?

9 (Laughter.)

10 (Simultaneous speaking.)

11 MR. MAGRATH: All right. Thank you. My
12 name is Barney Magrath. I'm from Santa Fe and I'm
13 with the Santa Fe Democratic Party. I have a BS in
14 physics and I know the science. And I want to
15 highlight the false assumption that a centralized
16 facility would be safer for our national security.

17 In 2001 Allison McFarland published a
18 paper entitled, "Interim Storage of Spent Fuel in the
19 United States." This 41-page report presents the
20 concerns -- security concerns of interim storage, and
21 I'll quote it.

22 "One of the principal arguments for a
23 centralized interim storage facility is based on the
24 notion that a single facility will provide a much
25 higher level of physical security against sabotage or

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 theft than many nuclear reactors in which the spent
2 fuel currently resides. Although this may be true in
3 the abstract, an actual practice it is not likely to
4 be so."

5 First, there is no evidence to suggest
6 that spent fuel which is currently stored in reactors
7 poses any unacknowledged security threat for which the
8 reactors are not already prepared.

9 Second, a centralized site would put all
10 of the spent fuel in one place. There would not --
11 with all this spent fuel in one place it would simply
12 add one more place to the list of spent fuel locations
13 because reactors as they continue to operate will
14 continue to have spent fuel on site.

15 And last of all, the most ominous problem
16 with the argument that a centralized facility is more
17 secure is the fact that all spent fuel would have to
18 be transported with literally thousands of shipments.
19 For those concerned about security, that translates
20 into thousands of opportunities for attacks or thefts
21 of spent fuel. In actuality, spent fuel will be at a
22 much higher risk for sabotage or theft on the roadways
23 than at reactors. Reactors are relatively well-
24 guarded and well-monitored places, whereas spent fuel
25 presents a more plausibly security risk. Thank you

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 very much.

2 (Applause.)

3 MR. CAMERON: Thank you. Thank you,
4 Barney.

5 Greg? Greg Mello?

6 MR. MELLO: Hello. Greg Mello with the
7 Los Alamos City.

8 (Applause.)

9 MR. MELLO: Thank you, NRC and Holtec, for
10 coming here and listening. I want to talk briefly
11 about things to analyze carefully in the EIS and
12 reasonable alternatives.

13 There's -- you need, Mr. Heaton, you
14 really do you need to look at some of the black swans
15 here. You need to look at the bankruptcy of Holtec,
16 bankruptcy of its subsequent operators, gaps between
17 management. Forty years is really a long time. Even
18 DOE doesn't issue 40-year contracts.

19 The problems of transportation which were
20 just mentioned are quite real and need to be looked at
21 very carefully. The -- how fuel will be transferred
22 to additional different casks for disposal once the
23 fuel is at the facility is going to be a problem
24 because of different disposal facilities and different
25 storage -- different cask needs. We don't know what

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 that disposal facility is.

2 We need to assume that there are broken fuel
3 rods in casks and how will those be handled. What
4 will the infrastructure be for managing loose fissile
5 material and how one could be do the waste processing,
6 the subsequent disposal of that secondary waste
7 stream. Where will the spent fuel pools be, and so
8 on.

9 We need to look -- terrorism is now big
10 business and there's a lot of people funding it in the
11 Middle East and elsewhere in East Asia. We need to
12 look at attack scenarios that involve heavier weapons
13 than we're used to seeing. And at our DOE facilities
14 in force-on-force exercises there's been unfortunate
15 successes in breaking into DOE facilities, even
16 heavily-guarded ones.

17 We need to be looking at power failures,
18 even long power failures. We need to be looking at
19 scenarios of civil unrest and how this would affect
20 the security of the facility. We need to look at --
21 very carefully at the ultimate longevity of the
22 facility. How many years of operations once open
23 we're really talking about here and what kind of --
24 what's our ability to look so far into the future.

25 We need to look at the contagion of

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 contamination such as we saw with Fukushima where
2 there was an accident. There is contamination in one
3 place that prevents handling, contamination of your
4 body.

5 We need to look at insider threats. It's
6 very important.

7 And we need to look at the socioeconomic
8 analysis at the reputational impact and on the
9 attractiveness of this state for businesses and
10 residences. I think it would be quite severe and it's
11 really a serious danger. Part of it is any job that
12 would be created by this and the reputational --
13 practically our only asset is -- at this point is our
14 attractiveness and our natural environment.

15 We need to look at the clean-up costs if
16 a canister is breached in a successful attack.

17 On question of alternatives, there is a
18 fundamental problem because it's difficult for an
19 alternative to appear reasonable because there's not
20 a multimillion dollar applicant process of -- so we
21 have the one alternative, but there really are other
22 alternatives which are much more reasonable, but we
23 don't have an applicant. So the privatization process
24 that lies in the NEPA process severely -- and it's a
25 structural problem of our whole -- everything.

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 MR. CAMERON: Well, thank you very much.
2 I'm going to have to you ask you to --

3 (Applause.)

4 MR. CAMERON: Mr. Mello's comments just
5 reminds me to ask all of you to follow up with written
6 comments to the NRC, because there's going to be
7 excellent ideas presented here tonight. We don't have
8 a lot of long speaking time, but if you can just
9 simply write those into the NRC, it would be really
10 appreciated.

11 And, Stan Fitch?

12 And then we're going to go to Yemane.

13 MR. FITCH: Good evening. I appreciate
14 the NRC coming. First, I realize they're required to
15 under international law and the Environmental Policy
16 Act, but I appreciate them coming. And the purpose of
17 this hearing is to accept feedback on siting. So I'll
18 address my initial comments on that.

19 It appears that the location is an ideal
20 location both from a geology standpoint and a
21 hydrological standpoint. Also it satisfies a lot of
22 the environmental justice issues. You have a ready
23 and willing group and a public that's more receptive
24 than Southeastern New Mexico, much as the rest of the
25 state.

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 My name is Stanley Fitch. I am a resident
2 of Sandia Park, New Mexico. I live in the Sandia
3 Mountains. My family came here 150 years ago. Now,
4 that's probably relative newcomers, because my wife's
5 family came here 400 years ago. But I'm a New
6 Mexican. My great-grandfather Asa Metz Fitch co-
7 founded the New Mexico Institute of Mining and
8 Technology.

9 I'm a former manager for the Green State
10 Program and the Radiation Control Program at the New
11 Mexico Environmental Department. While I was there I
12 participated in a number of issues both in defense of
13 the state and review of the environmental projects
14 such as the National Enrichment Facility. I was the
15 state's technical lead on the review of that
16 application.

17 I have an undergraduate degree from New
18 Mexico State University, I have a graduate degree in
19 radiation safety from Thomas Edison State University
20 in Trenton, New Jersey, and a nuclear engineering
21 degree from the University of Texas, Austin. I'm
22 certified by the American Board of Physics, which is
23 the world's premier certifying organization for
24 radiation protection. I believe I know what I'm
25 talking about when I say I think that's a good

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 location.

2 Now when I look at New Mexico and what's
3 going on with our cash flow and our problems with
4 infrastructure and various issues, it's a totally a
5 different state than what my great-grandfather came
6 to. It was a much more progressive state at that
7 time.

8 My one piece of advice is do thorough,
9 thoughtful regulation. I know, because I helped write
10 significant parts of the Energy Policy and Amendments
11 Act of 2005 related to terrorism. I also wrote many
12 of the regulations that the NRC implements to this day
13 protecting materials from terrorists.

14 The NRC is not even credible. The people
15 in this state are tired of being locked up. They're
16 tired of being neglected. And so I would say also to
17 the Holtec, be open to people. Be fair with people.
18 Thank you.

19 (Applause.)

20 Thank you. Thank you, Stan.

21 Yemane? This is Yemane Asmerom.

22 MR. ASMEROM: First thank you to the NRC
23 for coming to hear our voices and I challenge you to
24 listen carefully and honor our input in the final
25 decisions.

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 My name is Yemane Asmerom. I'm a
2 professor of geochemistry at the University of New
3 Mexico. I'm not here to represent the university.
4 I'm here as a citizen of New Mexico.

5 First let me just say I think that the
6 spent fuel would be treated materially are stronger.
7 These materials are more radioactive than the material
8 that starts at the reactor. By the end of the process
9 what will happen is the fore mentioned materials
10 that's being changed -- the variety of chemistries
11 across the periodic table through all kinds of stuff.
12 That's why the process is not given. So we're
13 actually spending much more material than we started
14 with.

15 So let me address the germane issues of --
16 the issue at hand. To me the most critical thing is
17 long-term storage. The company has been negotiating
18 for nearly 40 years. The outcome of the project is no
19 more real than it was 40 years ago. By burdening us
20 with this facility will just simply delay the long-
21 term eventuality of this material. And my concern is
22 that in 20 years or 40 years this material is going to
23 be (unintelligible). I am charging the federal
24 officials here if you can -- how can you say you will
25 take care of this? The fact is you haven't taken care

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 of hundreds of sites right now that are burdening our
2 community.

3 (Applause.)

4 MR. ASMEROM: -- how can we know the
5 ability to assure anyone?

6 Secondly, I think the company assures us
7 this is safe material. Yes, it's zirconium and it's
8 safer than steel and all that stuff. If it's that
9 safe, then why are you that this is an environmentally
10 suitable place? It should be then safe to store it in
11 California, in Michigan or New York.

12 (Applause.)

13 MR. ASMEROM: There is an underlying truth
14 though. You came to this community or want this
15 community support you because of economic distress.
16 So this is an issue of economic justice.

17 My challenge to all of our citizens and
18 our representatives' staff, please don't let these
19 communities be vulnerable to these things. We can't
20 just simply say no and not give our opinion. These
21 communities are so filled and everything else. We
22 need to come up with alternatives such as renewable
23 energy.

24 (Applause.)

25 MR. ASMEROM: This way they don't have to

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 move in. Thank you.

2 (Applause.)

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

5 Dr. Terry Sloan. Terry?

6 DR. SLOAN: Thank you. That was a great
7 entrance. Good evening and thank you to the NRC for
8 allowing us to speak and be heard today.

9 My name is Terry Sloan and I am the
10 director of Southwest Native Cultures out of
11 Albuquerque, New Mexico, where I'm an accredited
12 member of the United Nations Department of Economic
13 and Social Affairs. I'm also a board member for the
14 New Mexico Interfaith Power & Light, a board member
15 for the Community Development Corporation and a member
16 of the United Nations Association of Albuquerque
17 Chapter.

18 I'm here to say that we need -- first and
19 foremost I think about Mother Earth and her
20 inhabitants --

21 (Applause.)

22 DR. SLOAN: -- and our families, and our
23 children and their children and their children. And
24 Native Americans, we think seven generations ahead.
25 We need to think about what they're going to face

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 possibly if there is an accident or a spill in that
2 area. And it terrifies me to think that having
3 nuclear waste pass through our great city of
4 Albuquerque and to our State of New Mexico and a
5 possible spill that could occur during the process.
6 Thousands of chances could happen, as previously
7 mentioned.

8 I also think of Chernobyl and WIPP, those
9 disasters and those problems that happened, the most
10 current nuclear reactor disaster in Japan. Those are
11 things that we could face and we're still feeling the
12 effects of -- Japanese are still feeling the effects
13 of those now. They can't even move back to that land
14 yet.

15 And I also think about possibly their
16 disposing of the cavity of one of our great landmarks
17 in New Mexico, which is Carlsbad Caverns. My family,
18 my children love to go visit Carlsbad Caverns. And
19 possibly one day they're not being able to have it and
20 -- you know it concerns me. But I also would suggest
21 that for those investors or the land owners of this
22 land, they should consider other alternatives, like we
23 just heard about renewable energy. And we could build
24 solar power farms, plants. We could build wind farms.
25 We could build -- they could build another a casino.

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 They could build --

2 (Laughter.)

3 DR. SLOAN: -- a resort, anything but a
4 nuclear waste storage site.

5 And another thing I'd like to mention it
6 is a human right to have clean air, clean land, clean
7 water and a safe environment.

8 (Applause.)

9 DR. SLOAN: And we all have that human
10 right. So as mentioned previously, let's all get out
11 and get your voice heard and speak up. Send in the
12 comments, make the comments, whatever you can. Let's
13 be heard. And let them hear what our real scoping
14 thoughts are on this. We don't want nuclear waste in
15 our backyard --

16 (Applause.)

17 DR. SLOAN: Thank you.

18 MR. CAMERON: Okay. Thank you very much.

19 We're going to go to Carol Merrill, Chris
20 Timm and then we're going to go to Pastor Erica.

21 And is. Carol Merrill -- oh, here she
22 comes.

23 MS. MERRILL: Because it's difficult to
24 get on the web site I thought I would just print it
25 out and hand it to you.

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 I am Carol Merrill, a retired librarian
2 and teacher from North Valley, Albuquerque, published
3 author a member of CARD, Citizens for Alternatives to
4 Radioactive Dumping.

5 I speak for Dorrie Bunting who just
6 entered.

7 (Applause.)

8 MS. MERRILL: Dorrie was a founder of
9 CARD, Citizens for Alternative to Radioactive Dumping.

10 Two days ago I asked her how do you feel
11 about this issue? She said outrage. Outrage. She
12 said why do they generate electricity in this way?
13 What people will be able to use that electricity when
14 they're all dead from nuclear poisoning? Thank you,
15 Dorrie, for your guidance. In your mid-90s. Thank
16 you.

17 (Applause.)

18 MS. MERRILL: One of my greatest concerns,
19 it was recorded by The San Diego Union-Tribune
20 Thursday, May 10th, 2018. There was a loose bolt
21 inside one of Holtec's canisters designed to store
22 spent radioactive fuel at the Waterfront site of San
23 Onofre Nuclear Power Plant, which halted work for 10
24 days. Looks like there are some serious problems with
25 Holtec's engineering. Are these those canisters that

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 they're planning to send here?

2 One additional concern: If there was an
3 serious accident a derailment, and I don't mean an
4 populated urban area, who pays the billions of dollars
5 for the cleanup? Who is insuring this company? How
6 can we know they're not going to go bankrupt and leave
7 us holding the waste?

8 The other thought: A small bomb from a
9 done in centralized surface location with 20 rods
10 could wipe out half this state. What will they say
11 then?

12 The puppies of Chernobyl. In the
13 exclusion zone at Chernobyl where radioactive waste
14 and atoms melted down decades ago, now free of humans
15 for 20,000 years. When it will be safe again? There
16 are nearly 900 wild dogs of those left behind by their
17 families 31 years ago. Playful puppies play around
18 the cantina near reactor 4. The sign for tourists
19 reads, "Don't touch the puppies. There are
20 radioactive particles in their fur." They've never
21 had a toy. No one has cuddled them. They have no
22 water dish. What's to become of them? Someday will
23 we put lead-lined sweaters on our dogs in winter,
24 nuclear winter just to take them for a walk, if it
25 comes to that, with nuclear waste in the world? I

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 hope not.

2 MR. CAMERON: Thank you.

3 (Applause.)

4 MR. CAMERON: Chris Timm?

5 MR. TIMM: Thank you, NRC, for the
6 opportunity to speak. Welcome, Holtec. About the
7 issue of nuclear waste disposal, safe disposal.

8 Think about it, spent nuclear fuel has
9 been essentially around since 1968, so 50 years we've
10 been dealing with spent nuclear fuel and haven't had
11 one accident. Along the way things have happened big
12 time. And I actually appreciate the people who were
13 bringing up Chernobyl and Fukushima, because every
14 time we've had an accident we've proved how we go
15 forward and do better and better. We're not perfect;
16 we'll never be perfect, but we learn and we try to do
17 the best we can.

18 And I really think that Holtec is a very
19 good location. Yes, they're will be issues with
20 respect to transportation is a concern. But the issue
21 with WIPP, I think. I know WIPP is involved in
22 oversight work for five years. I know the nuclear
23 industry is warmed up for more than 50 years. And
24 with WIPP the transportation record has been very,
25 very good. WIPP's safety record. The worst was a

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 fire, not in an underground facility like Holtec.
2 Believe me, that fire would have been a lot less
3 hazardous. There's a lot of pluses to an underground
4 storage facility. Think about it: You're
5 underground. You have a something fall and kill
6 somebody. Kind of hard to do that above ground.

7 So we do have a problem, but the point is
8 every accident, every incident, everything that went
9 wrong safety-wise will be taken into consideration.
10 And people in the industry say how do we better next
11 time and prevent such a thing from happening? I'm
12 convinced the NRC will look at that very hard and
13 Holtec will not have to answer many, many, many
14 questions in that area and I think they can do a good
15 job. And I think, by the way, there's less accidents
16 in this business than there is in oil and gas, which
17 you all count on, or even solar. So think about what
18 you want.

19 (Simultaneous speaking.)

20 MR. CAMERON: That's been an ongoing
21 issue. Okay.

22 (Applause.)

23 MR. CAMERON: Pastor.

24 REV. LEA-SIMKA: Good evening. My name is
25 Reverend Lea-Simka and I'm a pastor in Albuquerque

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 Mennonite Church. I'm not a scientist. I'm a pastor
2 and a student of world religions, so I'm going to stay
3 in my lane this evening.

