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NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

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

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UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

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PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING FOR THE ENVIRONMENTAL
IMPACT STATEMENT FOR HOLTEC INTERNATIONAL'S
HI-STORE CONSOLIDATED INTERIM STORAGE FACILITY
FOR SPENT NUCLEAR FUEL LOCATED IN
LEA COUNTY, NEW MEXICO

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MONDAY,

APRIL 30, 2018

+ + + + +

ROSWELL, NEW MEXICO

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The Public Scoping Meeting was convened in
the Commissioners' Hearing Room at the Eastern
University of New Mexico-Roswell, Campus Union
Building, 48 University Boulevard, at 4:00 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

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Safeguards (NMSS)
JILL CAVERLY, Environmental Review Project Manager,
Environmental Review Branch, NMSS
JOSE CUADRADO, Licensing and Safety Review Project
Manager, Spent Fuel Licensing Branch, NMSS
JOHN McKIRGAN, Chief, Spent Fuel Licensing Branch,
NMSS
CINTHYA ROMAN, Chief, Environmental Review Branch,
NMSS

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P R O C E E D I N G S

3:55 p.m.

1
2
3 MS. KNIGHT: My name is Cathy Knight. I
4 live in Roswell, New Mexico. I appreciate that you
5 have been tasked with a difficult decision. Many
6 lives will be affected by your choices. I do not want
7 high-level nuclear waste moved across the United
8 States. In 1982 the U.S. agreed to provide permanent
9 disposal of high level nuclear waste. During the last
10 36 years, our knowledge concerning nuclear waste has
11 evolved. It is no longer a prudent choice to move
12 high level nuclear waste to a large storage site. The
13 dangers of transport should not be underestimated.
14 Environmental contamination, illness and death of U.S.
15 citizens will occur.

16 A better option is to leave the high level
17 nuclear waste where it is. Store it according to the
18 Nuclear Regulatory Commission Guidelines of five years
19 in spent fuel pools and then transfer to dry cask
20 storage. Have a robust system in place to assure
21 compliance. Monies collected from nuclear electricity
22 producers and placed in the Nuclear Waste Fund totals
23 approximately \$40 billion. It can be returned to
24 those energy producers on a set schedule so they have
25 the resources needed to follow the National Regulatory

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1 Commission's storage guidelines. I do not consent to
2 bringing high level nuclear waste to New Mexico.

3 (Pause)

4 MR. GROGAN: I just want to speak out in
5 favor of the storage site. We have some 90,000 metric
6 tons of nuclear waste. I feel like that is the best
7 place that I could think of to put it -- for future
8 generations our nation needs to have somebody to
9 dispose of it, or do it in a safe manner. That's
10 about it.

11 (Pause)

12 MR. CAMERON: Good evening, everyone. I
13 am Chip Cameron and I am going to be facilitating the
14 public meeting tonight. We have a poster session
15 scheduled from 4:00-7:00, and then we are going to
16 have comments from everybody. Some NRC presentations
17 and then comments from all of you that we're putting
18 on the record with our court reporter. The reason I
19 asked you all to come in is that we have the mayor of
20 Roswell here, Dennis Kintigh. And Dennis has a
21 conflict later on at 7:00. And so I wanted to give
22 him the opportunity to just say a few words to all of
23 you before he has to leave. And thank you for all
24 coming in.

25 MR. KINTIGH: Thank you. All right, full

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1 disclosure, my wife went to Texas on Thursday to visit
2 grandkids. She is on her way home tonight. So, I am
3 sorry, I am going to go see my wife who I have not
4 seen in four days. Nothing personal. Don't mean to
5 diminish the importance, but family does come first.
6 I want to thank everybody from Roswell for coming out
7 tonight. I want to thank you folks from the NRC for
8 participating and putting this forward. This is an
9 opportunity for a respectful dialogue. And I know
10 that the folks from Roswell here are that kind of
11 people. So I look forward to a honest, respectful,
12 informative dialogue. Share of concerns, state your
13 opinions, listen for each other and have a great
14 evening. And I encourage everybody here who is not
15 from Roswell to check out some of our sites while you
16 are here. We have a couple of great art museums. I
17 encourage you to go visit. And check out our -- we
18 have some wonderful restaurants. And it's a
19 fascinating town. So, without further ado -- and I
20 do apologize, I have another meeting now -- actually,
21 I have two meetings now, but I will have to move on.
22 So, thank you very much. Thank you very much. Have
23 a great evening.

24 (Pause)

25 MS. BROOKS STEPHENS: I have toured the

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1 website. Prior to the accident. I've been to Los
2 Alamos multiple times. This is all an accident
3 waiting to happen. I was witness to a pickup truck
4 almost plowing into a WIPP truck that was taking waste
5 to Carlsbad. And they were within inches -- it was
6 a drunk driver. They were within inches and it was
7 just during the trial period before they really
8 started shipping. And I know that accidents happen.
9 Again, I know multiple people that are dying or have
10 died from working at Los Alamos. And I know that this
11 waste leaks. Even though they tell us it doesn't, it
12 does. And it's going to be leaking on our roads.
13 It's going to be leaking on our railroad track. You
14 have tracks running by schools. Dexter, New Mexico,
15 you're within feet of the -- of two of the schools,
16 the junior high and the high school -- or, mid-school
17 and high school. And there -- this is far too
18 dangerous for us to have in our state. Let them keep
19 it where they created it. This will be going across
20 the entire United States and they may very well bring
21 it in internationally. And I am fed up with the whole
22 discussion. They need to stop it. We don't want it.
23 I have over -- I counted them up last night -- over
24 60 relatives in the Roswell area alone. I don't want
25 my children, grandchildren and extended relatives to

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1 light up like lightbulbs. And they swore to me at
2 WIPP it would never happen. But within a couple of
3 months of my touring WIPP, it did happen there. And
4 as I said, I know multiple people -- a neighbor, my
5 former boss -- all dying or dead because of the Los
6 Alamos situation. We don't want this. It's that
7 simple.

8 And I am not just representing me, I am
9 representing a lot of people. And I teach my students
10 this. As a teacher, I teach my students. I
11 challenged the young people at the -- when I was
12 teaching in the Apache and the Navajo. They didn't
13 even know that -- that we were doing storage on the
14 reservations. And I challenged them to go home and
15 ask their parents. Their parents didn't know. So
16 they went to the tribal headquarters and found out
17 that, yes indeed, we were. And they got upset and are
18 making the government clean that up. And this isn't
19 something that just popped out of my ear. I've been
20 watching this for years. I grew up in Alomogordo part
21 of my life is growing up there, even though I am
22 Roswell native. I don't want it.

23 Again, I grew in Alomogordo, but I am from
24 Roswell originally and I simply don't want it. Seen
25 enough of it. We don't need it. Don't know how much

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1 else to say other than I've watched it firsthand. So
2 -- thank you so much.

3 PARTICIPANT: You said you grew up where?

4 MS. BROOKS STEPHENS: I was born in
5 Roswell, I grew up in Alomogordo.. So I would have --
6 I watched the Trinity site. I had the friends that
7 have died from that. Up in Los Alamos, I had a boss
8 that died from there. I had a neighbor that died from
9 working up there. All of them with these horrible
10 cancers and -- enough. And it's -- we don't want
11 our kids going up in smoke. Thank you so much. Just
12 let them keep it where they creat it -- onsite. Not
13 dripping it on our roads. Not dripping it past our
14 schools. Remember two years ago when they had the
15 WIPP site closed down and they were having them store
16 it on trains?

17 PARTICIPANT: Do you want this to be more
18 of your comment? Or -- -

19 MS. BROOKS STEPHENS: Yes, this part.
20 Three years back, two years back they stored nuclear
21 waste on trains on our tracks. And some of those
22 trains were sitting on the railroad tracks between
23 here and Albuquerque. It was all over the new shows.
24 But we have schools next to these tracks. We have
25 churches and homes and neighborhoods. And again,

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1 we've had enough. We don't want any more.

2 (Pause)

3 MS. SUDERMAN KING: Ronda Suderman King.
4 It's R-O-N-D-A and then S-U-D-E-R-M-A-N and then
5 second name -- or, third name King, K-I-N-G.

6 PARTICIPANT: Whenever you're ready.

7 MS. SUDERMAN KING: Okay. Well, I am from
8 Carlsbad, New Mexico. And I am one of the increasing
9 number of people who oppose strongly the nation's
10 deadliest radioactive waste in our community. This
11 waste site would consist of used fuel rods that have
12 been inside operating nuclear reactors. And much of
13 those used fuel rods can be degraded within a century,
14 but some remain active for 1,000,000 years. My
15 concern is that it's considered a temporary
16 repository. And that's what Holtec International's
17 project is, is a temporary repository. But these fuel
18 rods come from all over the country. But only for a
19 temporary site. But there's no permanent site.
20 Holtec has no long-range plans for a permanent site.
21 And I haven't heard anything from the federal
22 government that they have plans for a long-range
23 permanent site.

24 My concern is for the generations beyond
25 me. I am not going to be here in 125 years when --

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1 or maybe less than that when it needs to go to another
2 site. But my children, my children's children, my
3 children's children's children -- they're going to be
4 here. And I think a permanent site needs to be
5 planned before this temporary site comes into
6 operation. In fact, the temporary site doesn't make
7 much sense to me. A permanent site will, and I would
8 be glad to entertain plans for what that permanent
9 site is.

10 The federal government has failed to come
11 up with a plan for a permanent site for many decades.
12 Holtec International is a for-profit company. And
13 when they cease to make a profit over this, then
14 what's going to happen to these spent nuclear rods?
15 Are they going to stay where they're at? Or is there
16 going to be a plan for a permanent site for these
17 kinds of things? So it seems ridiculous to me how
18 people can think that a temporary site is a good idea
19 when there's no permanent plans for this nuclear
20 waste. Which is important. I agree that it's very
21 important to come up with a permanent site. And I
22 agree that nobody wants nuclear waste in their
23 backyard. But at this point, it's because there is no
24 permanency to this site and no permanency to what
25 they're going to do with it. And that's my objection.

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1 Okay, thank you.

2 (Pause)

3 MR. HARBAUGH: Gene Harbaugh, G-E-N-E,
4 Harbaugh, H-A-R-B-A-U-G-H. Okay, just a moment there.
5 Well, I think that the main objection to this proposal
6 is that it is to be a temporary or interim site. And
7 I do not consent to that for the reason that
8 continuing to move nuclear waste around the country to
9 temporary sites simply exposes more people to the
10 dangers and raises the possibility of accidents,
11 especially given the state of the infrastructure in
12 this country. I am speaking particularly of rail
13 shipment. I live within 300 yards of a railroad
14 switch yard. They are constantly having to repair
15 track and work on that facility and I am sure it is no
16 different in other parts of the country where this
17 waste will pass through. So until there is a
18 permanent repository, I believe the NRC would serve
19 the best interest of the people of this country by
20 denying this Holtec proposal.

21 (Pause)

22 MR. BURNAM: Okay, I am Lon Burnam, I live
23 in Fort Worth, Texas. For 18 years I served Central
24 City Fort Worth in the Texas Legislature. And during
25 that time I learned quite a bit about the rail system

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1 in Texas, but particularly in Fort Worth where we had
2 eight different rail lines coming into Fort Worth.
3 The rail transportation infrastructure in this country
4 is totally inadequate to handle the proposed transport
5 of these really, really heavy casks through our urban
6 centers and over our rural bridges, some of which are
7 100 years old. It's ludicrous to think that our
8 transportation system can handle what's being proposed
9 and any environmental impact statement that is worth
10 its weight in the paper it will be printed on will
11 take into consideration that this is a national
12 environmental impact. They're proposing to transport
13 this waste from over 100 plants, most of which are
14 east of the Mississippi, through my home community in
15 Fort Worth, and to Southeastern New Mexico. And
16 that's enough for now.

17 (Pause)

18 MS. C. SMITH: Okay, my concern is nuclear
19 waste, accidents happen. I live in Pennsylvania where
20 Three Mile Island happened and my youngest daughter
21 ended up with a birth defect. I am part Native
22 American, and I am not really concerned for our
23 generation or the next generation, but for the next
24 seven generations. That was one of my concerns of
25 many, but that is my main concern -- that the

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1 environment will be safe. My generation and my
2 children's generation and my grandchildren's
3 generation -- their generations. That's it.

4 (Pause)

5 MS. CARDONA: Patricia, P-A-T-R-I-C-I-A,
6 Cardona, C-A-R-D-O-N-A. Okay, I am ready. Okay, what
7 I would like to do is talk about several areas. One
8 is the liability for losses to the state -- in case
9 of accidents to private individuals and property
10 damage as well as personal injury, property
11 devaluation and stigma that will -- that may occur to
12 businesses as well as to the property of the
13 individual residential areas. But I'd also like to
14 talk about stewardship and continuous stewardship of
15 any proposed site to be sure that there is no
16 abandonment in the future of the site and the casks.
17 And the casks themselves, the process for possessing
18 -- for taking possession of the casks -- who takes
19 possession? And who has liability at what point in
20 the process? How the casks will be labeled? And the
21 documentation preserved in order to ensure that the
22 company maintains liability for any casks that are
23 improperly -- are improperly passed on to the -- you
24 know, passed on to the -- to the next step.

25 One of the -- so, I am going to start

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1 with the liability for losses. One of the things that
2 you have liability exposure and State Representative
3 Brown has stated that the federal government will
4 assume the liability for any and all losses. However,
5 it is not clear what the role is of the utility
6 company and whether or not the utility company has the
7 right to transfer the risk to other groups. Or to
8 another state or to another entity. One of the
9 problems is that if there is an LLC in the middle of
10 this, an LLC can declare bankruptcy. And in the case
11 -- this happened in New Mexico with the brine well.
12 We can end up with the state of New Mexico for any
13 accident or any loss of revenue because of an
14 accident, shutting down businesses, shutting down
15 state revenue. Who is going to assume the liability
16 for those losses? The State of New Mexico has a lot
17 of gas and oil. And activity at the -- near the site
18 and all along the area of Southern New Mexico. If
19 there is some kind of leak and shutdown, is it indeed
20 the federal government who is going to assume the
21 liability for the loss of the business as well as for
22 state revenue? Because the businesses generate
23 revenue to the state -- about 30 percent of our
24 revenue comes from gas and oil. So that -- those
25 issues need to be dealt with. Who is responsible for

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1 that? Especially when an LLC can just declare
2 bankruptcy and have no -- no liability in it.

3 The other thing in this area is if there
4 is an incident or a release of radioactive material,
5 it will devalue the property. It will also
6 devalue products, especially if they're, like, dairy
7 products, tourism -- people are going to be loathing
8 to come to an area that is infected with radiation.
9 And products become permanently stigmatized. Who pays
10 for the property devaluation and who pays for the
11 devaluation of products? Does the federal government,
12 as stated by Cathrynn Brown, our representative? Does
13 the federal government assume that liability?

14 I am moving on to another issue which is
15 the issue of how that site, should it become -- it
16 should become constructed, how will stewardship be
17 handled? Will it continue on to how many generations?
18 There is no provision at all that I can see for making
19 sure that the site does not become abandoned after,
20 say, ten, fifteen years. They -- something happens
21 with a budget and there's no longer any money -- how
22 are they going to ensure money will continue to be
23 available for guarding the site and for repairing
24 casks that may be damaged during the -- during the
25 process of storage? And there is a real big issue,

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1 which I am not going to talk about right now, is the
2 fact that that area that is proposed has karst
3 formation. There's a lot of caves, brine wells and
4 that -- and water running around that -- underneath
5 those areas -- in and around those areas. If there
6 is an incident, who is going to repair the cask?
7 Where's the money going to come from? Does it come
8 from the federal government? Holtec is a company.
9 They can declare bankruptcy. Then where is -- where
10 is the population left?

11 The cask itself -- at what point does the
12 federal government assume liability for the cask? And
13 at what point in the initial transfer -- how is that
14 cask going to be labeled? The source? The date? The
15 condition? How are they going to document the
16 condition of the cask? And if it is improperly
17 transported because it, in fact, is damaged, who --
18 who has the liability for that? And how is it going
19 to be document? In other words, are the casks going
20 to be numbered? The utility company's name on the
21 cask? And the date of the transfer and the inspector?
22 Who inspected the cask? And who verified that it was
23 in good condition to be able to be transported?
24 That's my statement for today.

25 (Pause)

1 MS. J. SMITH: So, my name is Judith Smith
2 and I live in Albuquerque, New Mexico. Unfortunately,
3 I had to travel three hours in order to be able to
4 talk to the Holtec company and to talk to the EPA
5 people about this -- whatever your group is -- NRC?
6 What is this? Whatever. They're very good -- the
7 government people were very helpful. My biggest
8 concern right now is that the way these canisters are
9 going to be sticking up to the surface of the earth
10 and the only thing protecting them is a six-inch steel
11 plate on top. And I don't see how that can withstand
12 some clever terrorist attack. Bomb, drone -- I don't
13 know what. It's a huge target. It's a huge field --
14 out in the open, in the middle of the desert near the
15 border with another country that's probably a little
16 bit upset with us right now anyway, and I can't be
17 sure that that steel plate is going to protect us.

18 I am also concerned about any cleanup
19 because the government and the companies have been
20 very unkind to New Mexico over the years with uranium
21 cleanup, which is still making people in the northwest
22 part of our state sick. And there are also companies
23 here who are leaking methane all over the place and
24 polluting our air. And the government and other --
25 whoever else is responsible doesn't seem to be

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1 stepping in. We're trying to struggle with it as a
2 state, but we're taking waste from all over the
3 country, which seems to us -- that this state
4 shouldn't be held responsible for these possible
5 disasters.

6 (Pause)

7 MS. J. SMITH: Should I just continue with
8 my own comment? I just want to add a comment that the
9 people from the NRC have been very kind and very
10 forthcoming. However, the problem I have is that this
11 opportunity is three hours from my home and along
12 drive through the desert, and three hours drive back.
13 It couldn't be much further from one end of the state
14 to the other -- probably five hours -- and I think
15 that these opportunities need to be spread out across
16 the state, especially to places in our state where
17 there are large populations who would like to make
18 their thoughts known and ask questions. Because in
19 this state, we all care about each other. There
20 aren't that many of us. It's big and we love it. And
21 it's the Land of Enchantment. And it's not going to
22 be enchanting if we get a reputation for leaked
23 nuclear radioactivity. That's it. Thank you.

24 (Pause)

25 MR. JOHNSON: Daniel Johnson. Thank you.

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1 My concern is from the permian basin. How will it
2 affect the oil drilling in that area? Because of our
3 dependence on the fossil fuels. And especially in New
4 Mexico -- our economic impact. If our fossil fuels
5 are somehow impeded or somehow they're not -- we
6 can't get into them because of this area. And will it
7 affect it going down, burying this stuff like they
8 intend to -- if it will affect the fossil fuels. So
9 I am looking at the economic impact of the oil
10 industry -- and drilling and so forth. It's -- I
11 see that as a possible problem. Also, I know
12 something about that grade of waste in twenty year,
13 Navy Marine. I've been around it. And it's
14 dangerous. So that -- that's my comment.

15 (Pause)

16 MR. RAMERO: Okay, so I thought I would
17 come out here today. I am the chairman of the
18 Democratic Party of Chaves County. Just to give you
19 a brief -- without getting into, you know, specifics
20 of anything -- had a rudimentary sense, in my
21 opinion, I know there will be arguments in favor of
22 this. But my opinion is I am against this. I think,
23 you know, dumping radioactive waste in our backyard,
24 honestly, I think just at any level for me, at least,
25 is a bad idea and I am against it.

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1 (Pause)

2 MR. CAMERON: Good evening, everybody.
3 It's so nice to see all of you tonight and thank you
4 for coming out to join us for the first of three NRC
5 meetings in Southeastern New Mexico on the NRC's
6 review of the license application that they received
7 from Holtec International to build and construct an
8 interim spent fuel storage facility in Lea County, New
9 Mexico.

10 And my name is Chip Cameron and I'm going
11 to be the facilitator for the meeting tonight, and in
12 that role I'll try to help all of you to have a
13 productive meeting.

14 The focus of tonight's meeting is on
15 something called scoping, and scoping is a term that's
16 used under the National Environmental Policy Act, a
17 federal law that requires the preparation of an
18 Environmental Impact Statement in certain
19 circumstances, and this is a circumstance that the NRC
20 is preparing an Environmental Impact Statement.

21 So what does scoping mean? It's simple
22 really. It's what should be evaluated in the
23 Environmental Impact Statement? What doesn't need to
24 be evaluated in the Environmental Impact Statement?
25 In other words, what's the scope of the statement?

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1 And the NRC staff is here tonight to hear any comments
2 or suggestions you have on that matter.

3 And there's two objectives tonight for the
4 meeting. First objective for the NRC staff is to
5 clearly explain the NRC license review process to you.
6 Second objective is for the NRC to have an opportunity
7 to listen to your comments, your advice on the
8 important issues. And those two objectives, they
9 correspond to the two segments of the meeting, to the
10 agenda of the meeting.

11 First of all, we're going to hear from the
12 NRC staff. They're going to explain the review
13 process to you on this license application. And the
14 second part of the meeting is to hear public comment
15 from all of you. And there's going to be a few
16 minutes; and probably I should emphasize "few," to see
17 if there's any clarifying questions on the license
18 review process. And I'm emphasizing "process." See
19 if we can answer some of those before we go on to
20 public comment.

21 We have an amazing amount of people who
22 want to talk tonight, around 50 people. And usually
23 I set a guideline of five minutes a speaker, but
24 because there's 50 people, we're going to go to four
25 minutes. And I apologize to those of you who I have

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1 to ask to finish your comments tonight because I know
2 that you've spent time and energy preparing comments
3 and coming to this meeting.

4 Now fortunately there are several other
5 ways to comment, provide scoping comments to the NRC
6 staff; and the staff will tell you how to do that, but
7 basically you can send a comment in in writing. Even
8 if you comment tonight, if you want to amplify on your
9 comments, feel -- you're perfectly free to do that.
10 So we have sort of a safety valve on that score for
11 people to comment.

12 And only one comment per person,
13 obviously. We won't go around for a second round, but
14 it is for minutes. Try to be crisp in your comments,
15 okay, so that we might get out of here at a decent
16 time.

17 Now we are taking a transcript. We have
18 a court reporter here. Matthew McMullen; thank you,
19 Matthew, is here. He's taking a transcript, so that's
20 going to be a formal record of everything that was
21 said here tonight and it's going to be publicly
22 available to all of you on the NRC web site. And I
23 think we'll say a little bit more about how you will
24 get into that. It's probably going to be two to three
25 weeks before that transcript will be on there, but

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1 you'll be able to see it all.

2 One important point is that the NRC staff
3 is here to listen carefully to what you have to say.
4 They're not going to be responding to your comments.
5 They're not going to be responding to any questions
6 that you have in your comments, okay, but they will be
7 reviewing those comments including questions when they
8 evaluate the scoping comments. And the NRC issues a
9 Scoping Report that will also be on the web site where
10 they evaluate the comments that were given.

11 So they're going to be carefully
12 evaluating your comments and questions when they
13 prepare the draft Environmental Impact Statement, when
14 they prepare the Scoping Report. The draft
15 Environmental Impact Statement is also subject to
16 public comment, public meetings. So they'll be out
17 here again with all of you.

18 And I know that when we're in a situation
19 where there's a company, a private enterprise that is
20 a license applicant to the NRC, people understandably
21 have a lot of questions that they'd like to ask the
22 license applicant. Well, we do have Holtec staff here
23 with us tonight and they're going to be available
24 after the meeting to talk with you, to tell you know
25 you can contact them, if you want to communicate with

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1 them. And I'd like to introduce Joy Russell.

2 Joy, can you just stand up?

3 Joy is the leader of the team from Holtec
4 International. They'll be here to talk to you if you
5 need to talk to them.

6 In terms of the NRC presenters, the
7 speakers tonight, we have three speakers: We have
8 Cinthya Roman, who's right here. Now she's Chief of
9 the Environmental Review Branch at the NRC, and it's
10 in the Division of Fuel Cycles, Safeguards, and
11 Environmental Review in the NRC's Office of Nuclear
12 Material Safety and Safeguards. So Cinthya is the
13 branch chief.

14 The project manager for the environmental
15 review of the Holtec application is Jill Caverly, and
16 she's going to be talking to you about the process.

17 And we also have our senior NRC official
18 here, Brian Smith. He's the Deputy Director of the
19 Division of Fuel Cycles, Safeguards, and Environmental
20 Protection. He'll say a brief comment after Jill's
21 done, but he'll also close the meeting out for us.

22 I also want to introduce the main NRC
23 staffers who are responsible for the safety review.
24 And this is an important point. You're going to hear
25 about it. When the NRC reviews a license application

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1 to see if it should be granted, there is an
2 environmental review. Jill. Cinthya. And this is a
3 scoping meeting on the environmental review, but
4 there's also a safety review to see if the application
5 meets the NRC's safety regulations. And tonight we
6 have John McKirgan here, right here, and John is the
7 Branch Chief where the safety review for this
8 application takes place. Jose Cuadrado, he's the
9 project manager on the safety review.

10 They're here tonight so that if any of
11 your comments fall more in the safety area rather than
12 the environment scoping area, they're here to listen,
13 to know that you made those comments, to consider
14 those safety issues as they do their safety review.

15 Okay. We're fortunate to have the staff
16 of two of New Mexico's congressional delegation here
17 tonight. And Diane Ventura is right here, and Diane
18 is with the Roswell Office of Senator Heinrich. We
19 also have Gloria Ann Salas. Gloria is with
20 Representative Steve Pearce.

21 So thank you for being here and thank you
22 for the attention of the congressmen.

23 Now what I'd like to do is just -- I don't
24 think I need to say this, but I always like for all of
25 us to remember courtesy, and I mean all of us: NRC

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1 staff, myself, whatever. You may hear comments
2 tonight that you disagree with, but just respect the
3 person who's giving that particular comment.

4 Now I'm going to go to Cinthya Roman, the
5 branch chief, and she not only is going to give you an
6 introduction to this, but she's also going to say a
7 few remarks in Spanish to you. So I'm turning it over
8 to Cinthya right now.

9 MS. ROMAN: Thank you. I'm going to start
10 with a Spanish person. It's basically summarize what
11 he said.

12 (Spanish language spoken.)

13 MS. ROMAN: So as Chip mentioned, staff in
14 my branch is going to be working on the environment
15 review for the license application for Holtec. Our
16 main goal today is to hear from you. So I'm going to
17 try to be very brief in my remarks.

18 First, I want to give you a very quick
19 overview of what NRC does and what is our role in
20 regulating the Holtec project.

21 Our agency is charged by federal law to be
22 the nation's only regulator of commercial nuclear
23 materials independently ensuring these materials are
24 used, handled and stored safely and securely. Our
25 mission is to protect the public health and safety,

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1 promote common defense and security and protect the
2 environment by regulating the civilian use of
3 radioactive materials. To accomplish our mission we
4 carefully review each license application we receive
5 before making a decision on whether or not to grant
6 the applicant's request.

7 Next slide. NRC regulates the operation
8 of 99 nuclear power reactors that generate about 20
9 percent of the electricity in the United States. We
10 also regulate civilian use of nuclear materials,
11 research reactors at universities, transportation of
12 nuclear materials and their storage and disposal.

13 NRC strives to be open and transparent in
14 their reviews. As such, stakeholders may have many
15 opportunities to participate in public meetings on
16 environmental and safety issues. This scoping meeting
17 is one of those opportunities.

18 Next slide. As an independent regulator
19 the NRC determine whether it is safe to build and
20 operate a storage facility at the proposed site. The
21 NRC does not promote or build any nuclear facility.
22 Also we do not own and operate the facilities. Our
23 mission again is to protect the public and the workers
24 and the environment.

25 Holtec is applying for a license to store

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1 waste. They are not asking NRC for permission to
2 reprocess or generate more nuclear waste. NRC does
3 not select the location for the storage facility. We
4 just evaluate the impacts of building and operating
5 the storage facility at the location proposed by the
6 licensee.

7 As we will explain later in this
8 presentation the results of our environmental review
9 will be documented in an Environmental Impact
10 Statement which is a public document. This analysis
11 along with other factors will inform the basis for the
12 staff decision to issue a license or not. This
13 concludes my remarks and now Jill Caverly will provide
14 additional details about the environmental review
15 process.

16 MS. CAVERLY: Thank you, Cinthya. So my
17 name is Jill Caverly and I'm the environmental project
18 manager for the review, and I'm assisted by Stacy
19 Inboden who you might have met outside in the lobby.

20 The next few slides will be specific to
21 the Holtec storage facility application and review.

22 Holtec has applied for a license to
23 construct and operate a storage facility under 10 CFR
24 Part 72. The NRC regulations governing storage of
25 spent nuclear fuel and reactor-related greater than

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1 Class C waste. If granted, Holtec would receive a 40-
2 year license to construct and operate the consolidated
3 interim storage facility. The current application
4 before the NRC requests construction and operation of
5 only the first of up to 20 planned phases.

6 In this current application Holtec is
7 requesting storage of up to 500 canisters of spent
8 nuclear fuel. The spent nuclear fuel would come from
9 shutdown and operating nuclear power plants from
10 around the country. Holtec anticipates applying for
11 up to 20 phases of construction and operation of 500
12 canisters of spent nuclear fuel each for a total of
13 10,000 canisters of spent fuel storage. However,
14 these additional phases would require separate
15 applications from Holtec and would be subject to their
16 own safety and environmental reviews. The
17 Environmental Report provides information on the full
18 build-out of the site, or 10,000 canisters.

19 Next slide, please. This slide shows the
20 approximate location of the proposed consolidated
21 interim storage facility in New Mexico, and as you can
22 see the facility is located approximately halfway
23 between the cities of Carlsbad and Hobbs in Lea
24 County.

25 Next slide, please. Holtec plans to use

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1 the HI-STORM UMAX system for the storage of the spent
2 fuel. HI-STORM UMAX stands for the Holtec
3 International Storage Module Underground Maximum
4 capacity and is an NRC-certified design, which means
5 we have evaluated it and determined that it meets NRC
6 regulations and can safely store spent fuel.

7 The system is a dry, in-ground spent fuel
8 storage system. Each of these modules hold one
9 canister of spent fuel and Holtec has applied for
10 storage of 500 canisters of spent fuel. The canister
11 transfer facility will be below ground. This is a
12 low-profile design as seen in the conceptual drawing
13 from Holtec's application.

14 Next slide, please. This flowchart
15 provides an overview of the license application review
16 process which can be described generally as a three
17 parallel phase process. After the application is
18 submitted the NRC conducts an acceptance review to
19 determine if the application has sufficient
20 information to begin a detailed technical review. if
21 so, the NRC docket the application and this begins
22 the safety and environmental review paths.

23 From the safety standpoint we work through
24 a separate safety review to decide if a license should
25 be issued. The result of this phase of the review is

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1 a Safety Evaluation Report. This is graphically
2 represented in the left column of the flowchart or the
3 steps in orange. Jose Cuadrado, as we mentioned, will
4 be the project manager coordinating that aspect of the
5 review.

6 The environmental review can be seen in
7 the middle column and the results of that are the
8 Environmental Impact Statement, which describes the
9 impacts on the environment of the proposed project.

10 On the right-hand side you'll see the
11 adjudicatory hearings. This blue box on the figure
12 refers to the opportunity for the public to request a
13 hearing on the application. These hearings would be
14 held if a petition to intervene is granted.

15 The results of these three processes: a
16 hearing if granted, the results of the environmental
17 review documented in an Environmental Impact
18 Statement, and the safety review documented in the
19 Safety Evaluation Report, will factor into the NRC's
20 final decision on whether or not to grant the license
21 to Holtec for the storage facility. It's important to
22 note that the focus of tonight's meeting is on the
23 environment review process.

24 Next slide, please. This flow diagram
25 outlines the environmental review process or the

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1 middle column of the previous slide. And as you can
2 see the opportunities for public involvement are
3 highlighted in light blue. After staff receives an
4 application it is reviewed to ensure it is complete
5 and technically adequate, and if acceptable, the
6 application is docketed and we proceed on both the
7 environmental and safety reviews.

8 The NRC starts the environmental review by
9 publishing a Notice of Intent which informs the public
10 of our plan to prepare and Environmental Impact
11 Statement and conduct the scoping process. The light
12 blue box on the right identifies the current scoping
13 process, which is the meeting tonight. The purpose of
14 this phase is to gather more information to use to
15 help us prepare our EIS.

16 Comments gathered from this meeting, as
17 well as many other information collections, will be
18 independently evaluated for impacts of this particular
19 project on the environment. We will document your
20 comments today in the meeting transcript. The public
21 can also provide written comments through the end of
22 the scoping period.

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

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1 the draft EIS, and that's represented in the lower
2 blue box. At that time the staff will again -- at
3 that time the staff will schedule a meeting to hear
4 comments on the draft EIS. We'll again evaluate those
5 comments and consider modifying the draft EIS before
6 issuing a final EIS. The final EIS will result -- the
7 final EIS and the results of the safety review,
8 otherwise known as the Safety Evaluation Report, again
9 contribute to our final decision.

10 Next slide, please. Our environmental
11 review is based on the requirements of the National
12 Environmental Policy Act, or NEPA. NEPA requires
13 federal agencies to apply a systematic approach to
14 evaluate the impacts of its actions. For major
15 federal actions NEPA requires agencies to document
16 their evaluation the EIS. NRC will prepare the EIS in
17 accordance with these regulations and guidance. NEPA
18 also encourages public participation in the process.
19 That's why we're here. We are looking for public
20 input to our environmental review process.

21 Next slide, please. So here's a graphical
22 representation of the types and sources of information
23 that NRC is gathering when we're preparing our EIS.
24 We'll conduct a site visit, we'll meet with local and
25 state officials and other federal agencies, and we'll

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1 also meet with tribes. We're currently gathering that
2 information for scoping to help us determine which
3 issues should be considered in our review. We also
4 expect to request additional information from Holtec
5 following the completion of these activities.