4 I'm a Mennonite which means a lot of
5 things, including an excellent baker and I'm very
6 modest about it.

7 (Laughter.)

8 REV. LEA-SIMKA: It also means that I
9 value simplicity and community. It also means that as
10 Mennonites we value the Bible. We are Christians.
11 And my Bible says that we should love our neighbors.
12 Maybe you're not religious, so work with me on this.

13 (Laughter.)

14 REV. LEA-SIMKA: What would Mr. Rogers do?

15 (Laughter.)

16 REV. LEA-SIMKA: Mr. Rogers I feel
17 confident would not dump garbage in his neighbor's
18 yard.

19 (Applause.)

20 REV. LEA-SIMKA: New Mexico is not a
21 wasteland because we're a desert and New Mexico is not
22 a wasteland because we're a poor state, and New Mexico
23 is not a wasteland because we have a lot of ground and
24 Native people.

25 (Applause.)

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 REV. LEA-SIMKA: -- communities is sending
2 is that New Mexico is unimportant and it's disposable.

3 So what would Jesus do, or Moses, or
4 Buddha, or Muhammad, peace be upon him, or Visna or
5 Sophia or Oprah or Mr. Rogers?

6 (Laughter.)

7 REV. LEA-SIMKA: I cannot say for sure
8 exactly what they would do, but I feel reasonably
9 confident that they would not dump waste in their
10 neighbor's yard. I am your neighbor and New Mexico is
11 your neighbor. Thank you.

12 (Applause.)

13 MR. CAMERON: Okay. Thank you.

14 We're going to go to Peter Clark, then
15 Danny Rupper, Lynn Buck, Susanne Brown and Deborah
16 Reade.

17 So, Peter?

18 MR. CLARK: Good evening. As introduced,
19 I'm Peter Clark. I've been here in Albuquerque for
20 about 15 years. I'd like to start out tonight by
21 acknowledging that we're all meeting tonight on
22 occupied homelands of the Sandia and as well as Pueblo
23 people.

24 (Applause.)

25 MR. CLARK: I have been employed in the

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 transportation industry for about 25 years with
2 experience in rail and aviation as an inspector,
3 safety inspector. I have extensive education in
4 systems -- safety management systems, human factor
5 errors and so forth.

6 The United States Congress charges the
7 U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission with protecting
8 people and the environment from unnecessary exposure
9 to radiation. Approval of this proposal to the
10 transfer of high-level nuclear waste throughout the
11 country would be captured under the NRC's mandate.

12 Every 40 years the American Society of
13 Engineers provides a comprehensive assessment of the
14 nation's 16 major infrastructure categories in an
15 infrastructure report card with grades A through F.
16 The most recent was 2017 and the transportation sector
17 in the nation probably got a D-plus. Doesn't instill
18 a lot of confidence in our roads. I'd like to quote
19 from that report card.

20 It says, "While the nation's
21 infrastructure earned a D-plus in 2017, New Mexico
22 faces infrastructure challenges of its own. For
23 example, driving down the roads in need of repair in
24 New Mexico costs drivers \$594 per year. And 258 of
25 the 397 bridges are structurally deficient. This

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 deteriorating infrastructure impedes New Mexico's
2 ability to compete in an increasingly global
3 marketplace. This miserable D rating means that the
4 infrastructure is in poor to fair condition and mostly
5 below standard."

6 Annually from 2009 through 2017 there were
7 5 to 700 with the max being 870 HAZMAT train
8 derailments and damaged cars.

9 New Mexico already has 16 superfund sites
10 on the national priority list. We don't need more.

11 I'm going to cut myself short here to
12 allow more time for others, but I do want to say this,
13 that the NRC follow proper procedure as prescribed in
14 the United Nations Declaration of the Rights of
15 Indigenous Peoples of the Organization of American

16 (Applause.)

17 MR. CLARK: -- rights of indigenous
18 peoples and seeking the fair prior informed consent to
19 the sovereign indigenous nations of this continent
20 through whose lands these materials will be
21 transported. Proper consultation does not simply mean
22 inviting tribal governments to these type of meetings.
23 Proper consultation must include government-to-
24 government dialogue. Thank you.

25 (Applause.)

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 MR. CAMERON: Danny Rupper?

2 MR. RUPPER: Thank you for giving me a
3 chance to speak. I'm here as just a citizen of New
4 Mexico. If I say "we," I know there are many others
5 that feel the way I do.

6 We don't want this. I'm sorry, this is
7 just wrong --

8 (Applause.)

9 MR. RUPPER: Nuclear radiation has harmed
10 this state in some many ways that, I'm sorry, NRC has
11 no credibility in regards to radiation or safety. We
12 still have people trying to keep -- seek compensation
13 for the first nuclear tests here 70 years ago.

14 (Applause.)

15 MR. RUPPER: We actually had one of the
16 worst nuclear accidents in history, which was totally
17 covered up, and I'm talking about the uranium tailings
18 pond spilling causing generations of birth defects on
19 the Navajo Nation.

20 (Applause.)

21 MR. RUPPER: -- renewable energy. This is
22 going back. Nuclear energy for generating electricity
23 is a dying industry. That needs to go away. We want
24 clean renewable energy.

25 (Applause.)

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 MR. CAMERON: Okay. Thank you. Thank
2 you, Danny. And Lynn Buck?

3 MS. BUCK: My name is Lynn Buck. I'm a
4 retired APS librarian and I'm speaking as a private
5 citizen.

6 I stood on the bridge on Carlisle over by
7 40th to protest the first WIPP truck. I wanted a
8 bypass route like Santa Fe got. Albuquerque is 10
9 times more populated. I-40 passes a half a mile from
10 my middle school. We didn't the bypass route, nor did
11 we get any emergency training at my school.

12 The nuclear industry has not been good for
13 New Mexico. With two of the three national labs, New
14 Mexico has not benefitted. We are 50 in child
15 welfare. We're 48 in education. Thanks to
16 Mississippi and Alabama we're not 50. We're number
17 one -- we're way up there on poverty. We're number
18 one in home theft and home burglaries. We're a poor
19 state. This is environmental racism to shove more
20 nuclear waste --

21 (Applause.)

22 MS. BUCK: -- financial benefits to our
23 state. New Mexico, we already have our share of
24 industry fallout both in waste disposal and high
25 pollution. Nuclear accidents are not supposed to

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 happen. These new Holtec containers are supposed to
2 be safe. If these Holtec containers are so safe,
3 let's leave them where the waste is produced.

4 (Applause.)

5 MS. BUCK: Better still, let's use them
6 for landscaping around the U.S. Capitol or maybe --

7 (Applause.)

8 MS. BUCK: -- I would like to talk to the
9 downwinders. And for New Mexico why can't we put this
10 to a vote?

11 (Applause.)

12 MS. BUCK: -- about Holtec. Holtec is a
13 for-profit company. They're not after -- a world
14 industry trying to make nice things for nuclear
15 safety. They're in there for the bottom line for
16 their investors. And we have a cap on health care and
17 accident stuff, not Holtec. They're --

18 (Applause.)

19 MR. CAMERON: Thank you. Thank you, Lynn.
20 We're going to go to Susanne Brown.

21 Susanne? Oh, here she is.

22 MS. BROWN: Thank you. I'm happy to be
23 here tonight. I really appreciated listening to the
24 speakers. It was incredible. And it talked to all my
25 points.

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 (Laughter.)

2 MS. BROWN: You know, I guess I just want
3 to reemphasize that there's an elephant in the living
4 room, and that's the fact that we're not talking about
5 the fact that we continue making high-level nuclear
6 waste.

7 (Applause.)

8 MS. BROWN: -- we have alternatives for
9 energy. We all know that this is a state that's so
10 well-positioned to do something other than receive
11 nuclear waste. We can be on the edge of just standing
12 out with nuclear waste.

13 The other thing is that, you know, I'm
14 just struck by the fact that the Nobel Prize this year
15 went to a group of people; that are young people
16 actually, internationally that are trying to continue
17 to get more and more countries to sign up to stop
18 making nuclear weapons. And so there would be -- we
19 could sign up for that, too. That would decrease our
20 nuclear waste for sure.

21 The other thing I wanted to just emphasize
22 that other people have been talking about is that --
23 the fact that there are alternatives to transporting
24 all the waste here. That's what we're meeting about
25 tonight. That's the scope that we're supposed to be

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 talking about is alternatives.

2 And I really appreciate the man who talked
3 about the crystalline or ceramic cement, or whatever
4 it was. I mean, there are other inert substances,
5 there are solutions that we can keep nuclear waste at
6 the sites that are well-guarded now and keep it above
7 ground where we see it. And it's not -- I don't feel
8 good about out of sight, out of mind. And I think
9 that's what this is all about. Thank you.

10 (Applause.)

11 MR. CAMERON: Thank you very much
12 Deborah Reed?

13 MS. READE: So I do have some materials to
14 hand you afterwards: 60 names on a petition, a signed
15 letter, an article about how across the nation many
16 people speak -- do not speak English in the home, and
17 also two maps, one of threats to all New Mexico and
18 threats to Southeastern New Mexico.

19 One of the things that's important to look
20 at is this map -- this little inset map here, which is
21 a map of cancer mortality. Note that all the highest
22 cancer mortality is in the south and southeast portion
23 of the state of New Mexico. This is the area that has
24 WCS in Texas. They're trying to put in Triassic Park.
25 We have WIPP. We have -- now they're trying to put in

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 Holtec. We have URENCO. We have massive oil and gas
2 development. This all contributes to this, plus the
3 social factors that do not have good access all share,
4 these kind of things. So this needs to be looked at
5 more carefully.

6 And I did find it a little disturbing for
7 people to talk about how this is safe and that you
8 know so much about the geology, but in fact I've seen
9 years of studies on the geology around Holtec, as we
10 had around WIPP, and in WIPP they said, oh, you know,
11 this is an island of a non-karst, which is a porous
12 type of geological formation where water can run both
13 vertically and horizontally easily underground. And
14 they said but WIPP is on an island. There's no karst
15 in this huge karst area. What are the chances that
16 Holtec is also an island of non-karst in this huge
17 area? We need years of studies on the geology and
18 hydrology around this site before we can say whether
19 it is safe or not.

20 The other thing that I find disturbing is
21 that in all of these presentations here there was one
22 word to transportation once. This -- the
23 transportation is the killing seal here. And we need
24 many more meetings across the nation and other cities,
25 and just as robust as we had for the Yucca Mountain

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 project.

2 We need also to have materials in other
3 languages, not just Spanish, but Spanish is a primary
4 language that people speak in the home when they don't
5 speak English in the home. But there are other
6 languages in some of these cities as well. These
7 materials need to be up online well before the
8 hearings and we need more time before the hearing
9 actually occurs.

10 So I think there's a lot of magical
11 thinking here. You have these canisters that are
12 going to sit there possibly up to 300 years according
13 to Holtec. A hundred and twenty years may be
14 considered short term. It could be as much as 300
15 years. These materials are then working, working,
16 working -- the radiation is working away on this -- on
17 the concrete no matter how good it is. This could
18 easily make the canisters too delicate to move and we
19 could end up with a shallow high-level waste landfill
20 forever.

21 (Applause.)

22 MR. CAMERON: Thank you.

23 We're going to go to our next group, which
24 is Kathleen Cody, Marcus Nells, Frank Giles, Juan
25 Reynosa and Denise Tessier.

1 MS. CODY: My name is Kathleen Cody and
2 I'm a resident of New Mexico. I do not consent to the
3 proposed Holtec high-level waste site.

4 New Mexico has given enough to nuclear
5 radiation. As the first state to have a nuclear bomb
6 explosion, putting hundreds of people's health and
7 welfare at stake, more than 70 years later, people in
8 the area, and downwind are still suffering from
9 cancer, tumors, and other life-threatening illnesses.

10 WIP waste isolation pilot projects started
11 at the lower level of radiation waste, had to shut
12 down for the radiation leak just 15 years after it
13 went into operation, affecting 21 employees. And some
14 of the radiation did get back to the air outside of
15 the plant. Residents in the area could also be
16 affected.

17 The incident was initially caused by human
18 error and escalated. The cleanup took three years.
19 There will always be human error. Putting such high,
20 putting this much high radioactive material in one
21 place would be disastrous, and on so many levels.

22 I do not consent to highly radioactive
23 materials being transported through my community. Due
24 to human error, natural disasters, or any one of many
25 unforeseen events, rail or truck transport across the

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 highway and through our state poses way too many risks
2 to be plausible.

3 I firmly believe each state that has
4 nuclear reactors needs to decide how to store it in
5 their state and not transport it for long distances.

6 MR. CAMERON: Marcus Nells.

7 MR. NELLS: Hello, my name is Marcus
8 Nells. I am one of the Party for Socialism and
9 Liberation. I stand here today to denounce
10 transportation and storage of nuclear waste in New
11 Mexico. I say no to Holtec's plan to endanger my
12 people and community.

13 Between 1940 and 1970, New Mexico and
14 Arizona have been at the front of nuclear
15 weaponization. From nuclear testing, i.e., the
16 Manhattan Project, to uranium extraction, the uranium
17 mining on Native American reservations, the indigenous
18 populations in the Southwest have been at risk for
19 contaminations since the beginning of the century.

20 Safety guarantees were raised by the
21 extraction companies in the 1940s while Native
22 Americans suffered at the risk of radiation poisoning.
23 In the past few years, the University of New Mexico
24 has released a study that has shown high levels of
25 radiation still existing in New Mexico currently.

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 We say no to this project. In the words
2 of the indigenous leader Crazy Horse, one does not
3 sell the Earth upon which the people walk. Thank you.

4 MR. CAMERON: How about Juan Reynoso. Oh,
5 this is Frank? Okay.

6 MR. GILES: Good evening, ladies and
7 gentleman, and I thank you for your attendance here
8 and going through the formalities and the procedures
9 to make sure our voice is heard. But where do these
10 voices go after this hearing? You say you wouldn't
11 want to argue to them. Are the plans to have gone to
12 a trash can, or are they actually taking into
13 reconsideration about some issue that we have.

14 This is a very important subject,
15 especially for me and my people. My people come from
16 the Pine Ridge Reservation. I'm Oglala Lakota Sioux.
17 Our people have been poisoned by uranium for decades.
18 Even after the NRC said they were going to enforce
19 cleanup and enforce regulation, we're still dying. To
20 kidney failure, to arsenic poisoning, to alpha
21 emitters that are in our body.

22 We all have a responsibility for tomorrow,
23 for our children. Our people, yes, we do believe in
24 giving towards the next seven generations. My family,
25 I am the seventh generation. I stood tall on the

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 front lines of the Standing Rock for the water. I
2 stood for all of you, all of you out here. I laid my
3 life on the line for you. And once again we still
4 have threat coming to us in corporate form.

5 We have to make our voices heard not just
6 here, not just in this room, but across the nation,
7 across the world. We have to lift ourselves up in
8 humanity, or we will all perish. We only have one
9 water on this earth. None of us can live without
10 that. Radiation, once in the water, can never be
11 removed.

12 As a parent myself, I'm very, very
13 concerned about what this be brought here. And I look
14 back on the reservation where I come from and the many
15 lies that were told to us about how they're going to
16 handle this stuff, how they're going to handle the
17 radiation, how they're going to handle the arsenic
18 poisoning. And it hasn't happened yet.

19 So we need to do everything we can to make
20 our voices heard. Speak to your neighbors, speak to
21 other people who may be on the fence about this. And
22 especially bring it up in intellectual debates, not
23 just emotional rantings. We all are very emotional
24 about this, we all know the dangers that are presented
25 to us through radiation.

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 There are safeguards, there are protocols,
2 they are doing nothing. Thank you for your time.

3 MR. CAMERON: Thank you. This is Juan
4 Reynoso.

5 MR. REYNOSO: Good evening, everyone, Juan
6 Reynoso. I'm with the Southwest Organizing Project,
7 but I also grew up in Hobbs. I still have my mom, my
8 four sisters, six nephews, and two nieces who live
9 there.

10 I'm in extreme opposition to this. Holtec
11 is only trying to paint the picture that everyone
12 involved is super down for this, but I've been
13 conferring with my family and many friends there, and
14 they're not. So do not try and beat on us and do not
15 paint that false picture that everyone there is just
16 willing to sacrifice their health for you to gain some
17 property.

18 I grew up with asthma. I saw many of the
19 community members that I grew up with have cancer. So
20 their citizen populations already there. They already
21 have to build water contamination, air quality issues
22 still.

23 And while some people may think that
24 URENCO was all right to bring in, it didn't supply
25 that many jobs. And that's always the false narrative

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 that jobs are going to pay these people, whether it's
2 to the Navajo Nation with the coal-fired power plants,
3 or in my community around how jobs are more important
4 than people's health issues.

5 In regards to health issues, I've seen in
6 cancer as, I forget her name, she noted there's many
7 clustered related in my community. Air quality,
8 groundwater issues. And just be sure, this is an
9 environmental injustice for a community that has
10 already been recognized as paying their dues.