6 Next slide, please. NRC will gather
7 information on a wide range of topics related to the
8 environmental issues, and this slide provides many of
9 the resource areas we will consider in our
10 Environmental Impact Statement. So as you can see, we
11 include many different resource areas including
12 transportation and environment justice, groundwater,
13 surface water, waste management, air quality, geology
14 and soils.

15 Next slide, please. This slide is a high-
16 level timeline for anticipated environmental review.
17 This stepwise approach meets our responsibilities
18 under the National Environmental Policy Act, or NEPA,
19 that we talked about a little earlier. We stated that
20 the review -- we started with the review with a Notice
21 of Intent to Conduct Scoping and to prepare an EIS.
22 This started a 60-day scoping period. The public --
23 this public meeting is part of that process and we
24 will continue to gather information and analyze
25 information as the review continues and we develop the

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1 EIS.

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

9 Next slide, please. So the scoping
10 process is intended to do many things: to determine
11 the scope of the EIS and identify significant issues
12 that NRC should analyze in depth; also to identify and
13 eliminate issues which are not significant; to
14 identify other environmental reviews and consultation
15 requirements related to the proposed action. So in
16 other words, we want to hear from you because you live
17 in the local area and may bring issues to our
18 attention that we're not aware of.

19 Next slide, please. The NRC is requesting
20 information about -- the NRC is requesting information
21 and input specific to the proposed facility regarding
22 what should be included or excluded from the scope of
23 the EIS. Some examples of information that NRC is
24 requesting are are there local projects that are being
25 planned or developed nearby? Have you identified

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1 wildlife or habitat that should be considered? Are
2 there cultural resources that should be considered in
3 the evaluation? Are there particular populations
4 nearby that should be considered? Are there unique
5 characteristics of the project site or local
6 communities that NRC should consider in the
7 evaluation?

8 Next slide, please. So there are many
9 ways that you can provide your scoping comments. You
10 may present comments orally or in writing at this
11 public meeting. You may submit comments through the
12 regulations.gov web site by searching for the docket
13 ID listed here. And I'll just say it for the record.
14 It's NRC-2018-0052. You may also mail comments to the
15 address on this slide. Remember that all the comments
16 should be submitted by May 29th in order to ensure
17 that they will be considered.

18 Next slide, please. So additional
19 information on the application and review can be found
20 on the Federal Rulemaking web site or at the NRC's
21 public document room through the NRC's Agencywide
22 Document Access and Management System, also known as
23 ADAMS, or through the NRC's project-specific web site
24 for the Holtec application. And all those links are
25 listed here. In addition, the public libraries in

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1 Hobbs, Carlsbad and Roswell have agreed to hold a copy
2 of the environmental report for public review.

3 If you want to be on our mailing list or
4 our email list, please make sure that your name and
5 your address are provided to one of the NRC staff at
6 the registration table. This is the one way to ensure
7 that you will be notified of upcoming meetings and
8 issuance of the draft and final EIS. At the bottom of
9 the slide are the NRC's points of contact. And just
10 to remind you once again to please provide your
11 comments by May 29th.

12 And I'm going to pass -- turn this over to
13 Brian Smith for comments.

14 MR. SMITH: Thank you, Jill.

15 Good evening and thank you for coming out
16 tonight and attending our scoping meeting.

17 My division, the Division of Fuel Cycle,
18 Safeguards, and Environmental Review, has a
19 responsibility for leading and conducting and
20 preparing this Environmental Impact Statement. It's
21 a responsibility that we take very seriously.

22 We encourage and welcome your comments
23 tonight on the scope of the NRC's EIS. The NRC's job
24 is to protect the public health and safety and the
25 environment by thoroughly reviewing each license

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1 application we receive before deciding whether or not
2 to grant an applicant's request.

3 We understand that in the audience tonight
4 there are those who may oppose Holtec's license
5 application as well as those who may support it. I
6 want to assure you that we want to hear from both
7 sides. However, I want to remind you that the purpose
8 of this meeting is to gather comments for the scoping
9 of our EIS. We want to know what important
10 information and issues we need to consider and analyze
11 in our EIS. We treat all of the comments we receive
12 the same, whether a comment was made by one person or
13 by 100 people.

14 We give each comment we receive the same
15 careful consideration during the preparation of our
16 EIS. We will consider all of the oral and written
17 comments we receive here tonight as well as those we
18 receive via letter, email, or through the federal
19 rulemaking web site, regulations.gov.

20 The EIS combined with the NRC's safety and
21 security review of Holtec's license application
22 request will result in an NRC licensing decision to
23 either approve the license request or disapprove it.

24 And to allow as much time as we can for
25 public comment I'll turn it over to Chip. Thank you.

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1 MR. CAMERON: Okay. Thank you, Cinthya
2 and Jill and Brian.

3 As I mentioned earlier, we have a few
4 minutes to see if there's any clarifying questions on
5 the process, the review process that we could answer.
6 And I wonder does anybody have a question? Yes?

7 PARTICIPANT: Thank you.

8 MR. CAMERON: Here, let me give you this
9 so they get you -- it's not --

10 PARTICIPANT: I can speak up.

11 (Laughter.)

12 MR. CAMERON: It's not -- I'm not saying
13 anything on that.

14 PARTICIPANT: Oh, you're not -- he's
15 not --

16 MR. CAMERON: I'm not saying anything.
17 But it's not so people can --

18 PARTICIPANT: That's fine.

19 MR. CAMERON: -- hear you. It's so we get
20 it on the transcript.

21 PARTICIPANT: Oh, that's fine.

22 MR. CAMERON: That's why it has to be
23 on --

24 PARTICIPANT: Well, my question is is what
25 is with the police presence? They come in. They go

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1 out. They circle the room. They stare us down. I'm
2 afraid -- no offense, hon -- I'm afraid. I mean, what
3 is going on? I'm trying not to wiggle too much. I'm
4 trying to breathe too hard. Serious. What is with
5 the police presence? We're highly educated,
6 reasonably intelligent people. Why all the cops?
7 What are you guys going to do?

8 MR. CAMERON: Well, there are several
9 paddy wagons outside --

10 (Laughter.)

11 MR. CAMERON: -- waiting for you.

12 (Laughter.)

13 PARTICIPANT: I wouldn't doubt it.

14 MR. CAMERON: Okay.

15 PARTICIPANT: You know, could they take --

16 (Simultaneous speaking.)

17 MR. CAMERON: No, no. No, it's a -- and
18 I have to tell you that Chief Newberry and his people
19 have been very helpful all night in terms of making
20 sure that, for example, the NRC staff leave if we have
21 to bring people in. So the NRC -- and I'll answer
22 this process question for the NRC, is that when we go
23 to public meetings, we sometimes encounter people who
24 may be violent. Okay?

25 (Laughter.)

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1 MR. CAMERON: I know you find that hard to
2 believe, but that's why we have security. And in this
3 case when we're -- and I have to thank the university.
4 When we're using a space at the university, the
5 university is going to want to make sure -- if it's a
6 meeting on a controversial subject, they're going to
7 want to make sure that they have their security staff
8 here in case something does happen. so we'll all take
9 a chill pill.

10 (Laughter.)

11 MR. CAMERON: Okay? So I'm going to go on
12 to other questions. And I'm going to go to Kevin
13 Kampus in the back and we'll come up to you next.
14 Okay? Okay. This is Kevin Kampus.

15 Kevin?

16 MR. KAMPUS: Hi, Kevin Kampus with Beyond
17 Nuclear, and I had this question last Wednesday, but
18 didn't get to ask it because there was no time.

19 Twice now I've heard Cinthya Roman say
20 that NRC is not a promotional agency, but I attended
21 a Spent Fuel Project Office regulatory conference in
22 North Bethesda where Tony Hsai, who was acting
23 director at the time said, together we can get this
24 done, speaking about centralized interim storage. And
25 that was just a few years ago. So tremendous concern

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1 that at least for him that day this was something he
2 wanted to get done. So can you address NRC's role?
3 Has NRC ever denied a permit for something like this
4 in its history?

5 MR. CAMERON: And thank you for that
6 question. And that is a process question because it
7 goes to the neutrality of the NRC review. So thank
8 you, Kevin.

9 Is there -- I don't know if, Brian, you
10 can talk to Tony's remark, but you can certainly
11 clarify what the NRC position is.

12 MR. SMITH: Yes, I was not at the
13 conference that you're referencing, so I don't know
14 the context in which Tony made that remark. Tony Hsai
15 is still the Deputy Director of the Division of Spent
16 Fuel Management. The division has the lead for the
17 technical safety review of this license application.

18 Our role is, as Cinthya said a couple of
19 times, is not a promoter of the industry. As I
20 mentioned in my remarks, our job is to protect public
21 health and safety and the environment to making sure
22 that the applicants and the licensees meet our
23 regulations so that they can be protective of their
24 workers, the public and the environment itself.

25 You had a question about have we ever

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1 denied or turned down an application like this in the
2 past? I'm not aware that we have. There's only been
3 two other applications that I'm aware of. One was
4 private fuel storage in which we did issue a license
5 back in 2006. The facility was never constructed. We
6 did receive the waste control specialist license
7 application. That has been on hold for some months
8 now. And now we've received the Holtec license
9 application.

10 MR. CAMERON: So there haven't been many.
11 But thank you, Kevin, for that.

12 And thank you, Brian, for clarifying that.

13 And, yes, ma'am? Could you just please
14 just tell us your name, too?

15 MS. HERNANDEZ: My name is Charlene
16 Hernandez, a concerned citizen and I just want to ask
17 you a question, if the person is here that's applying
18 for the license, the agency or whatever?

19 MR. CAMERON: Yes, I introduced Joy
20 Russell, who's right back there, and she's here with
21 two of her colleagues. And in fact Joy, like --
22 Holtec International, like anybody else here, can sign
23 up for their time to speak. So she's going to speak
24 later on and you'll be able to hear her and know who
25 she is.

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1 MS. HERNANDEZ: Okay. Thank you.

2 MR. CAMERON: Okay. Thank you.

3 Let me go here and then we'll come up to
4 you. Yes?

5 MR. BURMAN: Chip, as you know, I'm Lon
6 Burman and I had 18 years in the Texas legislature, so
7 I'm real familiar with bureaucratese, but I'm still
8 struggling with the concept of bifurcating health and
9 safety with EIS. To me they're kind of interrelated
10 and I'm not sure how to frame my comments since I
11 think health and safety are the most important
12 environmental issues.

13 MR. CAMERON: Now that's a very good point
14 because they're separate reviews, but there will be
15 information probably in the environment review that
16 has safety implications. And I heard a good
17 discussion of how that works.

18 And, John, are you going to talk to that,
19 because that's a -- people need to know that?

20 MR. MCKIRGAN: Yes, thank you. I
21 appreciate that question. So this is John McKirgan.
22 I'm Chief of the Licensing Branch.

23 And I think there are two very important
24 points to differentiate the environmental review and
25 the overall licensing process. And so it really has

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1 its roots in the statutory requirements that both of
2 these review processes are seeking to comply with.
3 One is based, as you heard, in the Environmental
4 Policy Act and the other of course is based on the
5 Atomic Energy Act. And those two statutory
6 requirements work together and the NRC implements both
7 of those to achieve an overall finding when we issue
8 the license, but the NRC is working towards ensuring
9 compliance with all of the relevant statutes there.

10 As Chip mentioned, the environmental
11 review and the safety review often touch on very
12 similar concepts and themes. Certainly siting
13 characteristics. Soil characteristics for example are
14 one that impacts both the environmental review and the
15 safety review. And we talk quite commonly amongst the
16 reviewers to make sure that the information is shared
17 across those two. So even though the processes are
18 somewhat unique, there is a great deal of connection
19 between those two activities.

20 MR. CAMERON: Thank you very much. And
21 that last part about the consultation between the
22 review -- environmental staff and safety staff is a
23 very important one.

24 Yes, sir?

25 MR. CARASCO: Aldo Carasco and I live here

1 in Roswell, New Mexico and somehow have managed to
2 live here since 1974.

3 In a couple of the slides the word
4 "interim" was included in there. And it's interesting
5 because my background is in linguistics. Believe it
6 or not, I didn't waste my time at New Mexico State.
7 And there -- in the field of linguistics you have
8 what's called a gradable ambiguity, and some people
9 would define for instance the climate in here as cold.
10 Others may cool. Others may say warm.

11 So right now this university, if I'm not
12 mistaken, has an interim president until they find a
13 suitable replacement. So we know there will be
14 eventually another president.

15 When we talk about interim storage who
16 gets to stipulate the limits? Who gets to define that
17 word? Will it be Holtec, or will it be you guys, or
18 will it be the voters? But there has to be more
19 accuracy in the definition of the word "interim,"
20 because I used to be a member of the Concerned
21 Citizens of Roswell and we were concerned that this
22 would happen eventually, that they would bring spent
23 nuclear rods and store them here indefinitely. So if
24 you could possibly -- one of you define the length of
25 time, please.

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1 MR. CAMERON: Okay. Thank you very
2 important question, and I don't know where the term
3 "interim" actually originated, okay, but, Jill,
4 Cinthya, Brian, I think you see what the concern is
5 behind the question.

6 And there may not be something that we
7 really -- there may be a larger issue than the NRC,
8 but, John, do you want to talk to that?

9 MR. KcKIRGAN: Yes, thank you, if I could.

10 So the application as put forward is for
11 40 years. And now we do need to be clear and candid,
12 right? There are opportunities to renew that license
13 for an additional 40 years. But that is the interim
14 concept that's being put forward today is a 40-year
15 license. A renewal would be subject to further review
16 by the NRC staff, but that's the term that's put
17 forward here.

18 MR. CAMERON: And on that particular issue
19 all of us: NRC, citizens, you sort of have to follow
20 what the Congress is doing in terms of connections
21 between storage facility and Yucca Mountain or
22 wherever the repository, if there is a repository --
23 so that's sort of the game we're in and -- but great
24 question.

25 We have time for one more, and there's a

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1 gentleman back there that we're going to go to on
2 this.

3 Yes, sir?

4 PARTICIPANT: Yes, you're asking for
5 names, addresses and contact information of everyone
6 who signs in here in the front, and that is all the
7 information that you have and the knowledge you have.
8 And knowledge is power. So may I suggest that as soon
9 as this meeting is over you post these lists on the
10 Internet so that we all have exactly the same
11 information that you NRC and Holtec have?

12 (Applause.)

13 MR. CAMERON: Okay. Thank you.

14 Okay. There's a recommendation.

15 Okay. We're going to go to public comment
16 now, and we have a lot of commenters.

17 I'm going to start with people from
18 Albuquerque, from Midland, Texas, from Los Cruces, New
19 Mexico who have long travel. So we're going to go to
20 these people first. Okay?

21 PARTICIPANT: Sister Joan came with some
22 people that have to leave tonight. If her group could
23 speak first, that would be --

24 (Simultaneous speaking.)

25 MR. CAMERON: You know what? That's

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1 exactly who I was referring to. How about that?
2 Okay. And in fact we're going to start with Sister
3 Joan. Where is Sister -- oh, here's Sister Joan. And
4 I'm going to put this here, okay, sister, and you can
5 talk to the NRC. The people will be able to hear you.

6 Okay. Go ahead.

7 SISTER JOAN BROWN: Okay. Everybody hear?
8 Okay. Great.

9 Thank you. My name is Sister Joan Brown,
10 J-O-A-N, B-R-O-W-N, and I live in Albuquerque. I'm
11 the Executive Director of New Mexico Interfaith Power
12 and Light and I'm a Franciscan sister.

13 And I'm very happy to be here in this part
14 of our state in this desert place, which quite
15 beautiful actually. And I come from a long tradition
16 and Christian tradition of people going to the desert,
17 not because it was a throwaway place or a place where
18 nobody lived or it was not important, but because that
19 is where people find God and that is where we find our
20 souls and we meet our souls and ourselves in a very
21 deep place. So those of you coming from back East, I
22 welcome you these days to uncover that and discover
23 that here as well, as well as our friends from Holtec
24 who do not live here in the state as well.

25 So as a Franciscan sister in my Catholic

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1 tradition there are several things that are really
2 important: One is that we are brothers and sisters to
3 everyone and everything, every element. Again, there
4 is no out there, there is nothing that is a waste,
5 there is nothing that is to be thrown away or
6 discriminated against. We're also called to use
7 primacy of conscience, which means to follow the law
8 of God inscribed in our hearts, and that is a moral
9 law and a law that is high that we need to choose to
10 do what is right.

11 Also within my tradition there are some
12 environmental justice principles that we hold that I
13 think are important for the NRC to understand. Human
14 life and dignity, that every human life is important.
15 It doesn't matter if you live in an urban area or if
16 you live in a rural area. A life is a life and none
17 are dispensable. We need to be concerned about the
18 safety and health of all lives. And in this state we
19 have a history of that not being respected. We have
20 many people dying of cancer who are downwinders who
21 are suffering from uranium mining, and we are very
22 skeptical because we do not want to see this
23 continued. And that is why we are concerned with this
24 new proposed Holtec project.

25 We're called to be stewards of creation.

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1 That means to be caretakers. Like your gardens at
2 home, how many of us would put nuclear waste into my
3 garden, which I just planted my tomato plants in. I
4 do not think so. It is holy ground. We have an
5 obligation to future generations far beyond -- I can't
6 even imagine. In terms of religious traditions
7 250,000 years that we're dealing with with this
8 nuclear waste is eternity. It's an eternity.

9 There is a concept of spirit of
10 subsidiarity, which really addresses environmental
11 justice. And this project is proposed in one of the
12 poorer areas of the state, a predominantly Hispanic-
13 speaking area and very low-income area, as if people
14 here are not intelligent, do not have a voice and
15 cannot say, yes, we want something or, no, we don't.
16 It speaks of again human life and it is not just for
17 economic gain for a few individuals or a few
18 companies.

19 MR. CAMERON: Sister, if I could have you
20 sum up now?

21 SISTER JOAN BROWN: Okay. So these are a
22 few of the concerns. I do have some suggestions and
23 I'll make those very brief, that the storage site for
24 this needs to stay where it is at the nuclear power
25 plants where it is already stored.

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1 Second, we need a longer comment period
2 and in other locations in the state because this will
3 be transported throughout the state and affect many of
4 us.

5 And finally, that we need to have all the
6 information, adequate resources including financial
7 verifications and analysis. Thank you very much.

8 MR. CAMERON: Okay. Thank you. Thank you
9 very much, sister.

10 (Applause.)

11 MR. CAMERON: Sister Marlene Perrotte?
12 She's -- okay.

13 How about Carol Merrill? And here's --
14 Carol, do you want to use this microphone up here?
15 Thank you.

16 MS. MERRILL: Thank you. My name is Carol
17 Merrill, a retired librarian and teacher from
18 Albuquerque. I'm a published author and have been a
19 member of CARD, Citizens for Alternatives to
20 Radioactive Deposit -- Dumping for 30 years. I wish
21 you were having public meetings in Santa Fe and
22 Albuquerque so that more citizens could voice concerns
23 in person.

24 Two of my friends live in Cerrillos, New
25 Mexico, one block from a railroad. They want to say

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1 to you leave the high-level waste where it is.

2 Another of my friends owns a newspaper
3 north of Albuquerque in the village of Corrales, the
4 *Corrales Comment*, where I work as a freelance
5 reporter. He is unable to be here because it's
6 deadline day. He wants to say; this is important,
7 back in the '70s and '80s New Mexican citizens were
8 repeated reassured that locating the Waste Isolation
9 Pilot Project, WIPP, would not lead to the deposit of
10 high-level waste in New Mexico. This current proposal
11 is an unconscionable breach of those promises never to
12 allow this to happen. This is inexcusable.

13 For my concerns personally there is no way
14 to justify hauling high-level nuclear waste across
15 thousands of miles of aging train tracks endangering
16 countless communities. The canisters that Holtec is
17 trying to get the Government to pay for are defective.
18 For one, they are not able to withstand the high
19 temperatures of Southern New Mexico. And engineer who
20 studied Holtec's specifications for their proposed
21 canisters told me this. Is this correct? I need to
22 know that. I want it on paper one way or the other.

23 The temperature around Southern New Mexico
24 sometimes reaches 120 degrees and their canisters are
25 not effective at that high temperature. The canisters

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1 will be 12 inches up out of the ground. Perhaps this
2 project was not well-planned.

3 The spent fuel rods are from power plants
4 mostly on the East Coast. We do not even receive
5 benefit from the electricity that was generated. If
6 the nuclear waste is so safe for us here, why don't
7 the people around the nuclear plants keep it there?

8 (Applause.)

9 MS. MERRILL: The best solution is to
10 leave high-level waste near where it was generated.
11 It is important to have effective sealed storage on
12 site where it is now without exposing millions of
13 people along railroads to deadly high-level waste in
14 ineffective canisters.

15 One additional concern: If there would be
16 a serious example -- for example, a derailment in a
17 heavily-populated urban area with a breach of the seal
18 on the canister necessitating a mass evacuation, with
19 an area becoming uninhabitable for a long, long time;
20 think Chernobyl --

21 MR. CAMERON: And could you sum up for us,
22 Carol, please?

23 MS. MERRILL: -- and Fukushima, who would
24 be liable? I'm almost done. Is Holtec willing to be
25 responsible should an accident occur? Do they have

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1 good insurance? If they are not liable, if they go
2 bankrupt, how can we as citizens expect them to invest
3 in an effective canister?

4 I have three more sentences. They require
5 an act of Congress -- they require an act of Congress
6 to proceed. What they're doing now is illegal. That
7 is out of the question. Time to reconsider. This
8 proposition is unacceptable.

9 One more sentence. For our energy
10 concerns in this great nation it is time to employ
11 natural genius to find more elegant, safe generators
12 using wind, sun, water, tides, solar, geothermal for
13 starters. Thank you for listening. Thank you.

14 MR. CAMERON: Okay. Thank you.

15 (Applause.)

16 MR. CAMERON: Thank you, Carol.

17 And I'm going to follow the recommendation
18 of the gentleman in the back. I'm going to call a few
19 names so that you know you're coming up. And we have
20 three people here from Interfaith Power and Light from
21 Albuquerque who signed up. They didn't give the last
22 name. One of them did, but Tom, Stephen and Judy
23 Smith. And then we have a group of five coming up.

24 And is this Tom?

25 MR. GORMAN: Yes.

1 MR. CAMERON: Okay.

2 MR. GORMAN: Good evening. I am Tom
3 Gorman and I live in Santa Fe County and I came down
4 here tonight just because I felt very strongly about
5 this project.

6 I have a background in emergency
7 management. I was an emergency manager for a number
8 of years in Colorado Springs and then when I moved to
9 New Mexico in 1992 I worked at the State Office of
10 Emergency Management for 14 years doing emergency
11 planning.

12 And everything I can see about this
13 project tells me it's not properly planned. I agree
14 with the gentleman that brought up the idea of interim
15 storage. Interim is an interesting concept for
16 something that might last 120 years.

17 In emergency planning we didn't think
18 along those terms. We always had a -- If we were
19 doing an interim plan we had a permanent plan in mind
20 that we started working on. That isn't happening
21 right now.

22 So I am very much opposed to this and I
23 just, I don't want to go over the same comments others
24 have made, but I am very concerned on all of the risks
25 that are expected to be handled by the people of New

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1 Mexico along the rail routes, around the communities,
2 near the site, and so for that reason I am very much
3 opposed to this. Thanks.

4 (Applause)

5 MR. CAMERON: Okay. Thank you, Mr.
6 Gorman. And Stephen from Interfaith Power and Light
7 is here and then Judy Smith.

8 MR. PICHA: Good evening. My name is
9 Stephen Picha and I am from Albuquerque as well. We
10 were greeted earlier this afternoon by the Mayor who
11 was unable to then stay on because he said family is
12 first.

13 I make my passage here this evening
14 because my family is first, too, and that family is
15 not just my immediate family but my New Mexican family
16 and my Creation family.

17 This is an old place. People have
18 inhabited this land for many, many years, longer than
19 where people who have helped create this nuclear waste
20 come from, and that cannot be forgotten.

21 And it made me grateful to hear that you
22 said that there would be conversations with the elders
23 here because it is important in New Mexico that we
24 speak to our elders.

25 That has been lost in many places but that

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1 is not lost here in New Mexico and the due diligence
2 calls us not as people of privilege to come in and do
3 what we think is best but as you have said to listen
4 and to listen closely and to listen carefully to the
5 people who can tell us what 120 years means to them.

6 In the native tradition they speak of
7 seven generations. We make decisions based upon seven
8 generations, which, interestingly enough, is kind of
9 your 120 year model, and so I appeal to each of you to
10 draw from a deep place of your own wisdom.

11 I come forth as well remembering my father
12 who died less than a year ago and he said sometimes
13 that in your gut when you know something just doesn't
14 sound right you got to believe it, and this is one of
15 those where in my gut, and I think in many people's
16 guts, this just isn't right. Thank you.

17 (Applause)

18 MR. CAMERON: Okay, thank you. Thank you
19 very much. And we have -- Judy Smith is coming up,
20 but we're going to go next to a group of five, Randy
21 Prude, Tim Carlisle, Cody Rogers, and Steve
22 Schafersman. Go ahead. This is Judy Smith.

23 MS. SMITH: So hello, everyone. My name
24 is Judy Smith. I, too, am also living in Albuquerque.
25 I have been in New Mexico since 1979 and I love New

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1 Mexico with all my heart.

2 When I heard about this project I thought
3 about not only the 120 years of the temporary storage,
4 because time matters, and it made me think back to the
5 time when my congregation, I belong to Congregation
6 Albert, which is a Jewish reform congregation that was
7 established in New Mexico a little bit more than 120
8 years ago, and so we have incorporated the wisdom of
9 the State into our own traditions and it made me think
10 more and more about the passage of time and that what
11 is temporary to some may not be the long view that we
12 need to take.

13 For example, my religion, according to our
14 scripture in the Old Testament, we received the wisdom
15 of God from Mount Sinai 5778 years ago and that
16 tradition was discovered in the desert so I take that
17 as symbolic.

18 But I wanted to mention Genesis 2:15 which
19 says that not only will we as humans rule over the
20 earth but we are called on to tend it and keep it, and
21 those thoughts have guided us for these 5778 years and
22 sometimes we have been successful and sometimes not.

23 In this case I think we need to take a
24 long view in order to be sure that we are successful
25 and I call success keeping being, actions that keep in

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1 mind justice, justice for the people of our State, for
2 all of us who live in this beloved, enchanted land,
3 justice for the State itself and for the land, and
4 justice for the next generations in years to come, and
5 we need to think about the impact of these decisions
6 on the next generations.

7 I am asking for some actions that have
8 already been mentioned, including time for comments in
9 accessible locations for people across the State.
10 Thank you.

11 (Applause)

12 MR. CAMERON: Okay, thank you. Thank you,
13 Judy. And this is Steve Schafersman. Okay.

14 MR. SCHAFERSMAN: Good evening, everybody.
15 Thank you, NRC, for scheduling this unscheduled
16 scoping session tonight.

17 I am a consulting scientist in Midland.
18 I work in both the petroleum and environmental
19 industries. In Midland I live downwind from a
20 potential burning interim waste site with its
21 radioactive plume.

22 I can't think of a -- I have taught
23 environmental science and environmental geology and
24 environmental law and I am very experienced in sites,
25 waste sites.

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1 I have been to six different superfund
2 sites in Houston where I got my Ph.D. at Rice and I
3 know I have been opposed to these sites from the
4 beginning.

5 I can't think of a worse place, well I
6 can, but it's hard to think of a worse place to choose
7 for placing an interim waste site than right here.
8 The area is surrounded by aquifers, some close, some
9 far.

10 The sediments and the sedimentary rock are
11 porous and permeable. The thin barrier they claim is
12 on the top is not sufficient. It's just like the WCS
13 site, which is really no better.

14 So this is not a good place to put a
15 hazardous waste site, especially one for nuclear
16 waste. I could go into much more detail about these
17 since I am a geologist and understand this stuff, but
18 I'm not.

19 The exposed casks on the surface are
20 subject to terrorism. They are exposed and a simple
21 attack with heavy explosives would create that burning
22 plume that I spoke of without much difficulty.

23 There are soluble rocks below the site,
24 limestone and rock salt. There is karst limestone in
25 the area, which is a soluble limestone that develops

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1 caverns, the caverns collapse and sinkholes develop.

2 It is conceivable that a sinkhole would
3 collapse and take down the depository with it, which
4 would be a terrible, colossal tragedy. In addition
5 there is the soluble Salado formation below that.

6 In West Texas unplugged wells carry fluids
7 to this formation, the salt dissolves, and sinkholes
8 develop. This is a matter of fact. Now I can't be
9 sure how close these are to the aquifers, but there is
10 several aquifers nearby, especially the Capitan Reef
11 Aquifer.

12 I need more detailed maps to be sure, but
13 that's the aquifer that has developed Carlsbad
14 Caverns. This is just not a good place to site this.

15 What about transportation issues? You
16 always have to do a risk benefit analysis. There is
17 a risk to transporting these hazardous materials. Ten
18 thousand canisters is calculated in a risk benefit
19 analysis that there would be one accident. That would
20 be a terrible calamity.

21 If you double that transportation to move
22 it a second time that would double the risk, you would
23 have possibly two. You might have none but you might
24 have four, it's just a statistical calculus.

25 Does the risk -- Is the risk ever

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1 acceptable? Yes. If you transport the waste once to
2 a permanent waste depository the risk is acceptable,
3 and that's what should be done.

4 MR. CAMERON: And, Steve, could you sum up
5 for us, please.

6 MR. SCHAFERSMAN: Sure.

7 MR. CAMERON: Thank you.

8 MR. SCHAFERSMAN: So why was the site put
9 here, proposed for this place, or for that matter the
10 one in Andrews County? The companies want to exploit
11 the region's assumed favoritism for free enterprise
12 and business.

13 They also want to use who they think are
14 people who don't care much about dangers but just want
15 to get the jobs. In fact, the jobs are very few and
16 the dangers are enormous.

17 The oil companies provide plenty of jobs
18 now, so this is not a good situation. The reason for
19 this proposal is that there is a fund of \$50 billion
20 that the companies want to use to develop their waste
21 sites.

22 It is likely the interim site, if
23 approved, would become a permanent site for two
24 reasons. First, there would be no more motivation to
25 develop a permanent site because the companies would

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1 no longer have title, the government would.

2 And, second, by that time the \$50 billion
3 would be gone because they would be using that money
4 to transport the waste. So I want to make a modest
5 proposal, my last sentence.

6 I propose that we look for a good site
7 which would be hard, igneous rock that is non-porous
8 and non-permeable, bore into it, place the casks
9 there, call that the interim site, and then in 120
10 years change the name to the permanent waste
11 repository.

12 That would solve all of our problems.
13 Thank you very much.

14 (Applause)

15 MR. CAMERON: Thank you, Steve. Thank
16 you, Steve. And, okay, please introduce yourself to
17 us.

18 MR. ROGERS: All right. My name is Cody
19 Rogers. I am going to be as brief as I can possibly
20 be. I can never -- I can't believe I'm in front of
21 the NRC.

22 I am an ex-Navy nuke. I have operated
23 nuclear reactors for eight years. I am a huge
24 proponent of nuclear power. I think we need it, we
25 need to go to France's model.

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1 Ladies and gentlemen, I was called here
2 today along with my friends from Midland to talk about
3 this issue. This is a major, major, major problem in
4 the United States right now.

5 We have 99 operating nuclear reactors, we
6 do not have anywhere to dispose of the spent fuel,
7 okay. This is a major, major problem and we have to
8 fix it.

9 I believe the NRC is doing their absolute
10 best to fix this problem. As Navy nuclear operators
11 we have been transporting full reactors across State
12 lines on railroads for over 60 years successfully
13 without accident or failure.

14 Now let me get to the main point that I am
15 here today. I don't know what you guys have seen when
16 it comes to the studies of the geological parts of
17 Midland, Texas, but we are on the cusp of being the
18 world's largest energy producer, okay.

19 We are going to control oil very soon. We
20 are going to control our own destiny. So West Texas
21 is one of the most valuable places in the world right
22 now, especially the United States, and, unfortunately,
23 because of this I implore you to look up Dr. Zong
24 Liu's study from SMU, this is very, very new, West
25 Texas is sinking.

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1 We're not sinking slowly, we're sinking at
2 a rate of four inches per year. As a matter of fact
3 it is sinking so fast we have actually had a lake near
4 Pecos, it's a 4000 square mile area that is literally
5 sinking beneath us. I know we need a site. This is
6 not it.

7 If this thing sinks and we get something
8 like the WIPP accident, that was never supposed to
9 happen, that was a non-serialized container of
10 radioactive waste that they had no clue what was in it
11 and had to re-dig up to find out, we can't re-dig
12 these canisters up and if it sinks below us and we
13 lose them the environmental impact is forever and if
14 we lose West Texas oil, natural gas, the people of
15 Roswell, the people of New Mexico, the people of
16 Texas, the United States, we're done.

17 We're not going back to Saudi Arabia and
18 getting their oil. We need independence and this site
19 is sinking and I truly believe that we need to look at
20 that and study its environmental impact. That's all
21 I have to say. Thanks.

22 MR. CAMERON: Thank you.

23 (Applause)

24 MR. CAMERON: And I think we have -- This
25 is Jim Carlisle and after the Midland crew is done

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1 we're going to go to Patty Hughs, Ed Hughs, and we're
2 going to hear from Joy Russell. Go ahead, Jim.

3 MR. CARLISLE: Thank you, sir, I
4 appreciate it. My name is Jimmy Carlisle. I work for
5 Fasken Oil and Ranch based in Midland. We are an oil
6 and gas company but we also are a major landowner in
7 the State of Texas.