11 And I think it's completely wrong to not
12 store it where you already have it. It's
13 irresponsible. It's all based on greed, which we're
14 all communities waking up to that. That's just not
15 the way we need to live anymore.

16 I will note that there's many sinkholes in
17 that area. So for folks noting the great geology,
18 there's many sinkholes popping up all around that
19 area. My friend's mom in Carlsbad has a two mile-wide
20 sinkhole right near her home. So that's going to be
21 great for nuclear storage, right, when it all
22 collapses and floods everywhere. Also, tornadoes, a
23 tornado passed right by my house as a kid, how is this
24 kind of reactor going to hold up to that.

25 So lastly I'm going to say that Holtec is

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 continuing to disregard environmental justice in New
2 Mexico from the uranium that they mined that to now
3 they're trying to bring it here. And New Mexico is
4 not your dumping grounds. So once again we have white
5 men come into our state trying to inflict violence on
6 our land and our people. And it's enough, thank you.

7 MR. CAMERON: So first I'm going to adjust
8 the speaker, and then we're going to go to Dieter
9 Hanbicki.

10 MS. TESSIER: Hi, my name is Denise
11 Tessier. I've been a newspaper reporter most of my
12 life. So it's unusual for me to be a speaker at one
13 of the hearings.

14 I'm here today because for three years,
15 from 1978 to 1981, I covered the hearings and steps
16 that led to the opening of WIPP, the waste isolation
17 pilot plan.

18 During those three years, I was in
19 continuous contact with Sandia scientists, the DOE,
20 environmental scientists at the state level, New
21 Mexico's oversight panel, the Environmental Evaluation
22 Group, citizen environmental activists, watchdogs, the
23 Secretary of Energy, and our congressmen. This was a
24 long, multi-step process.

25 Before we get even deeper into this

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 process with Holtec, I just want to iterate what Cisco
2 McSorley said and remind the NRC and everyone else
3 that throughout the WIPP steps, throughout the years
4 of discussions, New Mexico was told if we would accept
5 low-level transuranic waste, we would not be asked to
6 take high-level commercial waste in the future.

7 We do not have this in writing. In
8 January 1981, the DOE announced that it would start
9 shifting the waste to WIPP in 1987, that it did not
10 need to sign an agreement with New Mexico in order to
11 do so. All it needed was cash from Congress, and
12 permission from the BLM, which owned the land. It's
13 its own agency.

14 But despite this lack of formal agreement,
15 I submit that there was an understanding, based on
16 federal promises, that if New Mexico accepted this
17 waste, it would not be asked or required to accept any
18 high-level commercial waste. That New Mexico, we were
19 told, we will have done our part in dealing with the
20 nation's continued nuclear waste problem.

21 Years of scientific, political, and public
22 input went into the WIPP process, and we were talking
23 then about low-level transuranic waste, which was
24 gloves, tools, rags and booties contaminated in the
25 research and production of nuclear weapons.

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 But bringing spent fuel rods into New
2 Mexico is, in my view, a violation of the spirit of
3 years of discussions and efforts that went into the
4 opening of WIPP, and that it can and should factor
5 into rejection of Holtec's proposal.

6 MR. CAMERON: Thank you. This is Dieter
7 Hanbicki.

8 MR. HANBICKI: Hello, I'm Dieter Hanbicki.
9 I'm, in the fall, I'm going to be a senior at the
10 University of New Mexico in nuclear engineering.

11 So currently in the United States we have
12 around 60, I believe, operational power plants,
13 nuclear generation stations. In addition to these 60
14 plants, we have other decommissioned plants that have
15 been returned to green field. Essentially, it looks
16 like there was never any plant there, with the
17 exception of a pad for spent nuclear fuel.

18 One of Holtec's reasons for creating the
19 consolidated interim storage is to get rid of these,
20 what we call orphan sites. They are, there is no more
21 generation of the spent nuclear fuel there.

22 And between these sites and all the other
23 dry pack storage systems in America, it costs about
24 \$500 million to keep those secure. And that's from
25 taxpayer money, due to various laws and lawsuits from

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 the different generation companies.

2 As for transportation, I believe that WIPP
3 has never had a transportation issue in the
4 approximately 20 years that it has been moving waste
5 from all over the country to WIPP. And this site is
6 going to be, I believe, 16 miles north of WIPP. So it
7 will be using the same transport corridors. So we can
8 assume that --

9 It is as close to WIPP, so it will be
10 using the same transportation.

11 MR. CAMERON: Let's let him finish. You
12 can disagree, but let's let him finish his comment,
13 please. Go ahead.

14 MR. HANBICKI: Additionally, Bill Gates,
15 who used to be the number one richest man in the
16 world, now number two, has invested in terrapower. He
17 invented a company that will be creating a fast
18 reactor, which will be using this waste to power and
19 create energy. So in some ways, this isn't even
20 waste.

21 Additionally, this transuranic fuel is a
22 solid, it cannot be, even if there was a breach in the
23 containment, it is a solid fuel, and it is covered in
24 cladding that has been submerged in water for anywhere
25 between five to ten years on average. So there really

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 is no danger to any of the water in New Mexico due to
2 this spent nuclear fuel.

3 I was at, me and four other people from
4 UNM, were at the Roswell meeting earlier or last
5 month. And we submitted a petition to the NRC with
6 approximately I believe 30 signatures on it. One of
7 those signatures was the American Nuclear Society
8 President. Thank you.

9 MR. CAMERON: Thank you very much, Dieter.
10 Thank you. Next group of speakers, Erica Leashuka,
11 Nick Maxwell. Oh, sorry. Nick Maxwell, then we'll go
12 to Don Conklin and Brandan Shaughnessy. This is Nick
13 Maxwell.

14 MR. MAXWELL: I had a piece of paper. Can
15 I come up next? Let me go get a piece of paper, I had
16 it written down.

17 MR. CAMERON: Why do you go do that and
18 we'll go and hear from Don Conklin while you're
19 getting that paper. So Nick Maxwell will be back on,
20 but we're going to hear from Don right now.

21 MR. CONKLIN: Thank you. I'm a retired
22 pastoral associate from Our Lady of Most Holy Rosary.
23 And my question is why New Mexico? Why would we dump
24 nuclear waste in New Mexico? Except for those who are
25 benefitting from this, we in New Mexico do not want

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 nuclear waste in our state.

2 New Mexico has paid its price for nuclear,
3 from the uranium miners to the windfall from Trinity
4 sites to the atomic bomb in Los Alamos, enough is
5 enough.

6 They made the decision that they want
7 nuclear plant to receive the benefits of that
8 electricity, jobs. Those states, I say to you, you
9 take care of your waste. Whether you like it or not,
10 it's your responsibility with the technology from
11 Holtec to help you.

12 MR. CAMERON: And now we have Nick
13 Maxwell.

14 MR. MAXWELL: Hello, my name is Nick
15 Maxwell. I'm one of the people of Lea County. I
16 traveled here tonight to talk to you all about a
17 couple of concerns of mine. We really don't want it.

18 I'm ashamed of how far this has gone.
19 They have actually shamed me. They claimed that they
20 support this project, and I wonder if they only
21 support this project because of the revenue sharing
22 agreement they cut with Holtec requires them to.

23 So the county kingpins over in Lea County
24 decided that we needed this. And so I'm going to
25 request of the NRC one more time to extend this

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 deadline beyond July 30 to at least a total of 180
2 days, 180 days to get information along likely
3 transportation routes including, but not limited to,
4 Dallas, Fort Worth, San Antonio, Atlanta, Boston,
5 Chicago, Cleveland, Detroit, Kansas City, Los Angeles,
6 Miami, Minneapolis, St. Paul, Nashville, New York,
7 Newark, Omaha, Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, St. Louis,
8 and that's just to name a few.

9 The opposition has been overwhelming,
10 primarily because of the risk of a fuel leak,
11 explosion, criticality, or canister breach in any of
12 these urban areas. And the questions of whether and
13 how much we the people should even bear the risk of
14 this massive scene. This should be decided in a
15 process that's truly national, visible, and far more
16 extensive than the reigning government of New Mexico.

17 I believe you quite understand what people
18 are capable of, and I keep hearing this thing about
19 security. How much security? I've heard 15 people,
20 I don't know if that's right. But I can tell you
21 this: I hope they're ready to repel anything that
22 comes their way. But let's also talk about security,
23 because it would seem as if security's going to be
24 privately provided to this company.

25 We have a security business in Hobbs, and

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 unfortunately, that security business has been tied to
2 one of the Board members of Eddy Lea Energy Alliance.
3 I could tell you a lot of things about Eddy Lea Energy
4 Alliance. They're all bad, every one of them. You
5 think we support this process, look around you. You
6 are outnumbered. Thank you.

7 MR. CAMERON: Thank you. And before we
8 ask Brandan Shaughnessy to come up. We're going to
9 put a new mic stand up here that'll make things a
10 little better for anybody. Is Brendan here? Oh,
11 Brandan, Brandan.

12 MR. SHAUGHNESSY: Chip thinks he's funny.
13 He's not. I do not consent to bringing the nation's
14 highest level of nuclear waste to New Mexico. I ask
15 that the scoping period be extended and that
16 additional hearings be added in communities on and
17 around the proposed transport routes.

18 The Environmental Impact Statement needs
19 to include maps of all possible transport. This
20 includes all methods of transport, whether it be on
21 roadways, railways, or waterways.

22 In addition, impacted areas around the
23 transport routes need their environmental impacts
24 studied. We ask to have additional scoping meetings
25 in areas that will be impacted by transport and extend

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 the scoping period so that transport communities can
2 learn about the project and have time to comment.

3 And we ask you to listen to the people of
4 New Mexico and deny Holtec's proposal. In lieu of a
5 vote, we ask that our opportunity to voice our
6 concerns at these hearings -- we have used the
7 opportunity to voice our concerns, the only
8 opportunity we have. And letters, electronic
9 comments, and we ask that you take these seriously and
10 in consideration.

11 The people have spoken and overwhelmingly
12 oppose this proposed project. We do not consent to
13 bringing the nation's highest level nuclear waste to
14 our state. Thank you.

15 MR. CAMERON: Okay, Rosemary Blanchard,
16 Pat Duncan and Hara Lovato and then Jamie Phillips.
17 This is Rosemary.

18 MS. BLANCHARD: Okay, am I in the right
19 place in relation? Good. Okay, my name's Rosemary
20 Blanchard, I am the Chair of the Albuquerque Chapter
21 of the United Nations Association, USA.

22 And I'm also a resident of Albuquerque,
23 and a mother and grandmother of people who live in
24 Albuquerque. My eleven-year-old grandson came with me
25 last night to the City Council to ask the City Council

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 to protect kids like him from the transportation of
2 nuclear waste to the city of Albuquerque. The
3 Albuquerque City Council agreed.

4 Now, I am a retired person now, but prior
5 to my retirement, one of the places I worked was in
6 the Navajo Nation. I had come there having grown up
7 in Connecticut, so it was new territory to me. And
8 one of the significant life events for me took place
9 in 1987, sitting in a meeting representing the
10 Division of Dine Education at a meeting to decide how
11 to provide services to the Navajo people who were
12 being exiled to the New Lands Chapter.

13 And an official from the federal
14 government, in this case the Indian Health Service,
15 told us that he was digging deep artesian wells for
16 their houses because of the radioactivity in the
17 aquifer that would normally be used for the water for
18 the houses in that area. This is 1987.

19 And I asked the gentleman, I said, These
20 kids are going to Sanders School. Have you told the
21 school district what you found, because the school
22 district is using that aquifer.

23 This federal official told me that the
24 federal laws did not require him to guarantee decent,
25 safe, and sanitary education facilities, only decent,

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 safe, and sanitary housing. And that he had no legal
2 obligation to tell the school district.

3 I bring this up because we need to
4 understand how our federal agencies have no
5 credibility when it comes to dealing honestly with the
6 people of the Southwest. And they cannot rebuild a
7 credibility they've never had. The only way they can
8 prove their honesty is to have the courage to store
9 this stuff where they live. Thank you.

10 MR. CAMERON: Thank you. Thank you,
11 Rosemary. Is Pat Duncan here? We're going to go to
12 Pat Duncan, and then we're going to hear from Hara.

13 MS. DUNCAN: Hi, my name is Pat Duncan,
14 and I'm speaking as a citizen. I find it difficult to
15 believe that this is actually illegal why we're going
16 ahead with this. Because technically the Holtec site
17 is a private place, private facility.

18 And basically, the spent fuel is supposed
19 to be sent to a Department of Energy site, as well as,
20 either that or DOE owns and operate and monitor a
21 retrievable storage facility. And we sit thinking
22 we're actually even here listening to this.

23 I also don't understand why the ER report
24 is not complete. It shouldn't have any copyright
25 restrictions or condoned actions on it as well. And

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 the Environmental Report is also inadequate because
2 they didn't bother to check the impacts of those fuel
3 over time. After all, 40 years is a long time, and
4 most of us in this room will be dead, to be plain.

5 And then maybe the rest of us that are
6 here, if they extend it to 120, will also be dead.
7 But we don't really particularly want to die of
8 cancer. They should be checking into what happens to
9 a fracking area and earthquakes that go to varying
10 degrees, being caused by fracking as well.

11 The NRC is breaking its mission statement
12 protecting health and safety risk from the environment
13 going ahead with this project, as far as I'm
14 concerned. I'm definitely against it, and I think we
15 should extend the comment period, as well as go along
16 with all the routes that are bringing the fuel.

17 If you look here on this paper that's been
18 handed out, it's pretty small, but it shows that New
19 Mexico got picked as the prize to send everything
20 here. But all these other states are impacted as well
21 because they bring the fuel from there as well. And
22 as an ex-California resident, I'm sorry, but
23 California can keep its own fuel. If it's so safe then
24 why don't they use it.

25 I mean, you can take your ceramic little

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 cask and put it in the other areas as well. And if
2 you notice, when you walk around your kitchen and you
3 drop a ceramic dish, what happens to it? It doesn't
4 really make me feel comfortable. Thank you very much.

5 MR. CAMERON: Now we'll move on.

6 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I wake up every
7 morning in a cold sweat, you know. And wanted a
8 chance to speak, because 85% of all the audience are
9 going to speak. And it's the correct fact of
10 everything we're doing, everything. Have you done an
11 analysis of that? It's the global warming, it's all
12 the fact that everything human being belongs to this
13 planet.

14 The nuclear industry has been the most
15 deadly, radioactive and peril-laded for this planet.
16 The reason we created the nuclear also known as the
17 atom bomb. It was hate, it's called Dust of Sin.
18 It's a deep, expertly, deep, spiritual disease that's
19 eaten into you at the molecular level, the chemical
20 level, deeper and deeper, the disease is eating into
21 the whole planet onto the atomic level.

22 They didn't know it would unravel the
23 whole world and the whole universe, so they stuck
24 methane with an atom, split the atom's heart and
25 created an exploding sun. This stuff is not something

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 that you control. This stuff is so dangerous and so
2 long-lasting, for a half a million years. Who's going
3 to have a cult of generation after generation to
4 recontain and recontain?

5 I've been fighting nuclear, my mother and
6 my father, our whole family, been fighting nuclear
7 since I was 15 years old. And now they're saying
8 we're going to make a whole new generation of usable,
9 new, small atom bombs. We already have 10,000, now
10 we're going to make a whole bunch more ways. And this
11 is atomic energy.

12 They knew, they knew that it would destroy
13 the world, and they've been making it. They knew that
14 the power plants, they knew. They said it would
15 generate waste that nobody could contain. You know,
16 is there intelligent life on this earth, or are we
17 slime mold?

18 You know, a disease is wiping out
19 everything. And nuclear, I'm going to just say, we
20 should outlaw everything that can destroy the planet.
21 Nuclear waste can destroy the planet, just as much as
22 the nuclear bombs can destroy the planet.

23 And we are in deep trouble. And as human
24 beings, we need to look each other in the eye, and if
25 there's any nuclear regulatory experts that know how

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 to contain this stuff, we'd better do it and contain
2 it where it is.

3 And don't bring it and contain it for
4 260,000 years. And the cult shifts that are willing
5 to contain it again and again. Because that stuff is
6 strong, it bombards everything. The rain bombards the
7 truck drivers and the train drivers and the people
8 passing by. Just the rain. This is the sun, it is
9 very powerful.

10 We created this, you know, and it will
11 destroy us. This will be like Mars, we'll have no
12 life, there's no microorganisms. Every inch of this
13 life is covered with blood. And every single life
14 organ is dying. What are we going to do? We only
15 have a little bit of time, and then we're going to
16 pay. Guess what? We did this, we're the people right
17 here. We couldn't stop ourselves.

18 MR. CAMERON: Okay, thank you.

19 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: We destroyed the
20 planet, or we destroyed most of life. So how are we
21 going to explain to our kids, if our kids are lucky
22 enough to survive. One in every --

23 MR. CAMERON: All right.

24 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Cancer right now,
25 is already affected.

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 MR. CAMERON: Please, please everyone.
2 Jamie, are ready? You wanted to wait till 8:10, but
3 are you okay? All right, go ahead.