8 We own some 200,000 net acres in the State
9 of Texas. Our largest ranch is a 165,000 acre
10 contiguous ranch just north and west of Midland. The
11 WCS site definitely comes into play in this
12 discussion.

13 The Holtec side, however, has the same
14 issues we believe, and Steve mentioned a few moments
15 ago talking about groundwater issues. On our ranches
16 everything we look at, we look at vegetation, we look
17 at soil characteristics, we look at moisture in the
18 soil, but the thing we watch the closest is the
19 quantity and the quality of our groundwater.

20 Our company is the first one really in
21 West Texas that made the determination to get off of
22 use of fresh water in our drilling and fracking
23 operations and we started recycling produced water and
24 using brackish water as a result.

25 So we believe firmly that the freshwater

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1 issue is a major significance that has to be
2 addressed. Steve mentioned the groundwater issues
3 around this site, the Holtec site, and the lenses and
4 the area that is unmapped in the New Mexico system.

5 The State Engineer's Office has maps, they
6 don't have complete mapping of what's going on out
7 here. We need a better understanding of the
8 groundwater in New Mexico, which we don't have at the
9 moment.

10 We're not alone in this battle when it
11 comes to ranchers that have a real issue with these
12 two sites. We secured in less than two hours four
13 letters from major landowners in West Texas, the
14 Cowden Ranch has been in the ranching business in West
15 Texas since the 1880s, we received a letter from the
16 Button Estes Ranch, they've been in business for over
17 100 years, the Barrow Ranch, been in business since
18 1906, and I don't think I said it, Fasken Oil and
19 Ranch has been in business since 1913. All of these
20 ranches are over 100 years old.

21 Groundwater, folks, is the life blood of
22 the ranching business. If you don't have groundwater
23 you'd just own dirt. Think about that for a second.
24 The bottom line is we believe that this application
25 and the WCS application need to be withdrawn.

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1 We don't believe them. We think there are
2 great issues with both and it's a situation --

3 (Applause)

4 MR. CARLISLE: It is a situation of
5 groundwater, because without groundwater in this area
6 of land that we live in we're out of, we don't have
7 anything.

8 MR. CAMERON: And, Jim, could you sum up
9 for us, please.

10 MR. CARLISLE: Certainly. And please
11 understand we are not against permanent disposal, and
12 I mean permanent not this 120 year interim stuff. We
13 know as was mentioned earlier by Cody there is an
14 issue with this waste that has to be addressed, we
15 agree with that completely.

16 But let's find the real permanent site
17 that doesn't have these issues, that doesn't impact
18 people's lives, it doesn't impact groundwater, and the
19 other things these other folks and all these folks are
20 talking about, let's get the right place the first
21 time and move this stuff, if it has to be moved let's
22 just move it once. Thank you very much.

23 (Applause)

24 MR. CAMERON: Thank you. Thank you, Jim.

25 MS. RENTERIA: Hi, guys. I am Christina

1 Renteria. I am a pilot out in Midland, Texas. Thank
2 you for listening to all of our comments tonight, we
3 really appreciate you guys taking the time to make us
4 know all of us count, our voices count.

5 And thank you to all of you. We have come
6 from Texas, we support you guys, and we support not
7 having all of this moved over here.

8 As I pilot I have flown all around, you
9 know, Midland, New Mexico. One thing that we have in
10 common with you guys is oil. Midland is covered in
11 it. You have Hobbs, Euince, Lovington, there is pump
12 jacks everywhere you go.

13 Now while drilling is not directly
14 associated with earthquakes the extraction of water as
15 well as your brine water and basically the
16 redistribution of that has been proven by scientists
17 at the University of Texas to cause earthquakes with
18 a magnitude of 3.0 or greater. There have been some
19 between 4.8 and 5.8.

20 I think what we need to do is find ground
21 that is completely stable before we plan on moving any
22 of this nuclear waste because we want to make sure
23 that it's not going to leak out, obviously.

24 So, oil, we're all involved in it.
25 However, it hasn't been, or the wealth associated with

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1 that has not been proportionately allocated to
2 everyone out here.

3 Where this is being proposed is
4 disproportionately not represented here. We have
5 millions of people that could be affected by this
6 project, however, look at this, we have less than 100
7 people in this room.

8 You know, in Andrews, Texas, there is also
9 a waste site. However, Odessa is one of the closest
10 towns to there. Nobody there knows that it's there.
11 The citizens are not aware of this and that is one of
12 the biggest things that needs to change both in Texas
13 and in New Mexico.

14 We need our voices to be heard. You know,
15 there is also a disproportionate amount, or there is
16 an age gap here, the people that this will be
17 affecting 80 years from now, no offense to anybody,
18 are not in this room.

19 (Laughter)

20 MS. RENTERIA: More people need to know
21 about this and about what is going on. There we go,
22 right here. So I won't take up --

23 MR. CAMERON: I think you just scared her.

24 (Laughter)

25 MS. RENTERIA: I won't take up much of you

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1 all's time, but, in conclusion, I don't believe that
2 this is the right area because of the unstability of
3 the ground, or the instability of the ground, but also
4 simply we need more people to be involved and more
5 voices to be heard on this.

6 New Mexico, their citizens need to be
7 aware of what is going to be going on with their land.
8 So thank you again for listening and I hope you all
9 have a good evening.

10 (Applause)

11 MR. CAMERON: Okay, thank you. And this
12 is Randy Prude.

13 MR. PRUDE: Yes. My name is Randy Prude.
14 I am a county commissioner in Midland, Texas, and I
15 have a county commissioner for 20 years and I just
16 choked myself so my voice is about to go.

17 By the way, speaking of uranium I have
18 titanium in my back so I kind of like the rare metals.
19 It's keeping me standing up right here.

20 I have been elected again for my sixth
21 term, so, the Lord willing, I'll be serving for 24
22 years. I am very passionate about this subject. I
23 spent over \$2000 to bring our team here from Midland
24 and I think we have a great group.

25 I hope you have enjoyed meeting them this

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1 evening. I am very proud of them.

2 (Applause)

3 MR. PRUDE: And I will tell you in our
4 commissioners court we had all the employees of WCS
5 and even some public citizens come try to tell us why
6 this was a good idea to have WCS, which is similar,
7 all the employees of Holtec I am sure are really fine
8 people, all the employees of WCS are fine people.

9 They are raising their families there,
10 they believe in what they are doing, it's not a matter
11 of bad people. And I will just tell you, I said your
12 oops is going to ruin everything for us for eternity,
13 your oops.

14 Our land is the same processes that formed
15 Carlsbad Caverns, I'll repeat something, are all
16 throughout this region. The land is going up and
17 down.

18 These SME studies, the first I've heard
19 of, and in fact they just recently came out, about
20 some pieces of land have come up 40 centimeters in the
21 last year and some have gone down.

22 We are extracting at a record, at ten to
23 100 times per year what we have ever extracted from
24 the permian basin, and I have lived here all my life,
25 since 1952, we've had oil and gas there for all these

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1 years, and we are extracting more now by a factor of
2 ten to 100 than we have ever extracted, so whatever is
3 happening right now will be greater.

4 I intend -- I agree with everything my
5 partners have said, we need to find one place, one
6 time, and move it. I do know that there is a problem,
7 guys. There is a problem in all these sites in
8 America, they are running out of space.

9 We have 100 sites for potential terrorists
10 to attack. It does need to be moved. It does need to
11 be moved safely, it needs to go somewhere safe. The
12 Navy has proved that things can be moved safely, and
13 so let's find a real place, like a geologist would
14 say, with igneous rock that is hard and solid and not
15 in a place that is subject to oil and gas.

16 And I will tell you one last thing, so
17 I'll sum it up right now --

18 MR. CAMERON: Thank you.

19 MR. PRUDE: -- is I intend to organize all
20 the ranchers and all the commissioner's courts and
21 everybody in all the governments in all this whole
22 region, right now many of them -- by the way, I will
23 tell you I am an odd duck, I am a Republican --

24 (Laughter)

25 MR. PRUDE: -- and this is not a

1 Republican or a Democrat issue, this is an important
2 issue to all of us and I believe that there is -- I
3 just cannot tell you the horror that could happen if
4 we ever have an accident.

5 And so I intend to organize all of our
6 governments that are willing to listen, but the way I
7 am going to do that is get my friend Jimmy and all the
8 ranchers and all the ranch oil men to contact their
9 commissioners and their mayors and their
10 representatives, house representatives, senators, and
11 so forth, and I don't intend to let this thing run
12 over us.

13 MR. CAMERON: Thank you.

14 MR. PRUDE: So thank you so much, but
15 thank you for coming to listen to us.

16 (Applause)

17 MR. CAMERON: Thank you, Randy.

18 MR. PRUDE: And I apologize, my pilot has
19 a real early flight tomorrow, so we have to leave. I
20 would love to hear the rest of your comments.

21 MR. CAMERON: Well thank you for coming
22 up, all of you.

23 (Applause)

24 MR. CAMERON: Okay. And we are going to
25 go to Ed Hughs and -- Do you want to talk, too?

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1 (Off microphone comment)

2 MR. CAMERON: Yes, come on up. And then
3 we're going to go to Joy Russell and then to Dan
4 Holland and Timothy Jennings and Karen Howard-Winters.
5 This is Ed Hughs. Go ahead, Ed.

6 MR. HUGHS: Thank you Mr. Cameron. My
7 wife Patty and I own and operate a ranch, a small
8 cattle ranch, in Quay County, New Mexico. My family
9 has been there over 110 years.

10 We just have lived through the attempted
11 borehole siting of high-level nuclear waste about 2-
12 1/2 miles south of our south fence. Now looking at
13 this current proposal one of the major transportation
14 routes is the Union Pacific which runs right next to
15 our south fence so the problem has even gotten closer
16 if there is an accident somewhere, nobody knows where,
17 it could be there.

18 Coming down here on Highway 70 between,
19 north of Elida I passed about five railcars that had
20 been turned over on the, had been in an accident. You
21 know, those happen.

22 I think the question -- What we have
23 learned in going through this borehole thing that we
24 have been living through is that these consequences
25 are essentially eternal and they are extremely non-

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1 partisan, as has been stated.

2 We just finished our spring branding this
3 weekend and we came down to this meeting. We are very
4 concerned with passing on what we have to future
5 generations. We have nine grandchildren right now who
6 are very interested in the place and we hope to pass
7 that on.

8 Well here is our experience that I want to
9 share with you with the borehole. Our experience is
10 that the high-level nuclear waste industry pushes the
11 myth, and I want to repeat that, the myth, of economic
12 development when actually it is the end of our
13 sustainable base economy and it is an economic
14 replacement or disaster.

15 What happened with the borehole is that
16 several ranches were negotiating some loans from their
17 bank for their current operating system, season, they
18 didn't want to let their banker know what was
19 happening because they were afraid they were going to
20 have to put up more collateral.

21 Another rancher who wanted to get his
22 ranch evaluated was told that he couldn't do it now
23 because he didn't know the effects of the borehole
24 site that was awfully close to his ranch, what that
25 economic effect would be, but it would be negative.

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1 So I think this -- A lot of things have
2 already been said tonight in a sense that I am
3 concerned with, but one of the things that came out in
4 the borehole controversy in Quay County was what was
5 the kill zone.

6 If there was an accident at the disposal
7 site what's the kill zone? It was a 50 mile radius.
8 I want to know what the kill zone is for this site
9 with that southwest wind blowing or -- What is it?
10 This is a much higher level contamination that what we
11 have had, what we were talking about at that borehole.
12 What is the kill zone?

13 Also, you know, the ranchers and
14 businessmen that when we were going through this
15 borehole controversy in Quay County they made the
16 statement that death had come to our region with the
17 proposed disposal of high-level nuclear waste.

18 And I want you to think about that, death
19 came to our region. We managed to fend it off in this
20 occasion, but, you know, if we are already approved,
21 and this is already approved as a safe storage
22 concept, which I kind of took from your comments that
23 you made, why are we here.

24 You know, I think there is a real issue of
25 what we are talking about here. Where is the justice

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1 in taking out whole regions that never benefitted from
2 building the economy and destroying the economy with
3 waste, high-level waste, that benefitted other
4 economies, where is the justice in that?

5 (Applause)

6 MR. HUGHS: You know, we are putting at
7 risk, it's already been mentioned, the infrastructure,
8 huge infrastructure, incalculable costs if anything
9 happens. Given that rail accident north of Elida
10 there will be spills, the question is how many and
11 where.

12 And I think that there are a lot of things
13 to evaluate in this and looking at this, this just
14 came out in December, I haven't had a chance to look
15 at a lot of it, but there is a lot of questions in
16 here that have not been answered at this kind of
17 disposal site.

18 You know, what is -- One of the questions,
19 how do you retrieve if there are accidents? How do
20 you monitor? How do you repair? Those questions have
21 not been answered.

22 So I guess in summing up I want to say
23 that the Holtec and Eddy-Lea Energy Alliance, and I
24 agree with an earlier statement that, you know, you
25 aren't bad people in the sense that you are trying to

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1 do us harm, but you are making a huge mistake, and I
2 thank Mr. Heaton and the rest of you involved in that,
3 you are in fact proposing to bring death to New
4 Mexico. Thank you.

5 (Applause)

6 MR. CAMERON: Okay. Thank you, Ed. Thank
7 you, Ed. And now we are going to go to Patty, Patty
8 Hughs, and then Joy Russell, Dan Holland, Timothy
9 Jennings, Karen Howard-Winters, then Thomas Jennings.
10 Okay, Patty.

11 MS. HUGHS: I want to I guess reinforce
12 the comments that Ed made about economic development,
13 whether this is economic development or not.

14 I have an article here from San Onofre who
15 has nuclear waste that wants to see it leave their
16 area and some people may be happy for it to come here.

17 This article says in the search for
18 finding a place to move the 3.55 million pounds of
19 nuclear waste from the San Onofre Nuclear Generating
20 Station one question always come up, sure, it would be
21 great to sent all that spent fuel as far away from the
22 beach as possible but who would ever be willing to
23 accept it.

24 On Thursday night those attending the
25 quarterly meeting of this community engagement panel

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1 heard from representatives of a private entity wanting
2 to do just that.

3 That person says "one person's waste is
4 another person's most valuable possession" and the
5 Eddy-Lea Energy Alliance wants to build a massive
6 nuclear facility in the desert of Southeast New
7 Mexico.

8 He goes on to say "we think it's an
9 important project for us in terms of jobs and capital
10 investment in our part of the State."

11 Unless the NRC can assure us that in
12 transporting 10,000 canisters of high-level nuclear
13 waste across the country handling aging canisters and
14 in doing that that we will never have an accident, I
15 want to say that while the Energy Alliance is looking
16 for jobs and capital investment in our part of the
17 State that one accident could take out jobs and
18 capital investment of whatever economy is there.

19 All of the infrastructure that has been
20 built for the oil and gas industry, for the ag
21 industry, and for every other enterprise going in
22 southeastern New Mexico, one spill can eliminate all
23 that.

24 I was asked when I came in here to show
25 the contents of my purse to one of our security

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1 people. This is what she said, in case I had
2 something in it that could do harm to someone else,
3 and I thought that's an interesting question to be
4 asked when we are going to be discussing one of the
5 most dangerous potential things on the planet.

6 MR. CAMERON: Thank you. Thank you,
7 Patty.

8 (Applause)

9 MR. CAMERON: And now we have Joy Russell
10 from Holtec International. Joy.

11 MS. RUSSELL: Hi, good evening everyone.
12 As Chip said, my name is Joy Russell, I'm the Vice
13 President of Business Development and Communications
14 for Holtec. I've been there for over 21 years.

15 It's my pleasure to be here tonight to
16 meet you. I had the opportunity to meet several of
17 you earlier at the open house. I appreciate the open
18 dialogue.

19 We'll be here after to continue the
20 dialogue should you choose to do so. Be happy to
21 provide to you, facts about our Hi-Store facility,
22 facts about storage of spent nuclear fuel,
23 transportation of spent nuclear fuel.

24 And I, overall, I ask, I come here asking
25 for your support. I appreciate the sign, could you

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1 put it down because I like to see? Thank you. Thank
2 you. Because I know what it says. I like to see what
3 everyone looks like. Thank you.

4 Our partner, the Eddy-Lea Alliance, who
5 members of that Alliance are here tonight, was formed
6 in 2006 to help you diversify the area, the economics
7 of the area and to help encourage economic growth in
8 the area. And we're happy to be a part of that.

9 Holtec International, my company, is a
10 strong technology company. We, our core business has
11 been, and is, the storage, the safe storage of spent
12 nuclear fuel and has been for the past 32 years.

13 Sixty percent of the nuclear plants in the
14 United States safely use our dry storage equipment
15 every day with no issues, no incidents. We're very
16 happy, we're very proud of that.

17 The Nuclear Regulatory Commission has
18 licensed all of those systems and they regulate the
19 systems. They regulate the industry very rigorously.

20 All of the equipment that we supply from
21 Holtec is made here in the United States. We're an
22 American Company. We have three manufacturing
23 facilities here in the United States and we are the
24 largest exporter of nuclear products.

25 We have factors in Ohio, Pittsburgh and in

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1 Camden, New Jersey. We're an American Company and
2 we're very proud of that.

3 We have an impeccable safety record. None
4 of our equipment has ever experienced a safety issue,
5 leak, as you so call it. But I would like to point
6 out, spent nuclear fuel is not a liquid, it can't
7 leak.

8 (Applause)

9 MS. RUSSELL: Thank you.

10 MR. CAMERON: Okay, let's allow Joy to
11 finish her remarks.

12 MS. RUSSELL: Thank you. Thank you. The
13 members of Lea asked Holtec to be their partner in
14 2013 after performing a very rigorous evaluation about
15 the safety and security of our dry storage system.

16 Our storage system stores the canister
17 completely below grade. Unlike what we've hear here
18 this evening, it does not sit 12 inches above the
19 ground.

20 I ask that you guys come and talk to us,
21 come and get the facts. You need to listen to both
22 sides of the story before you make your decision.
23 That's your prerogative, I understand that.

24 Okay. We have asked the NRC to review our
25 license application. The NRC will perform a rigorous

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1 evaluation and review, taking into consideration, all
2 of your comments this evening. And we look forward to
3 that review in responding to any information that is
4 requested of us.

5 The people here in the State of New Mexico
6 are very well versed in technology. You have a very
7 technically savvy state, especially in the nuclear
8 technology industry with two national laboratories,
9 both with offices in Carlsbad.

10 You have three air force bases, one Army
11 base. And in this particular area of New Mexico you
12 also have WIPP and Urenco.

13 The geology, the site characteristics,
14 environment and other factors in this region are
15 actually ideal and very well suited for the storage of
16 spent nuclear fuel.

17 (Off microphone comment)

18 MS. RUSSELL: Our goal is to offer a
19 temporary, safe and secure used fuel storage facility
20 to store the nation's used nuclear fuel. We vow, we
21 commit to be good stewards of the environment and also
22 good neighbors.

23 MR. CAMERON: And if you could just sum up
24 for us, Joy.

25 MS. RUSSELL: Absolutely.

1 MR. CAMERON: Thank you.

2 MS. RUSSELL: And I look forward to
3 speaking with any of you that wish to speak with us.
4 Again, my colleagues and our partners from Lea will be
5 in the adjacent room after. Thank you very much for
6 your time and your attention.

7 MR. CAMERON: Thank you, Joy. Thank you
8 very much. Thank you. Dan. Dan Holland? And then
9 Karen. Oh, come on, Karen. Go ahead.

10 MS. HOWARD-WINTERS: I wore this for you
11 all.

12 (Laughter)

13 MR. CAMERON: Karen, you're using your
14 time, but you can do it.

15 (Off record comments)

16 MS. HOWARD-WINTERS: Okay, thank you so
17 very much. I want to thank the Nuclear Regulatory
18 Commission for this opportunity to speak to you this
19 evening.

20 And thank you, Ms. Russell and all of the
21 people from Holtec. I know you all folks are not bad
22 people, I know you're not.

23 And you don't mean to do any harm,
24 personally. And I understand that. And all the other
25 folks here understand that, you all are not bad

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1 people.

2 But one accident could just blow the whole
3 game. And even though it may not be your fault or it
4 could be a slip or something could happen, you know,
5 who knows. Accidents happen. And, it could just ruin
6 the whole ball game.

7 We didn't make this. We didn't make this,
8 this stuff. This stuff is made on the east coast,
9 it's made on the west coast. We didn't make it, we
10 didn't benefit from it, I don't believe that it should
11 come here.

12 I live in Odessa. I live 202 miles away
13 from here. Although I live very close to Andrews, and
14 that's another thing that we're talking about, I just
15 don't think that it's a good idea to move this, to
16 have an interim site. I think we need to have a
17 permanent site if you all are going to move it all,
18 okay.

19 The karst topography, huge. Just like the
20 gentleman was saying, this place is sinking. You all
21 really need to take a look at what's going on with the
22 earth.

23 That alone, without any even accidents of
24 human causes, nature has got a really big thing to do
25 with this that none of us have control over. None of

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1 us. Only, that guy up there or her, whoever, has got
2 a big thing to do with this.

3 Also, we got bad people who might want to
4 drop a bomb, human domestic, I mean, enemies domestic,
5 foreign.

6 And the oil. The oil, we are the largest,
7 the Permian Basin has got the largest oil field in the
8 country. If anything happens to that, like that guy
9 was saying, we're shot, okay.

10 The railcars, we have got antiquated
11 rails. And the infrastructure, the bridges, our
12 bridges are D minuses, how are we going to get that
13 heavy stuff across there?

14 I mean, you know, these, and we're not
15 thinking about this stuff. Notification. All the
16 cities that are, these railcars are going through,
17 these people really need to be notified. They need to
18 have a say in this.

19 People in New Orleans and Mobile, Alabama
20 and Charlottesville, North Carolina, they all need to
21 have a hearing like we were having. They're important
22 too.

23 I mean, our lives, out here, have just as
24 much meaning as those lives do on the east coast. And
25 if they want to get rid of it, you know, why is my

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1 life less important than theirs.

2 You got to follow the money. I mean, no
3 offense to you all folks at Holtec --

4 (Laughter)

5 MS. HOWARD-WINTERS: -- I'm sorry, but you
6 all people can come in here and build this thing, make
7 money, 40 years later, you're gone.

8 MR. CAMERON: And, Cinthya, could you sum
9 up for us too please?

10 MS. HOWARD-WINTERS: Yes, sir.

11 MR. CAMERON: Thank you.

12 MS. HOWARD-WINTERS: And the stuff could
13 still be here. The permanent site may not be built,
14 we don't know. We don't know into the future.

15 And the people who also live here and have
16 got the jobs there, we have to stay here. Our lives
17 are here.

18 So, there is so many things that we
19 haven't thought of yet. It's just not, it's just not
20 thought out yet, we need to think some more about this
21 before we do it, please.

22 And, again, I thank you for the
23 opportunity to --

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

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1 MS. HOWARD-WINTERS: You're welcome.
2 Thank you.

3 MR. CAMERON: And, thank you, Karen. I
4 usually don't do this, oh, good. I wanted to make
5 sure that my NRC colleagues did not miss anything that
6 you had to say so I was going to call a bathroom break
7 for them but I think that that's being taken care of.

8 How about, I guess Dan Holland is not here
9 anymore. How about Timothy Jennings? Timothy and
10 then Thomas Jennings and Sean McDaniels, Ronda
11 Suderman King.

12 Okay, go ahead, Timothy.

13 MR. TIM JENNINGS: I'm Timothy Jennings,
14 I've been elected official in this area for 38 years.
15 I represent, I'm probably one of the, the only elected
16 official who was here when we started, when they had
17 the hearings on WIPP.

18 My brother is also here. We both attended
19 the hearings on WIPP. And I will just tell you, for
20 something that started out as being nothing more than
21 transuranic waste, nothing but gloves and equipment,
22 we seem to have gone a little further a stream than
23 what they told us then.

24 Now, I would just tell you, in any public
25 hearing I hope our congressional delegation will be

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1 informed in the manner in which this public hearing
2 has been held.

3 Number one, anybody who comes to a public
4 hearing should be able to be free to express for or
5 against any idea without any fear of anyone clapping,
6 any retribution, anybody saying anything. They should
7 have that. And that has not happened here.

8 If you want to have a public hearing in
9 Albuquerque, have it, but don't come to Roswell and
10 tell the people in Roswell that they have to wait for
11 three hours or four hours more than they were supposed
12 to, to come to a public hearing. When it was 4:00 to
13 7:00, it should have been 4:00 to 7:00.

14 And, you know, I'm just saying, you all
15 need, NRC needs to be honest with us. And they
16 certainly weren't honest when they said WIPP was
17 nothing more than transuranic waste.

18 It has not, look at it today, it's not
19 there. But that's exactly what they said, and we have
20 film, I think Pete White filmed it. So just look at
21 that.

22 Now, I'm going to tell you that I think
23 when you look at this stuff, look at what you're doing
24 and come back and have a public hearing that is
25 meaningful and not one that comes in here and it's so

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1 mismatched.

2 Our University here is placed with 400
3 seats in it, everybody can be there and sit in there.
4 Everybody can see everything that you put on display
5 up there. No one else in the back of the room, only
6 the first three rows can see that stuff.

7 You know what, do a decent public hearing.
8 You're a government employment, you should look after
9 all of us and not just the ones that you want to look
10 after.

11 You know what I'm going to tell you, I
12 haven't complained much about WIPP or anything else in
13 all my times with Mr. Heaton. I haven't said a whole
14 lot about WIPP being so bad or anything else.

15 WIPP is here because we had very little
16 political clout when it happened, that's why we got
17 it, and so we're making the best of it.

18 But this thing here is, it's 50 miles from
19 our ranch, and like other people from Midland and
20 Texas and everything, I don't have a 160,000 acre
21 ranch, I have one I share with my five other brothers
22 and sisters. But you know what, it's just as
23 important to me.

24 And I think we really need to look at that
25 before we go through and you do this stuff, let's have

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1 real decent public hearings. Have some in Hobbs, have
2 some here, have some in Albuquerque, have some in
3 Midland. And let's have some real decent public
4 hearings and do a good job of what we're doing and be
5 honest with the people.

6 And just remember that because I tell you,
7 transuranic waste is not what's in that place in WIPP
8 now. And that's exactly what the people were told,
9 no, don't clap. Please don't do that, that's not fair
10 in a public meeting.

11 But, you know, I spent 38 years doing this
12 stuff, about listening to people, and you need to
13 listen as well as learned in the legislature in New
14 Mexico.

15 And I really, I think this is something
16 that we need to really look at and study very deeply
17 and have more than just six or seven little posters on
18 the wall in there and tell people that's what this is
19 about. And so I really hope you will open this up and
20 do it right. Thank you.

21 MR. CAMERON: Thank you. Thank you,
22 Timothy. And now we're going to hear from Thomas.
23 Thomas Jennings.

24 MR. TOM JENNINGS: Before my time starts
25 I'd like a point of order for this meeting. This

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1 meeting should be conducted under Robert's Rules of
2 Order.

3 And there should be no clapping, cheering,
4 standing up and all that stuff, and the snide comments
5 in the back. So that's with due respect for the way
6 governments are run.

7 And, first of all, thank you for coming
8 and listening to us. I too was with the WIPP
9 hearings.

10 I went through almost all those hearings.
11 We were promised there would never be high-level waste
12 here.

13 And I can tell, George President Bush,
14 Senator Domenici, Senator Bingaman, Representative Joe
15 Skeen, DO Secretary John O'Leary, officials from
16 Carlsbad, Hobbs in Lea Counties, all promised that
17 there would never be any high-level waste here. We've
18 been lied to, we've been deceived, we've been misled.

19 We need to stop that. You need to stop
20 that. We don't want that any more. We're done with
21 that.

22 Our roads are bad, you know, they fixed
23 our road. Roswell has a two-lane bypass. It's the
24 only WIPP route road in the country with a two-lane.

25 And it has at-grade crossings, which are

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1 dangerous as hell. I've had friends almost killed at
2 those crossings. That's not safe. We need to make it
3 safe.

4 This Holtec deal, how much money comes out
5 of there for roads, for infrastructure, for training
6 for our emergency preparedness, not a damn dime,
7 nothing. We got that with WIPP. We don't get
8 anything with Holtec.

9 And I'm in the oil business, and I'm
10 drilling more wells this year than I ever have in my
11 whole life. And the Permian Basin is the hottest oil
12 play in the world.

13 There is major oil companies spending
14 literally multi-billions of dollars in this field.
15 And to put this, whatever it is in the ointment --

16 PARTICIPANT: Fly.

17 MR. TOM JENNINGS: -- fly in the ointment,
18 I was going to say turd, but it should be fly in the
19 ointment, is wrong.

20 You know, what happens if there is an
21 accident, what happens to our budget of our state?
22 Most of the money comes from the oil extracted
23 industries, including oil.

24 What happens to the State Permanent Fund?
25 If there is a reaction or there is incident or

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1 accident, that funding will go away and we're going to
2 have to stop and shutdown the oil business.

3 And all my life savings is in the oil
4 field. And I'll probably be broke. And I don't think
5 that's fair to me. I don't think that we should have
6 this slammed down our throat.

7 It might be good for Carlsbad and Hobbs 15
8 years ago, but today with the oil business, the way
9 the technology is, it's all technology driven.

10 Horizontal wells, three miles long. Think
11 how long of a threat that is. Underground lateral
12 costing millions, multimillions of dollars.

13 Technology, this is all technology driven.
14 We don't have the technology developed to store this
15 stuff in Southeast New Mexico.

16 MR. CAMERON: And, Thomas, can I get you
17 to sum up for us please?

18 MR. TOM JENNINGS: Okay. And, you know,
19 there is a lot of other businesses that are related.

20 We have a lot of agriculture. If you look
21 at the Pecos River Valley, all the dairies, all that
22 stuff comes in on railroads and all that sand comes in
23 on for fracking, all the feed for dairies. You know,
24 it would be devastating to our industry in this area.

25 I know we need jobs, but we don't need bad

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1 jobs. This is like 55 jobs. Thanks for listening,
2 and I would ask you to refrain from clapping and
3 cheering and all that stuff because it's
4 inappropriate.

5 MR. CAMERON: Okay, thank you. Thank you,
6 Thomas. Sean. Sean McDaniels?

7 Ronda Suderman King? Karen Hadden? I
8 know Karen is here. Oh, wait a minute, let's see if,
9 is this, no, that's not Ronda. Go ahead, Karen.

10 And then we're going to go to Mary Beth.
11 No? Okay. Noel Marquez, Patricia Cardona and Lon
12 Burnham. Okay. And this is Karen Hadden.

13 MS. HADDEN: Good evening, my name is
14 Karen Hadden, I'm the director of a nonprofit
15 organization called SEED Coalition, Sustainable Energy
16 and Economic Development Coalition.

17 There are so many reasons why I think this
18 project ought to be withdrawn. This and WCS. Many
19 speakers have made those comments.

20 This is not the right place for high-level
21 radioactive waste. There is no justice. It doesn't
22 make sense, and it is not safe.

23 In one of your first slides you mentioned
24 that you're here to ensure that it's safe. We're
25 here, I think you can get the message from the people

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1 in this room tonight, it is not safe. Let's be clear
2 about that.

3 And I've read through the documents, and
4 I've never seen an application like this that is so
5 full of holes. Its half done. It's sort of like the
6 karst topography which is Swiss cheese. It's like the
7 same thing. There is so much information missing.

8 And I've looked back, this land is the
9 exact same site for the GNET Project that was proposed
10 years ago. For decades, there are some people in this
11 area who have been trying to bring in deadly poison
12 and I don't know why. It's got to be greed, there is
13 no other good explanation.

14 And when you compare that previous
15 application and you look at the environmental
16 analysis, you will find that it is much more complete
17 than what is passing for an environmental report
18 today. So in your review, I urge you to go back to
19 that original document and study it and add in what
20 has been left out.

21 I also encourage you to look at climate
22 change, which to the best of my knowledge, is not
23 being considered. And to look at the new SMU report.
24 There are so many factors that need to be considered
25 in this analysis.

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1 Furthermore, when you come to
2 alternatives, let's really consider some. Not just
3 whether to do this site or not, let's consider what
4 alternatives that land could be used for. Whatever it
5 may be because there are many.

6 And there are many ways to build the
7 economy and to build this community. And everybody
8 wants that. But why risk everything existing for a
9 few jobs and for money for some people.

10 I think the application should make clear
11 some things that are not clear. How much money, who
12 gets it, how does it get distributed. And I found
13 myself trying to find an analogy for this.

14 It was very late at night and I was like,
15 this is all about paying people to do what no one else
16 will do. Nobody on the east coast wants it, nobody on
17 the west coast wants this stuff so it's like, let's
18 find a community that we can bribe. How much money is
19 it going to take, what will it take.

20 And so I started thinking about the fact
21 that, okay, I like rattlesnakes, I'm fine with them,
22 but I kind of like them where they are, they have
23 their role, their place in nature. I have no desire
24 to have a loose rattlesnake in my bedroom. And you
25 could not pay me to, any amount of money, to have a

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1 rattlesnake in my bedroom loose for 24 hours. That
2 would be a deadly poison.

3 And then you could not even pay me more to
4 do it for a year or 100 or 120 years, nor could you
5 give me any money that would say, okay, we're going to
6 keep adding snakes, so there is 10,000 of them in your
7 room over 20 years.

8 And you know, I can see some fancy math
9 because I look at the license application and I see
10 these fancy formulas that reduce it down to no risk
11 because it's never happened before. Well, I'll bet
12 every single one of 10,000 snakes never bit anybody
13 before, but I'll bet if you put them all in my room I
14 get bitten. And who knows if I'd survive.