4 MR. PHILIPS: I just got back in here, so
5 I didn't follow what was said earlier. But yeah, WIPP
6 is like, what, 20 years old and it's already had a
7 significant spill dealing with high-level waste.

8 And I always, we're looking at a high-
9 level waste project that was, from what I've put
10 together, proposed on the basis of bringing more waste
11 here with not really, I guess the plan is to bring
12 energy jobs. I don't really understand how they could
13 be worth it, you know.

14 And with what we're talking about with
15 high-level waste. And 20 years, the consequences of
16 that one spill that happened 3 years ago. I don't
17 know whether we can assess that yet, but you know, I'm
18 sure that there are numerous consequences that are
19 still yet to come or be detected.

20 I just want to do one quick little thing.
21 If you're listening to me clap once. If you're with,
22 if you're digital listening, can any of us here clap
23 once? Worth a try.

24 MR. CAMERON: Thank you. We're going to
25 Jim Schippers, Randella Bluehouse, Steven Verchinski,

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 and Lucia Cordova. Jim Schippers. Here's Jim.

2 MR. SCHIPPERS: Hello everyone, I'm Jim
3 Schippers. I'm an old retired geezer. Not a
4 scientist, not an anthropologist. But my stomach
5 hurts, and my stomach's been hurting a lot since I've
6 been hearing about this project. And when the stomach
7 hurts, you pay attention.

8 I just want to say that in the old days,
9 I used to be a dreamer, and I dreamt that someday
10 they'd take all this money that they're putting into
11 nuclear energy and waste disposal and buy everyone a
12 solar collector for their houses. I don't think that
13 dream's ever going to come true. But there is one
14 thing that is making my stomach feel a lot better, and
15 that's you people here tonight. Wow, it really goes
16 to show.

17 I wish I had your knowledge and your
18 information, and you've expressed yourself well, and
19 thank you very much.

20 MR. CAMERON: Randella, Randella
21 Bluehouse.

22 MS. BLUEHOUSE: Hello everyone. I came
23 here with the intention of listening, not speaking,
24 but I think it's important that we all have a voice.
25 My concern is that, well, I'm Navajo. (Native

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 language spoken.)

2 So I'm Navajo. And I know the devastation
3 of what the uranium mines have done to our community.
4 My father died of cancer. Many of our friends up
5 there died of cancer. You can begin to understand
6 what a horrible effect it would have on our community
7 here in New Mexico if something like that were to
8 happen here.

9 So I think we have a lot more to lose than
10 those wonderful people who own that little section of
11 land if they sell it, or to charge for it, maybe they
12 can gain something from it, or those industries that
13 are for profit that can profit off of our backs.

14 I think it's senseless. How can you sell
15 the wind, how can you sell the air and the water? And
16 the earth. You can't sell them. Our people were here
17 far beyond what anybody else is here. Did we sell the
18 land to you? No. It was taken.

19 And now all of sudden, it's like this is
20 my land, this is my section of land, you can't have
21 it. Law says, law this, law that. Well, the law of
22 nature says all of that doesn't exist. The law of
23 nature says we are to share and protect Mother Earth.
24 That is our nation.

25 What other people believe and what you

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 should believe is not the divine law and anybody else.
2 It's really, the reality of it is we breathe the air,
3 we drink the water, we live together, we need to
4 protect our land. And for those people that are
5 profiting off of our backs, shame on you.

6 MR. CAMERON: Steven Verchinski, and then
7 we're going to go to Ray Garduno. Garduno, thank you,
8 thank you very much.

9 MR. VERCHINSKI: My name is Steven
10 Verchinski of the Green Party US, member and National
11 Representative for New Mexico, so I may speak to our
12 party platform.

13 The Green Party strongly opposes any
14 shipment of high-level nuclear waste across the United
15 States to the proposed nuclear waste repository Yucca
16 Mountain, or any other centralized facility. The
17 Green Party believes that these proposals are part of
18 a move to still and refine a fast track commercial
19 nuclear reactor industry, providing decent, safe
20 disposal.

21 We deny that there is such a thing as safe
22 disposal of nuclear waste. We propose to make spent
23 nuclear fuel and other high-level waste safer by
24 vitrification at the site where it is produced or now
25 stored.

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 And as to why should New Mexico be helping
2 Holtec in its destructive industry when the cost of
3 nuclear power is fourteen times higher than it was
4 four decades ago. It's higher than renewables.
5 Westinghouse reactors went into bankruptcy. And my
6 UNM engineer over here, but hey, you can always work
7 at Los Alamos since our concerned politicians want more
8 nuclear weapons made.

9 Germany is shutting down their nuclear
10 power plants and fully decommissioning for the entire
11 country. This is happening despite being 20 on the
12 list of 100 carbon reduction items in the book of
13 allowances. Of the hundred almost all of them are
14 known to crack once.

15 However as Paul Hawken the author notes,
16 nuclear is a regrets solution. The regrets are
17 Chernobyl, Three Mile Island, Fukushima, Rocky Flats,
18 Browns Ferry, Windscale, Church Rock.

19 So what if we close down the facilities,
20 well there's over 2,000 of these thin-walled storage
21 canisters that are a half inch thick across the United
22 States. They can't be inspected inside or out, they
23 can't be repaired or maintained, they cannot be
24 monitored to prevent radiation leaks. The thin wall
25 stainless steel can crack and leak in short-term for

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 various environmental manufacturer's conditions.

2 They can leak 16 years after the cracks
3 start, and there's no plan in place to deal with this.
4 The NRC said this in 2014. The covert Nuclear Power
5 Plant in South Africa can't account for any container
6 leak in only 17 years.

7 Now for New Mexico and DOE, there's no
8 plan to prevent leaks in storage and transport, and no
9 plan if it does leak. You don't even have any spent
10 fuel pools here for transferring out the materials if
11 you do have a problem.

12 The infrastructure problems for
13 transportation is still not addressed. And for
14 scoping, this should also include climate impact.
15 Adequate transport and creation of new spent fuel
16 pools for emergencies at the front end and back end of
17 the processes, the transport upgrades and
18 retransporting it to a final repository.

19 And since the cement proposed, now it's
20 going to be ceramic, this is an additional climate-
21 impacting gas. And for this scoping, you must include
22 full cost accounting and a process for no corporation
23 that's currently operating nuclear power facility to
24 add this waste without including that long-term
25 costing and then their full bonding be made item by

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 item. Thank you.

2 MR. CAMERON: And Ray Garduno.

3 MR. GARDUNO: Thank you for correcting
4 that, I couldn't have said it better myself. I'm Ray
5 Garduno. And you know, I'm proud to say that Cisco
6 McSorley, Senator Cisco McSorley, was here, and he's
7 a dear friend of mine. But I ask, where the hell are
8 the rest of the elected officials?

9 You know, I served for eight years for the
10 City Council in this city. And for many years, we
11 fought all kinds of fights, and it was amazing how a
12 lot of those folks sided with the landowners, the
13 bankers, and all of those folks who I guess butter
14 their bread.

15 Let me just tell you that, I just want to
16 know, who wants this stuff? Who doesn't want this
17 stuff? Anybody taking notes? I'd like for you to
18 note that.

19 You know, for many years, we've been
20 following this issue. We've heard about it, what
21 devastation it's created in the state. There's no
22 good that's come of it. And yet, we have plenty of
23 people who want to tell us that we're wrong. Well,
24 let me tell you, this stuff kills. It'll kill every
25 one of us.

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 And it's interesting to follow all of
2 these acronyms, abbreviations, and assumptions. You
3 know, it's harder than reading a Russian novel, to try
4 and remember all that. I suggest something simple.
5 Instead of going through all this dog and pony stuff,
6 the folks that want this stuff, one of these mornings,
7 take the high-level stuff, sit, and then if nothing
8 happens, we'll go on with the plans that you guys
9 have.

10 Otherwise, let's just make sure that we
11 follow the money. You know, we've been proudly told
12 by folks that, you know, it's going to be great. It's
13 going to be great for the Southeast. Some of these
14 folks, guess what? Or are landowners, right, or
15 bankers or contractors. Or they are betting on the
16 fact that we're done and we'll accept all this stuff.

17 And what for? For a hundred jobs. I
18 mean, that's ridiculous. We're supposed to go in
19 there, nonsense. Otra vez, gracias.

20 MR. CAMERON: For next group, we're going
21 to start with Susan Rodriguez and go to Tom Stark,
22 Kevin Kirby, Anna Maldonado, Susan Tiano, Robin
23 Seydel, and Hope Alvarado. So how about Susan
24 Rodriguez. Tom Stark, and if Susan comes back, we'll
25 put her up. But this is Tom.

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 MR. STARK: Hi, Tom Stark. I'm a retired
2 firefighter here in Albuquerque, NM. Twenty years I
3 was paramedic, 20 out of the 21 years. I've lived
4 pretty much my whole life here in New Mexico, and on
5 our license plate, it says, Land of Enchantment. It
6 doesn't say Land of Nuclear Waste.

7 And I wonder if, especially amongst the
8 poorest states, that the federal government would be
9 trying to shove this stuff down our throat all the
10 time. I just get this, I mean it's wrong, I think
11 it's wrong for the people. It's wrong for the
12 economy. We should be growing more towards nuclear
13 energy -- or excuse me, more toward renewable energy.

14 Store this waste where it was made, in
15 plants where the nuclear energy is made. Why does it
16 need to be transported? That's just one more way of
17 out getting it out, and then before making bad things
18 happen. Keep it where it's at. I'm tired of having
19 New Mexico be the dumping ground for nuclear energy.

20 MR. CAMERON: Kevin, Kevin Kirby.

21 MR. KIRBY: Great idea, Ed Mayer. Just
22 lend me a few bucks and I'll take your nuclear waste
23 and dump it in New Mexico.

24 Holtec is a really slick idea. Think
25 about it. Moving nuclear waste may simply be a slick

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 and easy way of moving costs and shifting liability
2 away from the nuclear power plants that created that
3 waste. And who can stand to create that waste? Does
4 the liability stay with the waste?

5 A couple of other questions. How much
6 insurance will the transportation company carry to
7 move this waste? Is it enough? How much insurance do
8 the container manufacturers carry on their containers?
9 Is it enough? And how much insurance is Holtec
10 carrying on this project and for how long? Six
11 hundred years? Is it enough?

12 Remember, nuclear power plants don't pay
13 for their own insurance. It's underwritten by the US
14 Government. In other words, we pay for nuclear power
15 insurance.

16 Bottom line, moving radioactive waste from
17 one place to another doesn't make the waste go away.
18 We're just rearranging the nuclear deck chairs on the
19 SS Holtec.

20 MR. CAMERON: Anna Maldonado. This is
21 Anna.

22 MS. MALDONADO: Hi, my name is Anna
23 Maldonado, and I'm here, I'm a UNM alum, and I'm
24 representing UNM's Mission Innovation Initiative.

25 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: We can't hear you.

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 MS. MALDONADO: I'm here representing the
2 UNM Mission Innovation Initiative and the Nuclear
3 Study Group. And so basically on why I'm here today
4 is I want to address the issue of transport and
5 toxicity.

6 On a daily basis, we're faced with so many
7 different toxins in our environment, and you know,
8 basically, you know, GMOs, things like that, just
9 various toxins. And I feel that with transport
10 issues, with transport that, you know, from different,
11 coming from different states and things like that will
12 put our community at risk and other people in other
13 states at risk as well.

14 And I also represent farmers in the
15 community, and I look to support our farmers. And
16 they're already at risk, they're already facing
17 challenges like climate change and drought, GMOs,
18 pesticides, the large Iowa chemical companies. And
19 just recently, Dupont is buying out Monsanto.

20 And so basically there's things like that
21 that they face, and that they get, if they get,
22 basically if there's an accident, you know, in the
23 transport process, then they can be faced with a
24 higher level of toxicity with farming. That's going
25 to affect everybody, especially, you know, we support

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 local farmers.

2 And so with the radiation and the nuclear
3 waste, it's far-reaching. And I can give an example.
4 My doctor told me, she said that, she diagnosed me
5 with acute and chronic radiation poisoning. And I
6 don't know how that happened. We were trying to
7 figure it out. Basically, my mom, she grew up in the
8 Curro and she's one of the downlanders. And that's
9 how far-reaching radiation can be.

10 And so we don't need any more of that, we
11 don't any more of this radiation toxicity in our
12 environment.

13 MR. CAMERON: This is Susan Tiano.

14 MS. TIANO: Hello, my name is Susan Tiano.
15 I was a professor of sociology of UNM for 35 years and
16 retired a couple years ago. And I would like to speak
17 a little bit more about the sociology of all of this.

18 I'll leave it to the technical engineering
19 people to talk about whether these canisters are safe
20 or the transportation issues that are good or bad.
21 But I want us to think a little bit about three
22 sociological points. I could probably talk forever,
23 but I'll try to make this short.

24 One is that if we sweep away the, I'll
25 call it anti-wealth, or the pollution that these guys

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 are creating in their own town from the spent fuel.
2 If we whisk it away and put it into New Mexico, it's
3 going to keep being generated.

4 One of the reasons that the nuclear energy
5 industry has slowed down the pace of new factory
6 production is that, or new nuclear site or plans , you
7 know what they call them right now, but nuclear plans
8 being generated was that there was no place to put the
9 spent fuel. If we whisk it away and dump it in New
10 Mexico, they're going to keep generating it over and
11 over.

12 The second point I want to make is our
13 perception to the rest of the world. I did my, a lot
14 of my studies in the East and I've lived in lots of
15 places, I'm actually from Los Alamos, which may help
16 explain why I'm a little bit anti-nuclear.

17 But most people, most places look at New
18 Mexico and think we're idiots and that it's very
19 unsafe here. Many people have said, Well, at least
20 I'm not in New Mexico, at least I don't glow in the
21 dark. At least I haven't been exposed to radiation my
22 entire life.

23 If we do this Holtec activity or
24 initiative, it's going to hurt tourism in the
25 community, especially for parklands, none of these

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 jobs matters if, for 90 jobs we're going to screw up
2 our tourist industry.

3 The third point I want to make is actually
4 the socio-political business about we can't really
5 trust the government. I'm sorry, NRC. You lied to us
6 about WIPP, and I'm afraid you're going to lie to us
7 about Holtec. We are seeing deregulation going on all
8 across our Administration right now.

9 There's a final thing I want to make,
10 point I want to make about Holtec. This came up on
11 their website, and it's talking about the meetings
12 that they had in, their open house scoping meetings in
13 Roswell, Hobbs, and Carlsbad.

14 And it says, The Agency felt unequivocal
15 support from local elected officials, community
16 leaders, members of the public, and university
17 students. Joining the few local dissenters were
18 activists from Texas and California, whose opposition
19 lacked clarity and specificity.

20 In other words, if we object to this,
21 we're activists from out of state? I would suggest to
22 you that the actors from out of state that are the
23 biggest threats to our environment are Holtec
24 International.

25 MR. CAMERON: Here's Robin Seydel, and

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 then we're going to hear from Hope Alvarado.

2 MS. SEYDEL: Hi, folks. I want to thank
3 you all for showing up today because it's really short
4 notice and to see about 200 of you fill all these
5 chairs and speak against the approval of this
6 application. Most heartening and hopeful, and I want
7 to thank you all for being here.

8 And I also wanted to set the record
9 straight. As the previous speaker noted, Holtec in
10 their press release, after the three meetings done in
11 southern part of the state, said there were very
12 little opposition. And I was there, and 90% or 95% of
13 all the people who spoke were opposed to the Holtec
14 site. And some of those --.

15 Some were indeed from here in Albuquerque
16 because that was, at the time, the NRC had refused to
17 hold hearings up here, even though we have a great
18 railroad crossroads, and we were going to be part of
19 the transportation issue. And so thank you NRC for,
20 thanks to our two senators for pressuring you for
21 having this hearing. But thank you so much for having
22 this hearing.

23 And I want to speak just briefly to the
24 health issues that a lot of people have talked about.
25 And a lot of people are talking about accidents and

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 how safe this is all going to be, and we know that
2 there are going to be accidents. But even if there
3 are not accidents, the NRC allows routine,
4 permissible, acceptable releases.

5 And I'll just read for a minute here, NRC
6 regulations allow up to ten million rad per hour of
7 gamma radiation to be emitted, about 62 meters away
8 from a shooting test experienced during the --.
9 That's about one to two test x-rays' worth of gamma
10 radiation per hour of exposure. And that's NRC
11 regulations.

12 I also want to read, Since the radiation
13 dissipates with the square root of the distance, this
14 means that the NRC regulations allow for up to 200
15 millirad per hour at the surface of the cask exterior.
16 That's 20 to 40 chest x-rays' worth of gamma radiation
17 per hour which the NRC allows to stream out of the
18 casks' surface.

19 And I was talking, at the Roswell meeting
20 I believe it was, to John McKirgan from the NRC, right
21 there, right, yeah. And he informed me that there are
22 vents in these casks, because they have to vent some
23 of the gasses that are around. So we know that some
24 of these routine releases are going to occur.