15 And I know that this is a very strange
16 analyses but, you know, I think this high-level
17 radioactive waste is a thousand times more risky than
18 the rattlesnake that never bit anybody.

19 And I don't by this mathematical magic
20 where we say, it's never happen before so it's not
21 going to. NRCs own studies done for Yucca Mountain
22 show that accidents are going to happen, the question
23 is, how fast.

24 The testing, we see posters of the
25 testing. That testing has mostly been computer

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1 modeling, it is not full-scale testing.

2 A lot of times it can be small scale
3 testing, in a few instances, and they don't tell you
4 the full picture. They don't tell you what happened
5 after the test period, they don't tell you all the
6 details.

7 We have already had train crashes head-on,
8 65 miles per hour in West Texas.

9 MR. CAMERON: Can you sum up for us Karen?

10 MS. HADDEN: I will. That exceeds all of
11 the testing that's been done.

12 Furthermore, I think that this license
13 application needs to clarify. Because it says,
14 conflicting things on many points.

15 One of them who would have title to the
16 waste, whether it's DOE or private hands. That has
17 got to be made clear because depending on that is
18 whether this is legal to move forward at all.

19 Secondly, there are two different numbers
20 for the tons of waste and there is not total number of
21 waste. So, if you do 8,680 tons for 500 canisters
22 times 20, you come out with 173,000 tons of waste,
23 whereas we are told this is going to be kept at
24 100,000. This needs to be clarified.

25 I will wrap-up in just a moment.

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1 Furthermore, there needs to be a legal description of
2 the property because how can we, as members of the
3 public, truly analyze the site and get down into the
4 exact environmental issues when the defining
5 boundaries are not given. I cannot understand why
6 that is not in there.

7 The heavy train cars need to be looked at
8 and the crumbling infrastructure of the rail lines.
9 Thank you.

10 MR. CAMERON: Okay, thank you, Karen. Can
11 we have Noel Marquez? Okay, hi, Noel. Go ahead.

12 MR. MARQUEZ: Hello, my name is Noel
13 Marquez. I'm from the rural area of Artesia, New
14 Mexico. The Town of Artesia is one of many rural
15 communities in New Mexico being left out of these NRC
16 hearings.

17 I am the face of ground zero and the
18 father of this 11 year-old-daughter here that always
19 ask, why is that old people always make rules and
20 choices without considering us and future generations.

21 The NRC and Holtec International are
22 intentionally drowning the voices of thousands, if not
23 millions, of New Mexico people by limiting our
24 participation in the destination outcome of this
25 extremely hazardous and toxic waste proposal.

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1 Your rush to make this Holtec dump a
2 nightmare for us who live along the railroad tracks,
3 that only have one home, and we plant our own gardens,
4 we are outraged that you would disregard our families
5 and children and unborn generations.

6 Your nuclear regulated industries have
7 little consideration for our livelihoods and our
8 native people of the State of New Mexico. Nuclear
9 power plants want to pass on their worst waste
10 product, spent uranium fuel rods where it is now
11 currently in a safer mode of storage to a centralized
12 temporary storage facility.

13 Who can blame them, it's killer stuff.
14 And for the most part, 80 percent of our communities
15 in New Mexico do not know what the NRC and Holtec are
16 planning.

17 And the issue as critically important as
18 this one, there should be an available environment
19 impact study available in English, Spanish and Navajo.
20 With plenty of time to inform the public through
21 newspaper, radio, television, billboards and other
22 public spaces in order for us to make an informed
23 decision.

24 Thirty state representatives wrote a
25 letter to you, the NRC, to slow the process down for

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1 this same purpose and you denied the request. The
2 reality is we don't live in the People First Democracy
3 but rather a Money Power First Reality, and the NRC is
4 their tomb.

5 The science and technology of your
6 experiments are always flawed as we have seen the WIPP
7 in Los Alamos where the nuclear industries are always
8 desecrating more of our lands, air and water.
9 Billions of tax payer dollars are being spent at WIPP
10 to repair the damages.

11 The State of New Mexico is already
12 overburden with ten official radioactive dumps. And
13 now you want to crown us with this worst possible dump
14 ever.

15 Our current and future generations would
16 have suffered this stigma and health consequences for
17 hundreds, if not thousands of year, for being crowned
18 the official nuclear dump of America. Many possible
19 better job industries will reconsider before coming to
20 our hazardous radioactive waste first state.

21 The plain and simple truth is the ionizing
22 radiation hazards will not be contained to the Holtec
23 Site. My daughter always says, what makes you think
24 you can control the molecules.

25 (Laughter)

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1 MR. MARQUEZ: It will contaminate more and
2 more lands through the transportation route, railway
3 accidents from the eastern and western United States,
4 accidents, acts of terrorism, weather related causes
5 and sinkhole geology from the nearby extractive
6 industries.

7 There is also major concern of
8 contamination that the site with casks, that are made
9 for temporary storage, but will probably never make it
10 out of New Mexico.

11 Holtec's guinea pig experiment is to stack
12 these casks on top of each other, which has never been
13 done before.

14 MR. CAMERON: And, Noel, can I get you to
15 sum up for us please?

16 MR. MARQUEZ: Well, the State of New
17 Mexico deserves better than this low-quality science
18 scheme and we will never consent to poisoning our
19 current and future generations. Thank you.

20 MR. CAMERON: Thank you. Thank you very
21 much. Patricia? Patricia Cardona.

22 (Off microphone comment)

23 MR. CAMERON: Okay.

24 (Off microphone comment)

25 MR. CAMERON: Okay, thanks, Patricia. How

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1 about Lon Burnham? Aha, here he is.

2 MR. BURNHAM: So, good evening, my name is
3 Lon Burnham and I live in Fort Worth, Texas but I was
4 born in Artesia and my mother went to public school
5 there, my grandparents are buried there and I've come
6 to this part of the world every year of my life.
7 Sixty-five of them now.

8 I was also in the Texas legislature for 18
9 years and known as like the environmental activist in
10 the Texas Legislature. And one of the thing in the
11 environmental, I always call it the DREG committee
12 because that's the nature of Texas politics.

13 In theory, it's about protecting people's
14 health. And there is a permitting process. And I
15 always remind people, the permitting process is
16 permission from the government to pollute your air and
17 water.

18 And so the question is, we now have an
19 application to pollute the air and water. It is
20 inherently a polluting activity. And the question is,
21 just how dangerous is this and what are the
22 probabilities, what kind of risk management are we
23 looking at.

24 In the environmental reg committee of the
25 Texas House of Representatives, we talked about

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1 cumulative impacts of air pollution permits. If you
2 were to do a proper environmental impact statement,
3 you will take into consideration the cumulative
4 impacts on the communities of New Mexico, starting
5 with the mining process where the Denae (phonetic) had
6 been so polluted that they died disproportionately of
7 cancer for any population in the country.

8 You will think about the cumulative
9 impacts on the plutonium that's already in the Rio
10 Grande River, which is a water supply for people from
11 Santa Fe downstream from them.

12 You will think about the cumulative
13 impacts of the three-year hiatus of the WIPP site.
14 What if that had been worse, what if that had been an
15 accident above ground, what kind of economic impacts
16 are we talking about?

17 See, I think the system is fundamentally
18 flawed because the NRC does not exist to support
19 public health and welfare in the environment. The NRC
20 exists to serve as a Chamber of Commerce Agency of a
21 fundamentally flawed, and I think immoral industry.
22 I take it as immoral to split the atom and create
23 plutonium.

24 So I agree with the earlier speakers, the
25 Faith Community. We are committing a sin against

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1 creation and it is a cumulative impact as the NRC has,
2 as Kevin tried to point out with his question that was
3 parse the nuance, they've never denied a permit to
4 pollute our air/water and soil. They have never shown
5 restraint that needs to be shown.

6 So I would ask each of you, as a person of
7 conscious, as Bishop Matthiesen said to the Pantex
8 workers, resign your post, you work for a
9 fundamentally flawed agency that is not about
10 protecting the health and welfare, it is about
11 corporate greed and corporate money, it is time to put
12 an end to this.

13 A true environmental impact statement will
14 look at the concerns that I talked to Jose about. You
15 know, I live within a mile of Tower 55. The
16 transportation system in this country is fundamentally
17 flawed.

18 The railroad system is not owed by the
19 national government, they don't have to take this
20 product. And they can't.

21 A lot of those bridges you know are over
22 a hundred years old. My grandfather worked on the
23 Santa Fe Railroad, they're fundamentally flawed.

24 The process here is fundamentally flawed
25 because you are serving the industry that you're

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1 supposed to be protecting us from. Thank you for your
2 time.

3 MR. CAMERON: All right, thank you. Thank
4 you, Lon. Rose, would you come up and talk to us?

5 And then we're going to go to Bobbi
6 Reydel, Robin Gail Seydel, John Buchser and Linda
7 Squire and Allen Squire. Rose.

8 MS. GARDENER: Hi everybody, I'm Rose
9 Gardner, I'm from Eunice, New Mexico. I'm also a
10 founder of the Alliance for Environmental Strategies.

11 I'm here to tell Holtec hell no, we don't
12 want it. I am so sick and tired of all these big
13 companies coming into New Mexico or close to my town
14 in Eunice, wanting to give us all this crap. This
15 crap that could kill us.

16 And you know what, these folks are sitting
17 up in their little mansions in New York, Minnesota,
18 San Antonio, heck, I don't know where you live and I
19 really don't care.

20 (Laughter)

21 MS. GARDENER: But I am concerned about
22 the transportation issue of this cargo, 10,000 cargo
23 cars. They're already too heavy. They're too heavy
24 for the cars, they're too heavy for the railways.

25 I'm also concerned about the impacts that

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1 it's going to have on the oil and gas and potash
2 industries.

3 Also, how is the health and welfare going
4 to be considered in this area. We're already poor.
5 We don't have insurance. You got to have a good job
6 to get good insurance.

7 I'm also concerned that these canisters
8 are inferior. Do you realize there are canisters out
9 there this thick and we're settling for something
10 that's this thick? That's stupid.

11 I'm also concerned that the waste will
12 never be moved. We already know that 120 years will
13 be way longer than any of us in this room. My little
14 Pai there, it will be past her lifestyle, my time.

15 This isn't the right thing to do. It's an
16 injustice to this state, to this community, to these
17 peoples.

18 Most of the people in this area are like
19 me, Brown-skinned or darker. We speak another
20 language and we're at least 50 percent here.

21 And that's an environmental injustice
22 because they're basically saying it's okay to duck
23 because those people aren't going to speak up, because
24 they can get run over just like they've been run over
25 for the last several hundred years.

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1 What I do think ought to happen is that
2 those big containers that I'm talking about, ought to
3 be implemented at all nuclear facilities now. They
4 should be protected from that nasty waste that's been
5 created.

6 They've had to live with it for this long,
7 they're going to have to live with it a little longer.
8 Let's make it safe for them until a permanent
9 repository is found. Let's make sure that they're
10 going to be okay, that they're babies are okay and
11 that they're babies are okay.

12 One thing I wanted to mention is that, I
13 think it's already been mentioned that there were
14 about 30 political leaders in our state that sign on
15 to a letter to the NRC that asked for more time. I
16 have copies of the letter in the other room if you
17 want to review it, and you can see some of those
18 people who signed that letter.

19 But then we got seven other, apparently
20 more qualified, more intelligent, maybe they are on
21 the take, I don't know. But Senator Carroll Leavell,
22 Senator Gay Kernan, Senator Ron Griggs, Representative
23 Cathrynn Brown, Representative Jim Townsend,
24 Representative Larry Scott and Representative David
25 Gallegos, how dare you.

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1 How dare you withhold evidence, material
2 that they need to know to make fair decisions about me
3 and my family. How dare they. They are wrong and
4 they should be called out on it.

5 And you know what, they got voted into
6 office, let's boot them out. Thank you.

7 MR. CAMERON: Thank you. Thank you, Rose.

8 I promised one of the public that I would
9 put one thing out that he wanted to say. This is Bob
10 Press. I don't know if any of you know him but his
11 ride was leaving so he just wanted me to offer one
12 comment for him. And as the Facilitator, I'll do
13 that.

14 He said that this should be put before, it
15 should be put on the ballot in New Mexico about
16 whether this facility should be here or not. So I
17 offer that, for him.

18 And is Bobbi, Bobbi Reydel? This is
19 Bobbi. Hi, Bobbi. And then we're going to go to
20 Robin Gail Seydel and John Buchser. And the Squire's.

21 (Speaking foreign language)

22 MS. SCHROM: I can do this in both English
23 and Spanish, but I don't know how many people speak
24 Spanish here in this room, but I'm here representing
25 Hispanic Women in Science.

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1 My name is not Bobbi, my name is Jenna
2 Schrom, but she gave me her place to speak to you
3 tonight, so I just want to say that I'm woman, I'm
4 Hispanic and I'm coming from a very conservative
5 Catholic family.

6 And I grew in a place where I was raised
7 to be intuitive and to always make questions about how
8 to make this world a better place. So, and one of the
9 other things that is also very important to mention,
10 is that I'm coming from this new generation.

11 So, and I'm here to give voice to this new
12 generation. And the reason why I am here is because
13 I decided to choose a career that is going to change
14 people's lives in a positive way, and that is nuclear
15 engineering. Because I do believe that nuclear
16 engineers will be able to provide a better future for
17 everybody.

18 So, I think that this consolidated interim
19 storage is going to work. So, I know that many people
20 don't agree to that, but I mean, we need to use facts.
21 And I don't know if you guys have already checked the
22 reports, environmental reports, all the information is
23 there.

24 And the other thing that I would like to
25 mention is, that thousands of people in this world,

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1 they benefit from nuclear industry. Thousands of
2 people. So, that's also something that we need to be
3 aware of.

4 So, one of the things that I've been
5 seeing, while being in this industry, is that I can
6 smell the fear of the oil industry. I can smell it in
7 this room unfortunately.

8 So we know, actually, we already
9 transferred spent fuel and we haven't had a single
10 accident. So I am here, as a woman, as a Hispanic, as
11 a millennial, to bring innovative ideas in the nuclear
12 industrial realm.

13 And also, I have a moral obligation to
14 defend our future. And I believe that ignorance is a
15 very dangerous weapon, so I am here to defend this
16 future with knowledge and facts.

17 So, all the technical details about
18 security in environmental aspect, if they have been
19 realized, they have been checked already. But we're
20 still dealing with ignorance and that's why I'm here
21 because I believe that the nuclear industry is going
22 to regenerate the world in a positive way.

23 And I know, even do you guys want it or
24 not, we are getting benefits from nuclear industry
25 already. So, that's all that I am going to say

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1 tonight because we already have all the records and
2 everything out there.

3 And I will invite you, everybody, to read
4 and to learn a little bit more. Thank you so much.

5 MR. CAMERON: Thank you. Robin? Robin
6 Seydel.

7 MS. SEYDEL: Thank you so much. Thank you
8 for your patience. I really appreciate you all being
9 here. It was good to talk to some of you earlier. I
10 really appreciated that.

11 (Off microphone comment)

12 MS. SEYDEL: This mic? This mic. Oh,
13 okay, I got the right mic now.

14 So, I live two miles from the railroad
15 tracks and the transportation issue is very concerning
16 to me. And just because there hasn't been an accident
17 doesn't mean that there wouldn't be an accident.

18 And really, statistically speaking, when
19 there hasn't been an accident yet, you have a greater
20 possibility or probability of having that accident
21 soon.

22 I also ran a small food company for almost
23 35 years and we built six stores, six retail stores,
24 we employed 300 people and we worked with over 300
25 farmers around the state. So, any kind of accident

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1 could cause for us what people are calling radioactive
2 stigma.

3 Which is, that all of those farmers, that
4 \$40 million business, which is really a drop in the
5 bucket when you think that the, just the dairy
6 industry alone is worth about \$5 billion annually in
7 New Mexico, our \$40 million looks really tiny. But,
8 it's the livelihood of 600 people.

9 And to trade that for a mere 55 jobs just
10 doesn't make sense. And it seems that it's really not
11 a very well thought out project.

12 One of the things that your poster said is
13 that you're taking into consideration socioeconomic
14 issues. And so that to me is really important, that
15 you could bring, for 55 jobs, right, you could take
16 away 23,000 jobs in the dairy industry and our messily
17 little 600 jobs, 300 farmers and their livelihood and
18 300 retail grocery store workers.

19 So I would ask you also, if you've never
20 denied a project before, maybe now is the time to
21 change that record. That you take a good look at
22 what's happening.

23 People here have so much more
24 technological knowledge than I have, and so I would
25 say to you, many people have spoken much more

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1 eloquently than I could, but it's really time to deny
2 a project.

3 And I also would say that you need to, and
4 I'll wrap-up in a second, that you would need to
5 include in your financial strategies and information,
6 the alternatives of what happens if the dairy industry
7 goes down and how are you going to indemnify people,
8 how are you going to reimburse all of those people
9 whose livelihood is one little accident, one little
10 leak has taken away.