25 And you know, all of these permissible and

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 acceptable and routine releases are done at cost-
2 benefit analysis. And that cost-benefit analysis
3 weighs public health and human health, thank you, give
4 me one more second, against the profits of the nuclear
5 industry.

6 And I say that there is no safe level
7 radiation, that cost-benefit analysis is not
8 appropriate, and we should not accept your permissible
9 levels of exposure. Thank you all.

10 MR. CAMERON: Thank you.

11 MS. ALVARADO: (Native languages spoken.)
12 My name is Hope Alvarado. I am tribally enrolled in
13 the Diné Nation, but I also belong to the Mescalero
14 Apache and Comanche Nations. And I am tribally
15 enrolled underneath the Navajo Nation and we do not
16 consent.

17 (Applause.)

18 MS. ALVARADO: As a member of the Red
19 Nation my organization does not consent. My
20 organization is an international grassroots
21 organization and we do not consent.

22 I speak for my entire family, who is
23 spread across the entire Navajo Nation, as well as
24 other reservations, as well as other townspeople, and
25 we do not consent.

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 Our bodies, our Mother Earth, our
2 children, our elders, and all our nonhuman relatives
3 do not consent. We are not a sacrifice zone for toxic
4 waste, nuclear --

5 (Applause.)

6 MS. ALVARADO: -- waste, fracking, and the
7 list goes on. We are concerned about the
8 transportation risks, the permanent contamination.
9 And due to the people have been here since time
10 immemorial, yet there is no prior informed consent.
11 There was no tribal consultation or consent.

12 New Mexico is not only home to the Diné
13 people, but 19 pueblos, the Jicarillo and Mescalero
14 Apache Nations and the Ute Nation. Why has there been
15 no government-to-government consultation? We are
16 sovereign --

17 (Applause.)

18 MS. ALVARADO: We are the original
19 caregivers of this land and we care about future
20 generations to come and we will not allow for just
21 greed and money to contaminate our Mother Earth. We
22 do not want radioactive waste, Native and non-Native
23 alike.

24 It is a human right to clean air, land,
25 and water. Reference the United Nation's Declaration

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 of Indigenous Rights. If you bring this here, we will
2 fight it and we will teach our children and our
3 grandchildren to fight your capitalism, environmental
4 racism and injustice.

5 (Applause.)

6 MS. ALVARADO: You don't need to have a
7 nuclear engineering or science degree in order to
8 recognize that this is racism. This is environmental
9 injustice. There are over 100 uranium mines and other
10 forms of toxic waste spread across New Mexico and we
11 demand, no more.

12 (Applause.)

13 MR. CAMERON: Thank you. Thank you, Hope.
14 Okay. Our next group is Jennifer Marley, Michael
15 Pitula, Torgen Johnson, Leona Morgan, and Willard
16 Hunter. Jennifer?

17 MS. MARLEY: Good evening. I'd just like
18 to acknowledge that I (unintelligible) was located,
19 but hundreds and hundreds of acres of land was stolen
20 from us by the U.S. Government to build the largest
21 nuclear bomb facility in the country, Los Alamos
22 National Labs.

23 This land was blatantly stolen from us to
24 be sold for a pitiful price. And to this day, it gets
25 used to contaminate some of our most sacred sites. If

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 you all are familiar with the Bandelier National
2 Monument --

3 PARTICIPANT: Can you slow down just a
4 little?

5 MS. MARLEY: Yes.

6 PARTICIPANT: We can't hear you.

7 MS. MARLEY: If you are familiar with the
8 Bandelier National Monument, you should know that
9 there are at least three parts to it that are wholly
10 contaminated, some to the point that we can't even
11 visit our own dwellings without an escort and full
12 protective gear.

13 So, that being said, it's no -- New Mexico
14 is not new to the dangers of nuclear poison. The
15 nuclear bomb was created here, it was first dropped
16 here, and most of the waste is stored here.

17 New Mexico and the nuclear industry is set
18 up as such that nuclear weapons can be produced and
19 disposed of all within the state. This place is
20 nothing more than a sacrifice zone the U.S. Government
21 and to all these companies.

22 (Applause.)

23 MS. MARLEY: My people, not just the people
24 of Los Alamos, but also the people of Santa Clara, the
25 people of (unintelligible), the people of Cochiti,

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 have already been suffering for generations from the
2 impacts that this has had on us.

3 It's contaminated our groundwater. It's
4 contaminated our air and soil. It's moved downstream.
5 People here in Albuquerque are still suffering from
6 the effects of Los Alamos National Labs. This stuff
7 is not regulated the way it should be. And if it was,
8 people wouldn't be dying at alarming rates. Our
9 elders wouldn't have cancer.

10 There wouldn't be inter-generational
11 genetic trauma that's been done to us because of the
12 impacts that mothers -- because of the changes that we
13 are -- radiation that mothers pass on to their
14 children.

15 This stays with us forever and alters our
16 DNA. And it targets Native people and poor brown
17 communities disproportionately.

18 (Applause.)

19 MS. MARLEY: That's all I have to say.

20 MR. CAMERON: Thank you. Is this Torgen?
21 Torgen, let see, is Michael? Yes. Oh,

22 MR. PITULA: So, first, you're welcome,
23 NRC. Last month was tax day and you're welcome for
24 being allowed to have the means to do this with that
25 money. And, frankly, this is what you decide to do

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 with the money?

2 I'm here tonight in solidarity with my
3 indigenous sisters, people of color, other siblings
4 who oppose the environmental and economic racism of
5 this plan.

6 (Applause.)

7 MR. PITULA: I moved here about four years
8 ago from Illinois, Illinois is one of the leading
9 states that uses nuclear power. I was never taught
10 about any of this.

11 I was appalled when I came here and was
12 educated by New Mexicans about a debt that we owe. I
13 was totally appalled at everything that people have
14 shared here tonight. And it's clear that my state,
15 where I came from, where I was born, has to share some
16 of this burden. I oppose Holtec's plan.

17 (Applause.)

18 MR. PITULA: First of all, the EIS has to
19 include the climate impacts of a two to four degree
20 Celsius increase that administration after
21 administration is locking us into, probably not been
22 factored in.

23 Second of all, the comment period needs to
24 be extended calendar-wise and geographically. As has
25 been established. And finally, this just shouldn't be

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 done.

2 As has been said, New Mexico's a sacrifice
3 zone. And it's really disingenuous of Holtec and the
4 NRC to bring a waste zone and say, to call it economic
5 development.

6 (Laughter.)

7 MR. PITULA: This is the second time that
8 I've had to hear, like, we're bringing a dump and it's
9 going to be great. And the first one was defeated.
10 So, you're next.

11 So, either this is unsafe and, therefore,
12 it should not be done. Or it's safe in that the
13 canisters are safe and shouldn't be moved, right? And
14 in that case, it's a boondoggle, it's a corporate
15 boondoggle.

16 So, I'll close by saying that, this is not
17 a democracy, this is sham democracy, this is
18 capitalism. And under capitalism, our health, our
19 safety, our equity are not the primary concern.

20 Maximizing corporate profits to
21 shareholders of companies like Holtec is what is the
22 primary concern. That's usually done by cutting
23 costs. Cutting costs on labor, cutting costs on
24 materials, cutting costs on safety. And this could
25 best be described as privatizing the benefits and

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 socializing the costs.

2 (Applause.)

3 MR. PITULA: Holtec will reap the benefits,
4 along with the NRC, and the costs will be socialized
5 to all of us. But we are here to struggle and the
6 struggle will continue. Thank you.

7 (Applause.)

8 MR. CAMERON: Thank you. Thank you. And
9 Torgen?

10 MR. JOHNSON: I'm Torgen Johnson from San
11 Diego. I'm a father of four and trained at Harvard as
12 an urban planner. I also represent the Samuel
13 Lawrence Foundation tonight.

14 A few days ago, I was watching a video of
15 the Roswell NRC hearing. And I couldn't believe it,
16 I thought, I've got to get on a plane and share some
17 information with all of you.

18 We're experiencing the same kind of crisis
19 in California, San Onofre. For over 40 years, the
20 communities around San Onofre have had no say in any
21 of the decisions around the nuclear power plant.

22 And now, with the waste plan, which has a
23 short-term plan, which is to leave it down at the
24 beach, 100 feet from where children play in canisters
25 that are susceptible to cracking and hydrogen

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 explosions, we'll give you the technical info on all
2 that. But it's planned to come here, to New Mexico
3 and from what we've heard, this is a happy community
4 looking forward to receiving it.

5 So, I'm pleased to connect with everybody
6 here and I just want to let you know that we have a
7 tremendous amount of research that we've done over the
8 past many years.

9 We have a great group of people in
10 California and in Japan that we've built coalitions
11 with, including the Prime Minister of Japan who dealt
12 with the Fukushima disaster. I will tell you that
13 he's on your side too.

14 We did eight conferences with him, three
15 in the United States and the rest in Japan. We also
16 worked with the former Chairman of the U.S. Nuclear
17 Regulatory Commission, who spoke on behalf of the
18 public safety.

19 What we found with our experience so far
20 with Holtec is, they've made a lot of promises and
21 have not delivered. They've talked about emergency
22 response actions that are virtually impossible,
23 because the facilities that they've promised to deal
24 with these leaking canisters, that facility was
25 demolished in 2007.

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 So, we're listening to things like this,
2 just like you are. And I want to state, these are
3 upscale communities along the beach, that have
4 political outreach and connection, and even they're
5 marginalized.

6 This is the intense issues that all of us
7 are up against. And what I would encourage is that
8 California and New Mexico join forces and address
9 this.

10 (Applause.)

11 MR. JOHNSON: There are a lot of very sharp
12 people digging into NRC documents and pulling out
13 relevant facts. And I'll give you just a few. The
14 fuel that they're loading in these canisters that
15 they'd like to send your way is called high burnup
16 fuel.

17 It stays in reactors longer and when it's
18 pulled out, the fuel is more damaged. And it gets
19 these hydrides that build up on the surface of the
20 fuel.

21 I'll finish right now. I have six bullets
22 of -- so, you're being handed a time-bomb. And we'll
23 share more information on that with you. Those all
24 come from the Nuclear Waste Technical Review Board,
25 the 7/20/17 report.

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 I hope to get the chance to talk with many
2 of you after this, I only have three minutes, like we
3 do in California. Thank you.

4 (Applause.)

5 MR. CAMERON: Thank you very much. And
6 Leona? Do you want to bring everybody up?

7 (Laughter.)

8 MS. MORGAN: Good evening. My name is
9 Leona Morgan and I am here with the Nuclear Issues
10 Study Group. We have attended four out of five of
11 these NRC meetings.

12 And just for some of you who were not at
13 any of these other meetings, I just want to say, thank
14 you for being here tonight, especially everyone who is
15 staying around to listen to all the talks, because
16 this is a long process.

17 And I'm really glad that Chip got an
18 official timekeeper, because there's a lot of issues.
19 I think we're going to comment on later, about the
20 process. The issues we've had with these NRC
21 meetings, not just the timekeeping, the facilitation,
22 the locations, and the lack of meetings, and the lack
23 of notice.

24 We only had about ten days to get folks to
25 the meeting in Gallup last night. And we had 100

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 people there talking about impacts from uranium
2 mining. Which will probably be thrown out, because
3 they're not germane to the scope of the EIS for this
4 site.

5 But I want to ask the NRC to consider all
6 of the comments you heard last night, because they're
7 very important to hear directly from the people who
8 have been impacted the most. Especially people
9 dealing with uranium mining, because we have already
10 lived with these impacts for decades.

11 We don't know what Holtec is proposing
12 down south, because not all of it is available in the
13 ER that's online. So, some of the issues that we
14 have, all need to be included to the public. We need
15 to know all of -- we need to have access to all of the
16 pages of all of their applications.

17 And then, there's another issue with the
18 location of the Ogallala Aquifer. I think any tests
19 that are done need to be also vetted by a neutral
20 third-party. So, we don't trust Holtec. And I think
21 you've heard tonight that we don't --

22 (Applause.)

23 MS. MORGAN: And so, we need to do some
24 studies on the actual location of the Ogallala
25 Aquifer, as well as have third-party investigators and

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 researchers look at all of the impacts to the
2 environment, the wild life, and as I keep mentioning,
3 to the sacred places that you'll be passing.

4 We'd like to see all of their transport
5 routes, whether they're on roads, waterways, or
6 railways, published, because how can we comment on
7 things that are not publicly noticed?

8 They're not available to us and all of the
9 other people along the transport routes. So, for that
10 reason, we need more meetings in communities along
11 transport routes, as well as an extension to the
12 comment period, so that they have time to learn about
13 this project and the possible transport through their
14 communities.

15 Also, I'd like to request that you all do
16 an actual test of the cask, the drop from 30 feet is
17 something that is very questionable. We would like to
18 see an actual test of what would happen if one of
19 these casks were dropped from a height of higher than
20 30 feet and how much radiation is actually coming out,
21 because we know that we are going to be exposed all
22 along the route.

23 And we do not consent to these exposures,
24 we do not consent to these additional x-rays, we do
25 not consent to the project or the transport.

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 And I just want to say thank you, because
2 last night, I also said thank you for coming out, and
3 I hope that you continue to do so, because we need a
4 lot more of these meetings.

5 It's ridiculous what we have to go through
6 to get people to these meetings, when you give us such
7 short notice and people don't have time to review the
8 entire application. So, please extend the comment
9 period and have more public meetings. Thank you.

10 (Applause.)

11 MR. CAMERON: Thank you. Thank you very
12 much, Leona. And Willard? Mr. Willard Hunter? Thank
13 you.

14 MR. HUNTER: My name is Willard Hunter. I
15 am a proud member of Veterans for Peace.

16 (Applause.)

17 MR. HUNTER: When I talk about this issue,
18 I always start out with a joke. One day, all the
19 parts of the body were arguing about which was the
20 most important.

21 And the brain said, well, I'm the most
22 important, because I do all the thinking. The heart
23 said, no, I'm the most important, because I pump all
24 the blood.

25 Finally, the asshole chimed up and said,

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 I'm the most important part of the body. All the
2 parts of the body laughed, so the asshole shut down.

3 (Laughter.)

4 MR. HUNTER: So, three or four days later,
5 the brain got really queasy, the heart got very
6 sluggish. Finally, all the parts of the body said,
7 asshole, you are the most important part of the body.

8 And it's a silly joke, but it's a very
9 profound insight. And that is that any living system
10 has to be able to get rid of its waste in order to
11 continue to exist. And that's also true for nuclear
12 power plants.

13 And we know, from the very beginning 72
14 years ago, that that has always been the problem with
15 the nuclear power plants. And it continues in 2018 to
16 be the major problem with anything related to nuclear.

17 So, we know the government -- and it has
18 deep pockets behind it. It has the federal
19 government. Holtec International, we know is a for-
20 profit company. And, as far as I'm concerned, it will
21 walk away from an accident, just like the uranium
22 mining companies did back in the 1940s and 1950s.

23 (Applause.)

24 MR. HUNTER: The point there is that the
25 NRC needs to require something like a \$2 billion

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 surety bond that the company puts up if it's going to
2 build this facility. And if this project is so good,
3 why doesn't Holtec International just put these
4 canisters at its Camden, New Jersey headquarters?

5 (Applause.)

6 MR. HUNTER: And if a permanent storage
7 facility is developed, how will the spent tube rods be
8 moved? And we know, we know that if it goes into this
9 area, that is going to become the de facto permanent
10 storage area, and it's only designed to be an interim
11 facility.

12 And finally, I say (native language
13 spoken). We lost the fight against WIPP, we cannot
14 afford to lose this fight against Holtec
15 International.

16 (Applause.)

17 MR. CAMERON: Thank you. All right. Next
18 group is Laura Watchempino, Tommi Tejada. This is --
19 here she is.

20 MS. WATCHEMPINO: Thank you to the Nuclear
21 Regulatory Commission and to those of you that are
22 staying with us. I respectfully submit some comments
23 tonight that I will followup with more comments. And
24 I actually wanted to give my time to the gentleman
25 from California to tell us more, but I do need to get

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 this on the record.

2 I live in the Grants Uranium Mining
3 District in Northwestern New Mexico. And our area,
4 like everywhere else that was talked about that deals
5 with the nuclear fuel chain, whether it's the
6 generation of power, the uranium mining,
7 transportation, or the disposal of waste, we should
8 not have to risk the contamination of our land, our
9 waterways, air, the health of our plants, wildlife,
10 and livestock, from the transport and storage of this
11 highly hazardous material.

12 It poses a long-term risk to present and
13 future generations and it was very disheartening to
14 hear about the trans-generational impacts. The path
15 -- leaving this legacy problem for future generations
16 is also very disturbing, because that's not the kind
17 of legacy that many of us want to leave behind.

18 (Applause.)

19 MS. WATCHEMPINO: All spent nuclear fuel
20 storage and interim disposal poses future retrieval
21 risk after a permanent repository is finally opened,
22 because those fragile, thin-walled barrier casks are
23 very likely to be leaking.

24 And I have been reading about the problems
25 with the same cask at the San Onofre Power Plant in

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 California. The consolidated interim storage is not
2 the solution.

3 Interim transport and storage of dangerous
4 high-level radioactive waste is an illusory solution.
5 It's only going to expose more communities along the
6 transport route to the dangerous radiation.

7 Once these casks, if they ever are removed
8 to a permanent repository, it's going to be even more
9 dangerous, because it's very likely that those casks
10 will crack and leak.

11 The NRC, it seems, wants to abdicate its
12 responsibility for protecting our human health and the
13 environment from the spent nuclear fuel that's
14 accumulating at nuclear power plants around the
15 country and to relieve itself of liability for failing
16 to find permanent homes for this long-lived
17 radioactive waste.

18 It's an environmental injustice to dump it
19 on New Mexico when past and present generations are
20 already suffering daily exposures from the 97 legacy
21 uranium mines and uranium mills in the Grants Mining
22 District.

23 And several generations of New Mexicans in
24 the Tularosa Basin that were exposed to radioactive
25 ash and fallout from the atomic bomb tests without

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 their knowledge or consent are also suffering.

2 Workers in the uranium mines and National
3 Labs, members of our Armed Forces, have been exposed
4 to dangerous radioactive material without their
5 consent and continue to suffer health impacts.

6 Holtec International is a Limited
7 Liability Company, and its partner, the Eddy Lea
8 Energy Alliance is also a Limited Liability Company.
9 So --

10 MR. CAMERON: Could I get you to finish up,
11 Laura?

12 MS. WATCHEMPINO: Okay, thank you. I do
13 not consent and our communities do not consent to this
14 project. Thank you.

15 (Applause.)

16 MR. CAMERON: Thank you. Thank you, Laura.
17 Tommi? And then, Tsosie next after Tommi. And then,
18 Kevin.

19 MS. TEJEDA: I am speaking against this
20 proposed project. There are numerous reasons why this
21 project should not move forward, but the reason I'd
22 like to speak toward is the nuclear legacy and history
23 of New Mexico and its lack of accountability to the
24 people and environment, who bear the brunt of the
25 unavoidable and inevitable consequences of nuclear

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 activity.

2 We have a deplorable track record when it
3 comes to owning up, to cleaning up, and caring for
4 those who have experienced cross-generational
5 sickness, such as the Tularosa Basin Downwinders and
6 others.

7 There is no reason I see to trust that a
8 private company will fare any better in such matters.
9 Thank you.

10 (Applause.)

11 MR. CAMERON: Thank you. And, Tsosie?

12 MR. TSIHHNAHSINNIE: Over here.

13 MR. CAMERON: There he is.

14 MR. TSIHHNAHSINNIE: My name is Tsosie
15 Tsihnhahsinnie. My comments are going to be pretty
16 brief. I am opposed to the nuclear waste dump site by
17 Holtec. And I think that nuclear energy, the waste,
18 if it was treated as other hazardous waste, such as
19 asbestos, they would have to stop producing it.

20 (Applause.)

21 MR. TSIHHNAHSINNIE: And also, there were
22 some -- someone was talking about the nuclear plant in
23 Georgia, they had gone into bankruptcy and they had
24 actually lost \$9 billion. And if you think about what
25 \$9 billion could do for solar or wind projects in the

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 United States --

2 (Applause.)

3 MR. TSIHHNAHSINNIE: I also reiterate what
4 a few were saying about states that choose to build
5 nuclear reactors, if they choose to build nuclear
6 reactors, they need to also commit to taking care of
7 their own waste.

8 (Applause.)

9 MR. TSIHHNAHSINNIE: I would like to also
10 firmly ask for the NRC to extend the hearings to other
11 states where the transportation is going to happen and
12 will affect the other populations.

13 When I think about producing energy and
14 the research and the delivery, I want to feel good
15 about it. I don't want to have a lump in my throat or
16 like a tightness in my chest or anything.

17 I want to be able to say, have the same
18 feeling I have with wind and solar and/or geothermal
19 energy. When I think of Iceland and I think of their
20 geothermal activities there, I'm sure some of the
21 innovations, they're from Iceland. This is what I'd
22 like for New Mexico.

23 Also, with the, I guess, with the NRC and
24 the nuclear industry, I would say that, in your
25 planning, I believe there is a flawed element in

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 planning.

2 If you are producing nuclear waste and you
3 haven't thought out the cost and where you're going to
4 put it in the future, this is not only a very flawed
5 way, as it has been in the past, it's in keeping with
6 the future. Thank you very much.

7 (Applause.)

8 MR. CAMERON: Thank you very much. Is
9 Kevin Bean?

10 MR. BEAN: All right. I think the Nuclear
11 Regulatory Commission should, as a Commission, for
12 states that have a nuclear facility require that those
13 states make a binding commitment to transitioning to
14 100 percent renewable energy.

15 (Applause.)

16 MR. BEAN: And I think the NRC can do,
17 because the NRC, like every government agency, has
18 authority under the law and under the Constitution, to
19 protect people's health, safety, and welfare.

20 That is the government's primary
21 responsibility. The Department of Energy has not
22 unfortunately taken that responsibility, the federal
23 government has not carried out that responsibility.

24 The Nuclear Regulatory Commission can and
25 should, as condition of approving this project, make

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 that happen. And you can make that happen, because
2 you're in charge of a serious problem, something has
3 to be done with it, make that a condition that we deal
4 with this problem once and for all.

5 Right now we have to address the real
6 problem and address it in a holistic manner and make
7 that a condition for states that want to participate
8 in this project.

9 MR. CAMERON: Thank you. Thank you, Kevin.

10 (Applause.)

11 MR. CAMERON: All right. The next group is
12 John Comstock, Sarah Kelly, Michael Holland, Melissa
13 Tso, and Noel Marquez. John?

14 MR. COMSTOCK: Okay. Hello, my name is
15 John Comstock, and I'm a former teacher at Highland
16 High School. I'm also a former railway employee. And
17 I worked for the railroad, the Chicago, Milwaukee, St.
18 Paul, and Pacific, for three years.

19 And I witnessed numerous derailments, and
20 that's my contribution tonight. I really appreciate
21 all the comments that have been made, thoughtful
22 comments.

23 I think this planned site is a poor idea
24 and I agree that there should be more discussion in
25 the various places that the nuclear waste would be

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 transported through. Thanks everybody for being here
2 and for caring about this state, for caring about your
3 fellow person.

4 (Applause.)

5 MR. CAMERON: Thank you. Thank you, John.
6 Sarah? Sarah Kelly? Michael? Michael Holland? And
7 Melissa?

8 MS. KELLY: Did you say Sarah Kelly again?

9 MR. CAMERON: I'm sorry, I can't hear you.

10 MS. KELLY: I'm sorry, did you say Sarah
11 Kelly again? Maybe I didn't hear you.

12 MR. CAMERON: I just called Sarah Kelly.

13 MS. KELLY: Ok, I didn't hear if she went
14 or not.

15 MR. CAMERON: Yes, go ahead. Go ahead.

16 MS. KELLY: So, it's wonderful that all of
17 these speakers have had things with which I strongly
18 agree, because I don't speak in front of large crowds
19 very well. In fact, even more poorly.

20 But I will say, environmental racism is
21 not exactly what it is, although it's not quite what
22 it is, because New Mexico is too -- it's not just
23 about someone's race, but whether or not they were so
24 poorly cared for or disorganized that even if they
25 were decently informed, really don't have the time or

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 means to stand up for themselves.

2 But people were not informed, were not
3 informed at all. So, people were not informed, but
4 environmental racism, reiterating all the points that
5 were made that don't all come to mind right now. This
6 is a terrible idea. We are not interested. Send it
7 to, if you have to send it somewhere, Texas.

8 (Laughter.)

9 MS. KELLY: The people who create this
10 waste should be storing it. They make it, they can
11 store it. Thank you.

12 (Applause.)

13 MR. CAMERON: Thank you. Thank you. I'll
14 call Michael Holland and Melissa Tso, again, but I
15 don't think they're -- oh, this is Melissa, okay. And
16 next, we'll go to Noel.

17 MS. TSO: Hi, everybody. My name is
18 Melissa Tso and I am a member of the Navajo Nation,
19 have been for the past three years. I just wanted to
20 come here, I literally just walked through the door,
21 and I wanted to express my opinion as an Indigenous
22 American here in the United States.

23 I want to -- again, I don't know what
24 comments you're looking for, but I want everybody to
25 recognize that indigenous communities have been

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 affected continuously, over and over by environmental
2 racism, as a way to further erase our people, to
3 further genocide.

4 We are on the front lines, because we are
5 impacted by uranium mines, we're impacted by -- I
6 don't know if you've been familiar with the different
7 abandoned sites on Navajo Nation, but it's our
8 national government and it's continuing, sadly.

9 And like someone said earlier, we need to
10 have more meetings like this. And I hate to see that
11 these meetings are not advertised as well as they
12 should be. Like, more members from the community
13 should be here, and not to consult with us, but to ask
14 for our permission.

15 Like I said, this is indigenous land and
16 we still, to this day, are under occupation and always
17 remember that. Thank you.

18 (Applause.)

19 MR. CAMERON: Thank you. And Noel Marquez?

20 MR. MARQUEZ: I am from Artesia, New
21 Mexico, same place as John over there. And I've been
22 to four out of the five NRC meetings. In Roswell, the
23 oil companies came out against the Holtec plan because
24 geology is unsuitable.

25 Sinking lands as much as four inches due

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 to fracking and then, something they hardly ever speak
2 about is the water flooding of potash mines in Eddy
3 County and Lea County. This has caused a lot of
4 severe sinkholes. Carlsbad is in the middle of a
5 sinkhole problem due to injection wells.

6 The dairies came out against Holtec.
7 There's a lot of valuable business, in counties, a
8 prosperous community, 55 jobs. It's madness. And the
9 dairies spoke about contamination of feed, cow milk,
10 disease, all caused by radiation.

11 And the worst part is that still 80
12 percent of our Southeast communities know nothing of
13 the Holtec plan. They're just not being informed.
14 It's something that's being rushed to reach a quick
15 settlement of bringing this poison to our lands.

16 In Gallup last night, I was not there, but
17 you can watch it online, Holtec, they had a beautiful
18 livestream, and the community spoke strongly about the
19 impact of the uranium mining, contamination on the
20 Navajo Nation. They have been suffering for over 80
21 years from environmental injustice there.

22 And then, in Carlsbad, after the pro-
23 business Holtec group spoke, they froze our butts in
24 the garage.

25 (Laughter.)

1 MR. MARQUEZ: And we will never forget
2 that. They have no idea about how to regulate the air
3 conditioning. They want to be in charge of storing
4 the worst poison in the world, but they can't control
5 the air conditioning.

6 (Laughter.)

7 MR. MARQUEZ: Finally, not only did my 11-
8 year-old daughter spoke in a clear language about the
9 connection in our ecology between all life, she
10 doesn't understand why some of the people in the
11 Carlsbad business community favor poisoning
12 themselves, except that they favor money.

13 And then, she said, some, like the
14 mistreatment of our old who will not be around to
15 suffer the effects like children, mothers, and the
16 unborn.

17 The NRC is a system of power that favors
18 the nuclear industry over communities. For me, the
19 NRC stands for Nuclear Risk for Communities. We don't
20 want it coming. New Mexico people do not give their
21 consent. Thank you.

22 (Applause.)

23 MR. CAMERON: Thank you. All right.
24 Stephen Picha?

25 MR. PICHA: Good evening. And I want to

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 also thank everyone for coming this evening. I would
2 like those from the NRC, if they could just kind of
3 raise their hands, so I know that this is who I'm
4 speaking to.

5 So, just the two of you? Wow, okay. So,
6 the four of you? Okay. I think it's just important
7 and a fair questions, because you have come here to
8 listen to the voices of people and you've done that
9 now, this is the fifth time.

10 And I was at the first hearing in Roswell,
11 New Mexico, as I know many of you were as well. And
12 I do not disbelieve that the people of Holtec think
13 that this is good. I mean, I sat and had
14 conversations with them.

15 But I think it's very important, and it's
16 been brought up on about three occasions tonight, of
17 their statement following that first hearing in
18 Roswell, New Mexico, where they basically said there
19 was unequivocal support.

20 Joining the few local dissenters were
21 activists from Texas and California, whose opposition
22 lacked clarity and specificity. You sat there and you
23 heard those people talk.

24 And I think you know that those cattle
25 ranchers, the gas and oil people, the county

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 commissioner from Texas, who basically, Texas doesn't
2 want this, because they've already said no, this isn't
3 something we're going to take.

4 I've always been taught, it's how you do
5 the little things is how you do the big things. And
6 if this is how Holtec is going to do the little things
7 of reporting, what they heard and knew happened that
8 night, what can we expect of the big things?

9 (Applause.)

10 MR. PICHA: People of Holtec, you are a
11 business and you have obligations to your
12 stakeholders. We are citizens and we have obligations
13 to our children and to the people who have suffered
14 the most.

15 And I, as a white Anglo male, have to ask
16 forgiveness to my Native brothers and sisters, to my
17 Hispanic brothers and sisters, and to my sisters in
18 general, because if you've noticed and are collecting
19 the data tonight, where are one them saying, we
20 support this?

21 Have you heard one woman who has gotten up
22 here this evening, unless I missed it at the very
23 beginning, in their wisdom, who have said, we support
24 this?

25 So, please pay attention to the data.

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 Don't let the shell game or what is best in the
2 business interest decide the lives of the people here
3 in New Mexico. Thank you.

4 (Applause.)

5 MR. CAMERON: Thank you. Let's go to Tina
6 Cordova and Deborah Gaudet and to Janet Greenwald.
7 Tina?

8 MS. CORDOVA: Good evening, ladies and
9 gentleman that are left.

10 (Laughter.)

11 MS. CORDOVA: My name is Tina Cordova and
12 I'm co-founder of an organization in New Mexico called
13 the Tularosa Basin Downwinders Consortium.

14 (Applause.)

15 MS. CORDOVA: And I want to thank all of
16 you who tonight mentioned us, because this is where it
17 all started, with the group that I represent. And I
18 want to make sure that you hear what I have to say.

19 We had no opportunity to give consent in
20 1945. And representing the people that I represent
21 tonight, I want to say that we do not give consent in
22 2018 either.

23 (Applause.)

24 MS. CORDOVA: I am a cancer survivor. I
25 had thyroid cancer. And the first thing they asked me

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 when they diagnosed me was, when were you exposed to
2 radiation?

3 I buried my father five years ago. He
4 never had risk factors for the cancer that he died
5 from. He suffered for over eight years in a way
6 that's hard for me to describe.

7 He got oral cancer. He never smoked, he
8 didn't drink, he didn't use chewing tobacco, he didn't
9 have viruses. He got two different oral cancers. I
10 can't tell you the number of people that I have buried
11 in my extended family, aunts, uncles, grandmothers.

12 I know about the numbers of people who are
13 affected by being exposed to radiation. I buried a
14 friend last week. I have thousands of health surveys
15 I've collected, I've read every single one of them.

16 A hundred jobs? When you put 100 jobs up
17 against the tens of thousands of people that we know
18 were affected after the test at Trinity, it doesn't
19 equate. And there's no way to make it right.

20 And let me tell you what that means. That
21 means that I'm fighting right now to be included in a
22 hearing that's scheduled for June 27 in the Seventh
23 Judiciary Committee as they consider the amendments to
24 finally recognize the 73-year injustice that was done
25 to the people of New Mexico.

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 They have compensated and given people
2 healthcare coverage cards other places. They've given
3 people \$2.2 billion to help them get medical care that
4 they need. They get a healthcare card that entitles
5 them to the best healthcare available any place in the
6 world. And you know what we get in New Mexico? Zero.

7 If you think I trust that a private entity
8 is going to come back and take care of people after
9 their health is destroyed, you've got to be kidding
10 yourself, because our own government hasn't done that
11 in 73 years.

12 So, I'm here to say, 100 jobs is not worth
13 the thousands of people we could potentially bury. I
14 have looked in those people's eyes as they're dying,
15 all across this state. I have heard their stories, I
16 have read their health surveys.

17 And guess what, folks? It doesn't end
18 with us. My genetics are changed now and I passed
19 those genetics on to my children and my grandchildren.
20 The plutonium that went up in that bomb has a half-
21 life of 24,000 years. Ten pounds didn't fission, it
22 got joined to our soil and to our water forever more
23 and is now part of our genetics.

24 The indigenous people of this state do not
25 consent. My family's roots can be traced back for

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 over five generations, they aren't consenting, I don't
2 consent. And I'm here to tell you all that this is
3 the wrong thing for New Mexico. It was wrong 73 years
4 ago and it's wrong today.

5 (Applause.)

6 MR. CAMERON: Thank you. And now, we're
7 going to go to Deborah Gaudet. And then, Janet
8 Greenwald and next, Barbara Endicott.

9 MS. GAUDET: Hello, my name is Deborah
10 Gaudet, and I'm a member of the Red Nation. And I'm
11 an LPCC in New Mexico, I have my master's degree in
12 counseling psychology. And I'm nothing if not a
13 scholar.

14 So, I'll start off by mentioning some
15 books. I think the most important, one of the most
16 important books that I've read is -- oh gosh, I'm
17 standing up here before you all my mind just went
18 blank, hang on. Yes, one of the most important books
19 that I've read is God is Red by Vine Deloria. Another
20 important book that I've read is Ceremony by Leslie
21 Marmon Silko.

22 And it's important for us to understand
23 this settler colonial condition that we're in and how
24 settler colonialism means death and madness for the
25 colonizer.

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 It's like looking at the land, I grew up
2 in North Dakota and I just want to mention something
3 that was recently in the news, the Air Force in North
4 Dakota lost a box of grenades from a military vehicle.

5 They were looking for those grenades and
6 put out a reward. Think they turned up? No. And
7 that's the Department of Defense. This is private
8 company. No.

9 It's also very sad for me to see how the
10 land has been wastelanded by USDA policies. And it's
11 important to look around and understand that almost
12 everything has been killed off by settlers colonialism
13 and the policies of the United States Government
14 already.

15 And it's like, we need to understand and
16 think about the fact that the land would be way more
17 abundant if we let it be what it is here in the West.
18 There would be buffalo.

19 In Montana, they made a huge tourist
20 industry out of the buffalo. Here in New Mexico, the
21 buffalo are killed off. And they would come back, but
22 they're continually not allowed. They're continually
23 excluded.

24 And I'm bringing this up as a related
25 issue. In New Mexico, we also have tourism. Tourism

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 is our number one industry. And to kind of poison our
2 land, poison our water with fracking and with nuclear
3 waste, and that's our own, by the way, that's our own
4 very lives as well as the tourist industry that we
5 have.

6 So, I echo a lot of things that other
7 people have said and I also don't give my consent.
8 And please reflect on the last two hundred years of
9 U.S. colonial policy.

10 And also reflect on, the current
11 government is at a low point, this is the Trump
12 administration and the NRC represents the Trump
13 administration at this point in time as well. Thank
14 you.

15 (Applause.)

16 MR. CAMERON: Thank you. Janet?

17 MS. GREENWALD: I have been following these
18 hearings around the state, as has NRC. And in
19 Roswell, I listened to the dairy farmers, the oil
20 industry, pecan farmers say no. In Hobbs, I listened
21 to educators and mothers. That was the main part of
22 the speakers saying no.

23 In Carlsbad, I listened to the boosters,
24 the same people that have been promoting nuclear
25 project as economic boons. I listened to them speak

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 for the project, but I also listened to more people
2 than those people speak against it.

3 I wasn't in Gallup, but I've seen some of
4 the footage. There was a whole room full of people
5 who spoke against this project. So, I'm going to
6 second the man who asked NRC to please take that press
7 release down that said New Mexicans consent to this
8 project. That is a falsity.

9 (Applause.)

10 MS. GREENWALD: You want us to trust you
11 and, yet, you lied to everybody. You lied to the
12 whole nation about what is happening here in New
13 Mexico.

14 I've also been to a couple of meetings
15 that NRC hasn't been to. One was when I went to
16 Tularosa, where Tina is from. My friend Silviana
17 (phonetic) and I went down there. And Tularosa is a
18 community of several thousand people.

19 And Silviana and I went down there to hear
20 people acknowledge who died of cancer in that
21 community. Guess what? It took hours. It took
22 hours. For each name, they hit a drum and a triangle,
23 and we were there for hours.

24 Another meeting that you weren't at was a
25 City Council meeting last night, where the City

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 Council passed a memorial saying that they don't want
2 any transportation of this high-level nuclear waste
3 through Albuquerque.

4 (Applause.)

5 MS. GREENWALD: And I'm sure they'll be
6 sending that memorial in to you. So, what we have
7 here in New Mexico are people that are saying no. And
8 the government has said that they're trying to do this
9 by consent.

10 They spent millions and millions of
11 dollars in Nevada trying to put a waste dump in there
12 that people didn't want. And then, they spent more
13 millions of dollars in Utah, trying to put this waste
14 on the Skull Valley Goshute Reservation, and people
15 said, no.

16 And eventually, Utah and Nevada were able
17 to build a wilderness area around the Skull Valley
18 Goshute Reservation, because NRC had licensed them to
19 take nuclear waste. But because now there's a
20 wilderness area around the Reservation, no one can
21 bring in nuclear waste.

22 (Applause.)

23 MR. CAMERON: And, Janet, can you wrap up
24 for us, please?

25 MS. GREENWALD: I'm sorry?

1 MR. CAMERON: Could you wrap up for us,
2 please?

3 MS. GREENWALD: I just want to thank all of
4 you for resisting, because I think that there's a path
5 forward here. I think we have a path forward. Thank
6 you.

7 (Applause.)

8 MR. CAMERON: Thank you, Janet. Now,
9 Barbara Endicott and then, Judy Kaul and Karen Bohime.

10 MS. BOHIME: Bohime.

11 MR. CAMERON: Yes. And Lauro, Lauro Silva.

12 MS. ENDICOTT: My name is Barbara Endicott.
13 And since I heard about this proposed nuclear waste
14 dump, I've been very frightened.

15 And so glad that I came tonight, because
16 I feel very encouraged by everybody and what everybody
17 has said, hearing that the big majority of the people
18 that came here tonight do not want this waste dump.
19 We do not want it.

20 (Applause.)

21 MS. ENDICOTT: -- part as human beings and
22 what this could mean to our health. Health is
23 everything. And we all know that. And I just -- I
24 hope everybody here spreads the word, because it is
25 not being -- a lot of people don't even know about it.

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 And so, I hope everybody goes home tonight
2 and calls their friends and talks about this to
3 everybody that they meet, because it's important that
4 we defeat this. And we will, we will. Thank you.

5 (Applause.)

6 MR. CAMERON: Thank you. Judy Kaul? Oh,
7 Judy? Do you want to use this microphone, is it
8 easier for you?

9 MS. KAUL: Yes, thank you. Thank you. I'm
10 Judy Kaul. I'm a New Mexican. And I want to say,
11 there was a woman who was talking about, is there
12 intelligence on the planet? And I think there is, but
13 we still, as a species, have human error. And this is
14 what the NRC needs to remember, that mistakes do
15 happen.

16 I mean, in New Mexico, we -- somebody made
17 a mistake between one kind of kitty litter and the
18 other and then caused a fire in WIPP. I mean, this
19 kind of thing does happen. So, we're in -- there are
20 mistakes and other places can keep their own nuclear
21 waste.

22 (Applause.)

23 MS. KAUL: Contrary to others opinion, New
24 Mexico is not your place. And we want to keep New
25 Mexico clean. And thank you for listening.

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 (Applause.)

2 MR. CAMERON: Thank you very much. Karen?
3 Here's Karen.

4 MS. BOHIME: Hello, everybody. My name is
5 Karen Bohime. I'm a retired teacher and I have time
6 to fight this thing. And I hope everyone will take
7 the time to fight this thing. And I welcome the offer
8 of the gentleman from California to collaborate with
9 us and share information to fight this thing.

10 One thing I took away from the Roswell
11 hearing was, not only the presence of the oil and gas
12 people from Midland, Texas, but a woman who is the
13 head for all of Texas of the League of Women Voters.
14 No one, I don't think, has mentioned her yet.

15 She spoke for the women and, actually, for
16 all people of Texas, but especially for the League of
17 Women Voters. They arrive at decisions that are
18 general enough to apply to many situations.

19 They take a long time to arrive at a
20 consensus, but when they do, that is written in stone.
21 And they said, something to the effect of, this is a
22 threat to air, water, and plant and people's health.

23 And I was very grateful that she came all
24 the way from Texas to add her voice and the voices of
25 the women voters of Texas. Thank you very much. I

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 have her contact information, her name is Susiebell
2 (phonetic) that's her first name, I can't remember her
3 last name.

4 I've been thinking about the
5 transportation risks and it occurs to me, with all
6 those thousands of miles of railroad track, who's
7 going to protect thousands of miles of railroad track
8 from sabotage?

9 How hard would it be for some deranged
10 person or terrorist to attach an IED, an improvised
11 explosive device, or perhaps something more
12 sophisticated to the track, so that as the train
13 passes over, it explodes? And maybe it's planted on
14 a bridge over a deep canyon? Has Holtec tested their
15 casks for a 200-foot drop from a railroad bridge? I
16 doubt it.

17 One last thing, I echo the person who said
18 that there's human error in everything. And since
19 there is human error, you can't say anything is risk-
20 free, you have to do a risk-benefit analysis. And it
21 just does not add up.

22 There is no benefit to New Mexico, there's
23 a huge threat. The very existence of a national high-
24 level nuclear dump in New Mexico will discourage
25 tourism, our major industry.

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 As the dairy man said, one little leak
2 would be enough to destroy the whole dairy industry of
3 Southeast New Mexico, because people would just say,
4 oh, that's where they had that leak, don't drink that
5 milk, don't eat that cheese.

6 And the pecan farmers, same thing. No one
7 will want -- some people would probably give up pecans
8 period, because they think they all come from New
9 Mexico or something. People think that way.

10 MR. CAMERON: Karen, I'm going to have to
11 ask you to wrap up, please.

12 MS. BOHIME: Certainly. This is just the
13 beginning, folks. We're going to keep our hearts
14 strong and we're going to fight this thing with every
15 cell in our bodies. Thank you.

16 MR. CAMERON: Okay, thank you.

17 (Applause.)

18 MR. CAMERON: Thank you. Lauro Silva?
19 Lauro Silva? Here he is. And then, Denise Brown and
20 Athena, if you're here, I apologize that I don't know
21 how to pronounce your last name.

22 MR. SILVA: (Native language spoken.) May
23 the light within you shine ever more brightly, in the
24 language, our ancient language of our ancestors, my
25 family ancestors.

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 May the light shine brightly within you
2 every day. Because as luminous beings on this Earth,
3 we walk and we try to live the best way we can. And
4 all of you here are those folks that are continuing to
5 shine your light brightly to your families.

6 My name is Lauro Silva. I've been an
7 organizer for many years. I happen to be a lawyer by
8 profession, but I still need to make a living so I can
9 get paid.

10 But the point being that I grew up in
11 Southeastern New Mexico, I worked in the fields there,
12 in the cotton fields and alfalfa fields. And I worked
13 very diligently on the project.

14 I'm one of the founders of the Citizens
15 for Alternatives to Radioactive Dumping, CARD, as it's
16 known. It's called Alternatives. For 40 years, since
17 1978, we've been working. Forty years later, today,
18 this year, we're still fighting against the national
19 sacrifice area that is our community.

20 Corporations like Holtec and others, GE
21 and many others, have contaminated already substantial
22 areas of our communities. The impact that it has on
23 the DNA and the future generations, future generations
24 and the unborn, is something that's incalculable.

25 I'm a grandfather, I have six children, I

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 have nine grandchildren, and I have 12 great-
2 grandchildren. I'm one of the downwind folks, because
3 I was born in Capitan, New Mexico, Southern New
4 Mexico.

5 The exploitation of Native peoples,
6 Chicano peoples, Mexicanos, is part of the
7 environmental racism that we're dealing with today.
8 I already turned in my comments, my written comments.
9 I have extra copies, if anybody wants to see a copy of
10 those.

11 I'm not going to dwell on the point
12 anymore, because I agree with everything you've said.
13 All of you that have those beautiful spirits that have
14 been here all day long, all night long, enduring some
15 of our profound knowledge with each others.

16 I hope that Holtec and the companies, the
17 NRC, that's been promising that they would never take
18 high-level radiation or radioactive materials from
19 fuel rods, would stand at a 50-yard line in front of
20 one spent nuclear fuel rod for ten minutes before they
21 come and talk to us about what they plan to do.

22 (Applause.)

23 MR. CAMERON: Thank you. Ms. Denise?
24 Denise Brown?

25 MS. BROWN: I'm Denise Brown. I'm with the

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 Nuclear Issues Study Group. And first of all, I want
2 thank the NRC for coming out and listening to our
3 comments. And thank you -- all right, got it.

4 So, thank you, sir, and the NRC for
5 adjusting the Gallup meeting, where there is a
6 pamphlet in Navajo that was incorrect. I will talk to
7 you after to find out more about that.

8 So, first of all, I want to make a comment
9 in regards to the Department of Transportation. And
10 it is the joint responsibility with the NRC and the
11 Department of Transportation for the transportation of
12 the nuclear waste.

13 So, where is the Department of
14 Transportation at this hearing and the meetings prior
15 to this? Because clearly, their presence should be
16 here. As many have said prior, the routes need to be
17 addressed. So, how can we comment without those
18 routes?

19 (Applause.)

20 MS. BROWN: People are talking about the
21 reactor facilities across the country. Where's the
22 discussion with them? Obviously, I would like to
23 thank Mr. Torgen Johnson for coming here all the way
24 from California, San Onofre.

25 (Applause.)

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 MS. BROWN: As he had mentioned, and has
2 informed us that there is a miscommunication between
3 New Mexico and the waste that is being stored at
4 reactor communities across the country.

5 Somebody else mentioned Plant Vogtle,
6 which the NRC is also in charge of, and the licensee,
7 and how the bankruptcy of private corporations, such
8 as Westinghouse, has done. But also, the situation
9 with Holtec and Eddy Lea Energy Alliance, as private
10 corporations in that community as well.

11 So, the company and Georgia Power have
12 done a great injustice to the people of color in those
13 communities that are affected, because that is a black
14 community and houses the -- where Plant Vogtle is
15 situated.

16 So, this is clearly environmental racism
17 at its core. Indigenous communities and nations in
18 New Mexico and across the country, including black
19 communities, such as the Shell Bluff Community in
20 Georgia, and the brown communities in Southeastern New
21 Mexico, do not want this.

22 Under the Clinton administration, there
23 was Executive Order 12898 that states that federal
24 actions shall address environmental justice in
25 minority populations and low-income populations. So,

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 I think the NRC needs to address those questions.
2 Thank you so much.

3 (Applause.)

4 MR. CAMERON: Thank you, Denise. And
5 Athena? Is Athena here? There she is. And then,
6 we'll go on to Susan Schuuman.

7 MS. CHRISTDOULOU: New Mexicans keep
8 fighting against becoming more of a sacrifice zone.
9 NRC failed the New Mexicans, and especially the people
10 who spread the word to bring the regular people like
11 myself here.

12 My first job, I was actually interviewed
13 at the NRC. I taught nuclear power. It was awesome.
14 But when I taught reactor power principles, any
15 changes in lessons, any notes that were changed along
16 the way, were written in blood.

17 And then, when I finished teaching for the
18 Navy, I learned environmental engineering. Wow. That
19 nuclear power needs to be safely nine million miles
20 away in the sun.

21 (Laughter.)

22 MS. CHRISTDOULOU: Not in my backyard.
23 That's a favorite term in environmental engineering,
24 NIMBY, not in my backyard. Because this is going to
25 be so out of sight and out of mind for the rest of the

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 nation, that they will consider nuclear power as a
2 possible source to continue on making electricity.

3 And yes, this is part of a bigger issue,
4 actually, the future. Because climate change is
5 happening, so say the scientists and I believe them
6 over our wonderful fossil fuel people.

7 From what? From fossil fuel burning. We
8 need to ditch those fossil fuels. We need to stop
9 burning our future. I myself am going fossil fuel
10 free by 2023.

11 But neither should we continue with
12 nuclear power. End this, for the sake of clean air,
13 water, and soil. So, let's keep it in everybody's
14 backyard and in their minds. There's even been talk
15 of putting nuclear in Four Corners.

16 And human memory is too short, making this
17 plan too much of a risk. No, Holtec, don't even
18 consider it. Keep resisting, my friends. Keep
19 fighting against becoming more of a sacrifice. Thank
20 you.

21 (Applause.)

22 MR. CAMERON: Thank you. Thank you very
23 much. And, Cody will be next, and then we're going to
24 go to Ace and Sharon Hoffman.

25 MS. SCHUUMAN: Thanks, everybody who is

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 still here. I've spoken at three previous meetings,
2 but I do have some new comments that I want to share
3 with the NRC Commissioners. Welcome to Albuquerque.
4 We too have a high nuclear IQ, especially when it
5 comes to our experience with WIPP, as you heard
6 tonight.

7 I do have three points I want to make.
8 And one is health studies, two is employee concerns,
9 and three is about consent. Number one, please look
10 at two documents when you do your draft EIS.

11 One is the Navajo Birth Cohorts Study.
12 The Navajo Birth Cohorts Study, you can find it via
13 the Southwest Research and Information Center website,
14 that's SRIC.org.

15 They've studied, they've taken a lot of
16 blood samples from pregnant moms and fathers and
17 infants, and they've been tracking it for years.
18 There's a lot of data that I think would be very
19 helpful to you when you're deciding what kind of
20 impact this project could have.

21 The second document I want to share, this
22 is to followup on the comments that Tina Cordova made
23 from the Tularosa Basin DownWinders Consortium, they
24 put a lot of effort into a health impact assessment.

25 A health impact assessment by the Tularosa

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 Basin Downwinders Consortium, it's entitled, this came
2 out in February of 2017, and the title is Unknowing,
3 Unwilling, and Uncompensated: the Effects of the
4 Trinity Test on New Mexicans and the Potential
5 Benefits of Radiation Exposure Compensation Act (RECA)
6 Amendments.

7 So, I urge you, when you're assessing your
8 impacts, to include both of those in your research and
9 the record. So, that's the health studies. And then,
10 there was a lot of correlation between the Trinity
11 Test and health issues that are experienced by people
12 living downwind and their descendants.

13 Number two, employee concerns. I was
14 doing a little bit of research on Holtec International
15 and I was surprised how quickly I found this, and the
16 source is, Working at Holtec International: Employee
17 Reviews. And you can find that at indeed.com. I'll
18 repeat that. Working at Holtec International:
19 Employee Reviews.

20 I'm going to quote from three different
21 reviews. And anyone can find this, you can research
22 this yourself. But to me, there's some safety
23 concerns with this company and their application.

24 Number one, quote, one employee said, "you
25 get in trouble for asking questions." This is from a

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 former Holtec employee. Number two, many injuries and
2 accidents and safety does not fix the safety issues.
3 I assume they mean the safety department.

4 And the third quote alarmed me from a
5 former Holtec employee, they have a questioning
6 attitude policy. Like they have a policy that's, it's
7 called questioning attitude. And that is part of
8 their culture, supposedly.

9 It's supposedly encouraging workers to
10 question things that they feel are wrong or
11 inefficient. But if you practice this policy, you
12 will soon be labeled as a troublemaker that is
13 unwilling to conform to the company's culture.

14 So, I invite you to go to that site,
15 Working at Holtec International: Employee Reviews. I
16 was really astonished at the negative reviews by
17 former Holtec employees.

18 And finally, about consent. I noticed
19 your motto, I never noticed it before, your motto is
20 protecting people and the environment. And one of
21 your slides had environmental justice listed.

22 And yet, I also hear, in the introduction,
23 that you don't need to obtain our consent. And I just
24 don't know how you can give those two things. If you
25 do believe in environmental justice and that's one of

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 your factors, you have to seek our consent.

2 And I want to rebut the Holtec press
3 release that said there was overwhelming support in
4 Southeast New Mexico. I've got the numbers right
5 here, numbers are really important to our group. And
6 I forgot to identify myself, I'm with the Nuclear
7 Issues Study Group.

8 MR. CAMERON: Could you just --

9 MS. SCHUUMAN: I'm summing up.

10 MR. CAMERON: -- sum up?

11 MS. SCHUUMAN: Yes, I'm summing up.

12 MR. CAMERON: Okay, thank you.

13 MS. SCHUUMAN: I'm also the Outreach
14 Coordinator for the Albuquerque Center for Peace and
15 Justice.

16 At the Maryland National Call, it was 23
17 against, zero for. At the Roswell NRC meeting, it was
18 45 against, seven for. At the Hobbs NRC meeting, it
19 was 33 against, 14 for. At the Carlsbad NRC meeting,
20 it was 32 against, 28 for.

21 At the Gallup NRC meeting, it was 36
22 against, one for. Tonight, so far, we're at, 59
23 against and six for. So, anyway, I think it's pretty
24 obvious, we do not consent. Thank you very much.

25 MR. CAMERON: Thank you.

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 (Applause.)

2 MR. CAMERON: Thank you. Cody? This is
3 Cody, Cody Sloma.

4 MR. SLOMA: All right. Hello, everyone.
5 Thanks for hanging in there, it's been a long night.
6 How many people are left? Can we get a number?

7 MR. CAMERON: We've got two more.

8 MR. SLOMA: Cool. Good to know. All
9 right.

10 MR. CAMERON: Carlsbad and --

11 MR. SLOMA: All right. So, we've got
12 Carlsbad.

13 MR. CAMERON: And California.

14 MR. SLOMA: Cool, there's California, okay.
15 Carlsbad, California, cool. Okay. So, anyway, thank
16 you all. Thank you NRC for coming out here and coming
17 to Albuquerque, I know that was a request of mine and
18 many others, too. So, thank you for doing that.

19 One thing I want to request is that you
20 all go into other communities along the transport
21 routes, other communities in New Mexico. There is a
22 lot of places you could go here, perhaps Santa Fe
23 would be a good place. Yes, so, think about that.

24 I want the staff to be considerate to go
25 into the Environmental Impact Statement, and that is

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 that we don't want this waste. So, yes, consider
2 including that in there.

3 There's a few other things I would like
4 you to include in your Environmental Impact Statement,
5 but I'll get to those in a second. One thing I'm
6 requesting is that you add additional days to the
7 scoping comment period.

8 One of these reasons is that
9 regulations.gov hasn't worked in the last four days.
10 I'm not sure if you all are aware of this, but, yes,
11 your website hasn't worked in the last four days. So,
12 at least an additional four days, or however long it
13 hasn't worked, needs to definitely be added.

14 And then, one thing I want to bring up is
15 that, here in Albuquerque, we have a rich
16 environmental justice community. And that means that
17 there's a lot of organizations here working for
18 environmental justice, as well as throughout New
19 Mexico, because we deal with a lot of environmental
20 injustice.

21 So, we're not -- in your Environmental
22 Impact Statement, of course, you all have to include
23 a section on comments, make sure to include a lot of
24 that, because environmental problems go deep.

25 With that, there's a lot of organizations

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 here, if you care to reach out to. They help find or
2 found the key principles, so that's something to
3 definitely look at.

4 I'm not sure how, like, familiar you all
5 are with environmental justice. There's the Southwest
6 Organizing Project, the Albuquerque Center for Peace
7 and Justice, Citizens for Alternatives to Radioactive
8 Dumping, Red Water Pond Road Community Association,
9 the Alliance for Environmental Strategies, and of
10 course, the Nuclear Issue Study Group.

11 And I'm sure any of these groups would be
12 glad to talk with you all, but maybe try reaching out
13 to us, because you all haven't reached out to us at
14 all.

15 So, yes, I'll actually provide quick
16 contact info and we'd be glad to hear from you all and
17 help you out with getting the Environmental Impact
18 Statement.

19 Another thing that you should include in
20 your Environmental Impact Statement, and I'm asking
21 you to take this very, very serious, that being,
22 consent.

23 You started this meeting saying the
24 Nuclear Regulatory Commission doesn't deal with
25 consent. There's a big problem with that, you should

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 really look that over and try to figure out how you
2 can include consent. Without consent, you've got
3 nothing.

4 MR. CAMERON: Cody, could you wrap up for
5 us, please?

6 MR. SLOMA: Yes. And this would help, this
7 would definitely help, because it would give a more
8 ethical approach to this. A lot of what you all are
9 doing is based on science, which is fine, we need to
10 be sure that whatever you all are regulating is based
11 off good physics, but you also need to include ethics,
12 right?

13 You need to have the moral stance figured
14 out of what you all are doing. I would strongly
15 recommend including that in your Environmental Impact
16 Statement and really considering whether this is good
17 or bad.

18 And then, my last thing I would like to
19 say is, there needs to be more time for this. As many
20 people have said, this issue has been going on for a
21 long time, this waste stays dangerous for a very, very
22 long time.

23 So, don't rush the process, take it slow,
24 extend the comment period. There's no reason why you
25 all can't extend the comment period, why not, right?

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 We'll --

2 MR. CAMERON: And Cody, I'm going to have
3 to ask you to wrap up.

4 MR. SLOMA: Yes, so, we'll continue helping
5 you all get comments, because, yes, I know you all
6 don't do too much outreach.

7 (Applause.)

8 MR. CAMERON: We'll go to Judy Smith. And
9 then, we'll go on to Ace Hoffman and Sharon Hoffman.

10 MS. SMITH: Can you hear me? Okay. My
11 name is Judy Smith and I've lived in New Mexico since
12 1979. I love this state. I'm a retired teacher,
13 after 29.75 years. And that gives me some sense of
14 the passage of time. I'm also a mother and
15 grandmother of a darling three and a half year old
16 grandson.

17 I would like to make three comments. The
18 most disturbing to me is one that came to light when
19 I read the Holtec review of Roswell, because I was
20 there, you may remember me. And it wasn't what they
21 said.

22 I don't want to name-call, but to have a
23 company -- I really approach this project, trying to
24 have an open mind. I studied about nuclear energy and
25 I know the dangers, but I know we have a problem in

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 this country, we need to find something to do with
2 this waste that we've created.

3 So, I came with an open mind. But to have
4 the company try to explain to me how safe and how
5 reasonable and how wonderful their engineering and
6 their project is, to deceive the state through their
7 report, does not encourage me to feel comfortable in
8 trusting --

9 (Applause.)

10 MS. SMITH: The reason that I'm here
11 tonight again is because of that particular incident.
12 I wanted to be sure to address that, because I
13 consider misrepresentation at this stage to be a big
14 red flag.

15 But in addition to that, I'm coming back
16 again because of my Jewish faith. I was taught as a
17 child and lived my life looking toward the future
18 generations.

19 Our faith has been living our traditions
20 for 5,775 years. So, that puts things in a long-term
21 perspective. So, it encouraged me to take a look at
22 this issue through the long view.

23 And when I think about a waste facility
24 that's supposed to be interim, but interim could be
25 120 years, I wonder, in 120 years, who will be

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 responsible for that site? Who will be responsible to
2 take care of it?

3 I also wonder how an interim site might
4 become permanent, which other people have addressed,
5 and we're ending up with a permanent site that was
6 only meant to be interim.

7 Why not identify a permanent site, a
8 permanent plan based on the science and based on input
9 from the entire country that's affected, and then,
10 maybe build an interim site while you're creating the
11 permanent site? And I also wanted to --

12 (Applause.)

13 MS. SMITH: One other issue that I hope
14 you'll address, because we've heard misinformation at
15 these hearings that I've been to, is the geology
16 underneath the site.

17 There was a geologist in Roswell who said
18 that there was sandstone and limestone, I believe he
19 said, that the earth under there is moving. Of
20 course, we know geology, the earth moves and changes.
21 And that there's an aquifer running through there.

22 Others have said it's the perfect, ideal
23 geology. And I'd really like to know more about that,
24 what makes it so perfect, and is it perfect, and how
25 long will it be perfect?

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 MR. CAMERON: Judy, could you wrap up for
2 us?

3 MS. SMITH: Yes.

4 MR. CAMERON: Thank you.

5 MS. SMITH: Thank you very much.

6 (Applause.)

7 MR. CAMERON: Thank you very much. Ace
8 Hoffman?

9 MR. HOFFMAN: I never thought I'd be saying
10 this, but Holtec was very honest today, they said they
11 didn't have any safety issues. Let me explain why
12 they didn't have safety issues.

13 To give you an example, when San Onofre
14 was shut down in 2011, it was because tubes about the
15 size my pinky finger vibrated badly and one of them
16 got a little crack in it and started spewing coolant
17 into the secondary system. And then, they noticed the
18 radiation and they shut it down, and they never
19 restarted it, because those tubes were vibrating so
20 much.

21 As a lot have said, two of those tubes,
22 not just one, maybe even one, but certainly if two of
23 those tubes had broken out completely, there would be
24 four jets of water coming out. And that could have
25 been a meltdown, could easily have been a meltdown.

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 The NRC referred to that as a non-safety
2 issue, that lack of a -- that vibrating problem they
3 had was not a safety issue. That is how come Holtec
4 hasn't had any safety issues.

5 Four of those casks that broke in shins
6 are in use and they're going to get shipped here
7 eventually, if you let them. That's not a safety
8 issue either, I guarantee it. So, when Holtec says
9 they don't have any safety issues, you can thank the
10 NRC for that. That's how that works.

11 A nuclear reactor, when it's operating, is
12 allowed to release about a thirtieth of a teaspoon of
13 tritium. And you guys don't have to worry too much
14 about tritium, because it's created in the reactor, as
15 far as I know, there's not really any of it in the
16 spent fuel.

17 But a thirtieth of a teaspoon is all
18 they're allowed to release in an entire year, with
19 probably -- so-called low-level radiation, it's the
20 same deadly stuff that is going to get shipped here.

21 I would bet that it's entire load is less
22 than maybe one cask of what is in a dry cask. That's
23 how much lower low-level radiation is. What they want
24 to ship here is extremely deadly.

25 And something like 30 percent of the casks

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 are going to have damaged cladding. One of the people
2 got up and -- one of the six, got up and said that
3 there's three elements of protection.

4 There's the cladding, there's the casing
5 of the canister, and then, there's the cement. Well,
6 the cement is nothing, because there's four vents and
7 they're each about a square-foot.

8 I was talking to the Holtec people
9 yesterday, and I have a lot of problems with what they
10 told me. They said if a jet were to crash into the
11 thing and fuel spilled down the sides, it would go
12 out, because there was no way for the air to get in.

13 Well, that's how the thing cools, is
14 there's convection, the air comes in, the hot air goes
15 out. You start a fire there and the hot air can't go
16 out any faster and the cool air's going to come in.
17 And the National Academy designs this study and said
18 that they could last about 20 minutes.

19 One last thing, I see my time is up. We
20 went to the Los Alamos today, my wife and I. And they
21 had a pill-shaped container about this big, which was
22 used for testing some sort of explosive. So, they put
23 explosives in there and it just tore the half-inch
24 thick steel completely apart.

25 You can expect, if there was a terrorism

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 attack, they're going to have no problem tearing that
2 half-inch steel completely apart. There's plenty of
3 explosives that can do that and planes can do that
4 too.

5 MR. CAMERON: Thanks, Ace.

6 (Applause.)

7 MR. CAMERON: Thank you very much. And
8 Sharon Hoffman?

9 MS. HOFFMAN: You guys are a tough act to
10 follow. You are so awesome. New Mexico is awesome.
11 I had never been to New Mexico until we came for the
12 Carlsbad hearing. I've had a wonderful time, I've met
13 wonderful people.

14 And I hope the NRC is listening, because
15 I heard a lot of environmental impact issues tonight.
16 Everything from geology to environmental justice, and
17 lots of things in-between.

18 So, if you think that you can look at this
19 project and say, there are no environmental impacts,
20 then you haven't been listening. And that's a real
21 shame. You've spent a lot of time, you've spent a lot
22 of money, you're supposed to be listening. I hope you
23 really were listening.

24 And the thing that I want to say to all of
25 us is, the NRC has control. They're the group that

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 can say whether or not this can happen. They control
2 whether we can continue to make nuclear waste. And
3 that, as several people have mentioned, is the biggest
4 problem here.

5 As long as we're making it, then we cannot
6 solve the problem. And I'm from California and I
7 agree with you completely, this should not be, the
8 places where it's coming from shipping it away and
9 then allowing more to get created.

10 But as long as it's being created, people
11 are going to try to do that. And it's not really the
12 people that live there. It's the nuclear power
13 companies, it's the NRC, it's Holtec, it's everybody
14 who profits from this. So, we need to work together,
15 we need to stop making more nuclear waste. It's the
16 most important thing we can do.

17 And the final thing that I want to say is,
18 and I have this t-shirt that says, danger, radioactive
19 material, we all know that, everybody in this room
20 knows, like everybody in New Mexico knows that.

21 Everybody all over the country needs to
22 know that and needs to pay attention to this problem.
23 This is all of our problem. The radiation is not
24 going to stop at state lines, it's not going to stop
25 being a problem unless we stop creating it.

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 And then, we still have a really big
2 problem. If they had thought of this 72 years ago, we
3 would not be in the problem we are now. Thank you
4 very much.

5 (Applause.)

6 MR. CAMERON: Thank you, Sharon. And thank
7 all of you for your patience tonight and comments.
8 And before I turn it over to Brian Smith to close the
9 meeting out for us, I just want to thank our
10 stenographer, Bruce Carlton.

11 (Applause.)

12 MR. CAMERON: And also, I want to thank the
13 gentleman in the back of the room, who helped out with
14 the microphones. So, thank you back there.

15 (Applause.)

16 MR. CAMERON: Brian?

17 MR. SMITH: Well, thank you once again for
18 coming out tonight and for sticking with us to the
19 end, for all of you that stayed with us. And to some
20 of you that came to all of our meetings, we appreciate
21 that.

22 Just like the first five meetings, we did
23 receive a lot of good comments tonight. We will take
24 those into consideration as we prepare our draft
25 Environmental Impact Statement.

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 We have plans to issue that next summer,
2 in that general time frame. And it will be out for
3 public comment, we will do additional meetings around
4 that same time to get public comment on that draft
5 document, and we will then consider any comments for
6 the final draft.

7 So, earlier tonight, there were a couple
8 of commenters who suggested consultation with the
9 tribes. I just want to let you know that we have
10 initiated that process, we're in the early stages of
11 that. There will be a lot more of that to come in the
12 near future.

13 So, once again, thank you very much, we
14 appreciate your comments. Have a good evening.

15 (Whereupon, the above-entitled matter went
16 off the record at 10:15 p.m.)

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25