11 And so, that's really important. And that
12 needs to be in your environmental impact statement,
13 how much, where are you going to find the money, who's
14 going to cover that insurance cost, how are you going
15 to make all of us whole who might experience an
16 accident who live along the railroad lines, who farm,
17 who do all that. So, I would ask that.

18 And, Rose, you were so eloquent and so
19 beautiful and so many people here have such deep
20 spiritual and social and cultural concerns and all of
21 that needs to be written really clearly in your
22 environmental impact statement. And I really look
23 forward to seeing you again at the EIS draft hearings.
24 Thank you so much for your time.

25 MR. CAMERON: No, thank you. Thank you

1 very much. John. Is it cold?

2 MR. BUCHSER: Hi, my name is John Buchser,
3 I live in Santa Fe. I have lived in New Mexico most
4 of my life and I have come to love New Mexico and I
5 even come to love Texans.

6 (Laughter)

7 MR. BUCHSER: They bring a lot of money to
8 our state and by golly, they are pretty nice people.

9 I think that Holtec is actually providing
10 a needed solution, however, they are proposing to use
11 it in an extremely inappropriate manner.

12 Currently, nuclear reactors produce
13 electricity. I use a lot of it, but I think we have
14 other alternatives at this point in time.

15 When a reactor fuel rods are used up they
16 are placed into fuel pools, and that's actually the
17 most vulnerable part of the fuel process after the
18 used fuel. Then it's placed into a cask and left, at
19 present, it's mostly left onsite.

20 It may actually be that leaving the waste
21 for a longer period of time, at ground level, is good
22 because it generates a lot of thermal heat. And if
23 you stick it in a long-term facility, it may not work
24 out so well because of the amount of heat generated
25 that's not dissipated.

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1 We should be looking at a process that
2 considers potentially a waste site in every single
3 state, because this problem is not just New Mexico's,
4 it's everybody's problem. Until a permanent solution
5 is determined, the waste should not move unless it's
6 a high-risk location.

7 San Onofre is a good example. It's both
8 at risk due to tsunami, due to corrosion from salt
9 water and from being very close to a fault line.

10 Potential destinations for this waste,
11 that's particularly high-risk, could be Military bases
12 or nearby reactor sites that are already guarded. The
13 Holtec site is not a controlled airspace.

14 The public along routes needs to be
15 engaged on a regular basis not grandfathered in
16 because of a past NRC decision.

17 We should stop creating this waste. We
18 should not reprocess it and perpetuate the problem.
19 We have a super nuclear reaction a few million away,
20 the waste is handled, our atmosphere deals with what
21 waste products come our way. Let's use that, let's
22 not turn Southeast New Mexico and West Texas into a
23 waste site. Thank you.

24 MR. CAMERON: Thank you, John. Thank you
25 very much. Is Linda Squire or Allen Squire, Linda,

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1 come on up. Please, talk to us.

2 MS. SQUIRE: Thank you for hearing us
3 tonight. My name is Linda Squire and my husband and
4 I are here to speak tonight because of our experiences
5 owning and running a dairy in Hagerman, New Mexico.

6 My husband and I are both veterinarians.
7 We both graduated from Ohio State University in 1975.
8 And I was one of the first women to be allowed into
9 vet school in any great numbers and I remember well
10 being a woman in a man's profession.

11 And I will say to some of the younger
12 people here that I believe that, I thought I knew more
13 when I graduated than after I had worked for an older
14 veterinarian who was about 65 years old, worked for
15 him for a couple years. So there is a learning curve
16 to all professions.

17 One book that I have found helpful
18 recently is a book called Nuclear Wastelands. And it
19 gives a history of the nuclear industry and all things
20 nuclear. So that's a really good reference book.

21 For the past 25 years our family has had
22 this farm and I believe that a serious incident at a
23 nuclear storage facility, in really close proximity to
24 the dairy farms, could have a really serious negative
25 impact on the local economy. I also see this facility

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1 as a potential health threat to myself and my herd.

2 Animals can serve as sentinels to warn us
3 of impending human health issues. Animals all around
4 us are telling us about the effects of exposure to
5 radioactive materials.

6 The materials can enter the bodies of the
7 animals through the respiratory tract or through
8 inhalation of airborne particles, followed by
9 deposition in lung tissue or absorption into the blood
10 stream.

11 Entry into the gastrointestinal system is
12 also possible. If the animal drinks contaminated
13 water or eats plants that have been contaminated with
14 radioactive elements.

15 And radionuclides absorption can also
16 occur across the skin. Direct skin contact.

17 Most of the uranium, thorium and radium,
18 taken in orally, will be eliminated by the kidneys and
19 via the intestinal tract. But the fact that these
20 elements are of the heavy metal category means that a
21 certain amount of each of these will end up being
22 deposited in bone where they will be sequestered for
23 a very long time.

24 In the early 1990's, New Mexico
25 Environment Department, Division, Environment

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1 Improvement Division, found high radionuclide levels
2 in cattle that were raised in proximity to abandoned
3 uranium mines and mills. Levels of uranium in the
4 kidneys of these cattle were found to be over eight
5 times the levels of the control animals.

6 Concentrations of Radium 226 in the femur
7 bones, of exposed cattle, were almost 50 times the
8 level of the control animals. And this is from the
9 New Mexico Environment and Improvement Division.

10 Rabbits captured near tailings piles near
11 Grants were found to have radium concentration in
12 muscle that was about four to 40 times the background
13 levels.

14 Strontium 90 can enter the food chain when
15 it falls from the air as fallout, onto grasses or
16 forages that are then eaten by a cow. Later it can
17 appear in the cow's milk. Eventually it may deposit
18 in the bones of a milk drinker. Strontium 90 from
19 fallout has also been detected in deer bone, antlers
20 and teeth.

21 Isotopes of iodine can also be taken in
22 with forages and they can appear in milk and it can
23 potentially cause thyroid cancers in the consumer.
24 Cesium 137 is another one that can appear in meat and
25 milk.

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1 After the Chernobyl incident, there were
2 reports of wild boar, who had eaten mushrooms, which
3 bioaccumulate radionuclides. And these wild boar,
4 which are considered a delicacy in that area, were
5 declared unfit for human consumption because of the
6 radionuclide contamination.

7 So, after many years, contaminated regions
8 are still dangerous, potentially, because wildfires
9 can release the stored radioactive elements that the
10 plants have absorbed. So during a smoke incident,
11 animals and plants downwind of the burn can actually
12 become contaminated by virtue of the smoke.

13 Fifty years after two plutonium fires that
14 have occurred at the Rocky Flats facility north of
15 Denver, they did some studies on deer carcasses and
16 they still found that two of the analyses for the
17 various isotopes still exceeded the thresholds for
18 "acceptable risk range associated with ingestion of
19 those tissues."

20 The Hanford site in Washington, the Idaho
21 National Laboratories, Fernald in Ohio, Oak Ridge in
22 Tennessee and Pantex in Texas, and the Savannah River
23 site are all just a few of the glaring examples of
24 what can go wrong when government fails to provide
25 reasonable planning, oversight and management of

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1 dangerous facilities and then chooses to ignore and
2 minimize the damage.

3 MR. CAMERON: And, Linda, can I ask you to
4 sum up?

5 MS. SQUIRE: Sure.

6 MR. CAMERON: Thank you.

7 MS. SQUIRE: For the past five years I've
8 been doing an independent study of geographical areas
9 that have been recognized as places where human or
10 animal prion diseases have occurred.

11 I've looked at clusters of chronic wasting
12 disease in deer and elk. I've examined the sparse
13 information out there about BSE and Creutzfeldt-Jakob
14 disease, which is the human form of BSE.

15 I've identified four factors that seem to
16 be present in almost every location that I study.
17 Radionuclide contamination, the presence of various
18 heavy metals, including manganese and lead in many of
19 the sites.

20 Fluorides is another thing that's in these
21 sites. And aluminum. Usually in the form of
22 bentonite or montmorillonite.

23 So I am urging you to study these clusters
24 of Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease and BSE and chronic
25 wasting disease. If you map up a line, a map of

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1 Colorado where these diseases occur in deer and elk
2 and you superimpose abandon mine tailings and uranium
3 deposits and the fluoride sites where they have high
4 fluoride in wells and the clays in those formations,
5 you will find that they are almost the identical maps.

6 And I hope that you'll study this because
7 it really needs to be studied. If not by your Agency
8 then by possibly the Department of Defense, who are
9 doing active research on prions right now. They are
10 funding prion research.

11 MR. CAMERON: Okay.

12 MS. SQUIRE: They must know something that
13 we don't know.

14 MR. CAMERON: Thank you.

15 MS. SQUIRE: Thank you.

16 MR. CAMERON: Thank you, Linda. And I
17 would just say that, you know, you have an opportunity
18 to also amplify on your comments by submitting written
19 comments. And scientific information, like that,
20 would be appreciated by the NRC.

21 Now we're going to Allen Squire.

22 MR. SQUIRE: My name is Al Squire. It's
23 kind of hard to follow my wife. She does a pretty
24 good job. And I think most of the other speakers
25 tonight have already covered most of the points I have

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1 to say, but I'm going to try to do a few of them again
2 anyway just to kind of refresh your memory.

3 My wife and I moved here 25 years ago, and
4 we built, started building a dairy and we wound up
5 currently to where we have 50-some employees. I like
6 to tell you a little bit about the Mexico dairy
7 industry. We currently, and somebody else has already
8 used my fire here but I'm going to repeat it anyhow,
9 we currently have a total economic impact in the state
10 exceeding \$5 billion a year. And that is second only,
11 I guess a pretty small second, to the gas and oil
12 industry as far as contributions to the state and the
13 state economy. We're still proud of our industry
14 anyway.

15 The dairy industry currently provides
16 employment for nearly 6,000 people directly and over
17 17,000 people indirectly with the various businesses
18 that we do business with. Part of that is the fact
19 that we ship our milk to two of the largest cheese
20 plants in the world, the Leprino plant in Roswell and
21 Southwest Cheese in Clovis. So if you compare that to
22 the number of jobs that Holtec is planning on having,
23 I think 50 or 60 jobs there, I think we have a fairly
24 major contribution to the state.

25 A large majority of our feeds that we do

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1 not raise come in on railcars, and so they'll be using
2 the same transportation routes that these fuel rods
3 would be using. A lot of the feeds that we raise we
4 have to have irrigation, so we depend on clean water
5 not only for our cows to drink but also for raising
6 the crops. Basically, everything we do has to be
7 really, really clean, and we depend on a really clean
8 water supply with no contaminants in it to feed our
9 dairies and our cows and calves.

10 Our dairy industry depends upon being able
11 to deliver a very safe and wholesome nutritious dairy
12 product, milk. Any hint of radioactive contamination
13 of any of our feed, any of our milk supply, would
14 cause an immediate loss of our markets for milk and
15 beef. That actually happened after the Three Mile
16 Island accident in Pennsylvania. They told people put
17 your cows in the barn and just feed them stored feed,
18 we don't know what's going to happen. Well, we can't
19 really do that out here.

20 I guess one of the biggest concerns we
21 have is then what do we do? If we have a
22 contamination, if we have something that was as
23 substantial as what happened in Colorado or any of the
24 other nuclear accidents, you know, these are the rods
25 that cause things like Chernobyl and Three Mile Island

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1 and Fukushima.

2 So what happens if we contaminated our
3 feed and our cows and we can't sell the milk? What do
4 we do? What do we do? We've got 4,000 cows. We
5 can't sell the milk, we can't afford to keep them, and
6 we can't sell the beef. Now, who in the hell is going
7 to be responsible to indemnify the dairy producers for
8 something that's happened like that? Who is
9 responsible? I want to know who is responsible for
10 the liability that is created by this situation? And
11 those of us in the southern part of the state know
12 this well: we feed the rest of the state, not only the
13 dairy industry, the ranching industry, the gas and oil
14 industry. The rest of the state lives off of us. So
15 whatever happens down here, negative or positive,
16 affects the rest of our state.

17 And I guess I'm going to close with the
18 age old comment, don't poop where you eat.

19 MR. CAMERON: Okay, Al. Thank you. We're
20 going to go to Melanie Deason. Then we're going to
21 get Kevin Kampus up here, and then we're going to go
22 to Ramda Galo, James Pike, Deiter Hanbicki, and Jemma
23 Strong. But this is Melanie and next Kevin.

24 MS. DEASON: Thank you for hosting us. I
25 know it was a bit of journey, but thank you for being

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1 here. My name is Melanie Deason. I've lived a decade
2 in Roswell. Shortly before retiring, I spent eight
3 years as wetlands coordinator with the New Mexico
4 Environment Department and wrote the state's EPA-
5 funded wetlands conservation plan.

6 I seriously question the science of
7 Holtec's environmental assessment and section on water
8 resources because Holtec violates two siting premises:
9 isolated from populated areas -- pay attention on this
10 one -- and away from water sources. Their proposed
11 site puts both at risk.

12 Point one: I disagree that there are no
13 sensitive or unique aquatic or riparian habitats or
14 wetlands at their site. Holtec uses a federal
15 jurisdictional wetland definition and fails to mention
16 the 1997 NMED included plio lakes as wetlands. Truth:
17 plio lakes at Holtec's site do meet criteria for New
18 Mexico's wetlands. Only one of three defining wetland
19 characteristics must be met: wet soils, wet living
20 plants, or wet conditions.

21 Point two: I take exception to Holtec's
22 misleading surface water statements that there is no
23 external drainage within two plios on site, that
24 losses are only by evaporation including four off-site
25 ephemeral plios, and that runoff does not drain to the

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1 river 26 miles to the west. Because they portray plio
2 lakes as self-contained holding ponds, like stock
3 tanks, that catch and contain but do not drain.
4 Truth: plio hydrology is unique and external drainage
5 does exist by draining down to unseen water tables and
6 aquifers below and substantiated by Holtec's own
7 report, my next point.

8 Point three: I commend Holtec's report for
9 stating the site's near surface water table appears to
10 be 35 to 50 feet deep, likely controlled by water
11 levels in plio lakes, highly saline from industry
12 abuse, but Holtec ignores the obvious. They propose
13 digging approximately 20 feet below grade, which is
14 dangerously near their admitted fluctuating water
15 table. Past dumping of brine into plios has reached
16 the Pecos River in this region, proof that should
17 radiation escape Holtec's storage it could reach the
18 aquifers not just in New Mexico but Texas and possibly
19 Ogallala of eight states. Truth: Holtec's storage
20 caster design is for breathing air, not drowning from
21 ground water below or rain above. Any breach, in or
22 out, intensifies and releases radiation to water,
23 ground, and air. Regional heating and ground
24 subsidence, common in New Mexico and nearby Texas,
25 could flood Holtec's below-ground storage and drop it

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1 into the water table below, poisoning the Trans-Pecos
2 area.

3 Point four: per Holtec's report, April to
4 September thunderstorms provide 60 percent of the
5 annual flow in the Pecos basin. But has Holtec
6 forgotten New Mexico's 1938 Pecos River Compact with
7 Texas and the 2009 settlement for sharing the river's
8 irrigation waters equally as beneficial use of any
9 unappropriated flood waters? Truth: the region's plio
10 lakes hydrology ensures these important seasonal rains
11 reach the Pecos River and, because Holtec's own report
12 acknowledges impoundment of all surface water into
13 plios, we've now come full circle. Water does leave
14 Holtec's site, impounded or not, due to plio basin's
15 unique hydrology. Holtec's proposal violates the
16 Pecos River Compact, radiation cannot benefit the food
17 chain. It causes irreversible harm to plants,
18 animals, and humans. That is genocide. I, Melanie
19 Deason, do not consent.

20 MR. CAMERON: Thank you, Melanie. Next,
21 we're going to hear from Kevin Kampus, and then we're
22 going to hear from Ramda and James Pike. Kevin?

23 MR. KAMPUS: Thanks, Chip. Good evening,
24 everyone. Thank you, NRC, for hosting this town hall
25 style public comment session. I have prepared several

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1 sets of comments on different subject matter,
2 different aspects of the high risks of the Holtec
3 proposal. And if they're of use to anyone in
4 preparing their own comments, please feel free to use
5 them in any way that's helpful.

6 So tonight I'll start with transportation
7 risks. The risks of transporting highly radioactive
8 irradiated nuclear fuel, whether by train, truck, or
9 barge, on rails, roads, or waterways, is a high risk.
10 The risks include the release of disastrous amounts of
11 hazardous radioactivity, whether due to severe
12 accidents or intentional attacks. Severe accidents
13 could include high-speed crashes into immovable
14 objects, like bridge abutments, or high-temperature
15 long-duration fires, or long-duration underwater
16 submergence. This is not a complete list.
17 Intentional attacks, such as by anti-tank missiles or
18 shaped charges, could also breach shipping containers
19 and release their contents into the environment.

20 For these reasons, critics have long
21 called such shipments potential mobile Chernobyls,
22 dirty bombs on wheels, and floating Fukushimas. As
23 Holtec has claimed in its license application that any
24 and all NRC certified canisters can be accommodated at
25 this facility, not only rail-sized shipping containers

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1 must be worried about, but so too must legal weight
2 truck casks which would travel on interstate highways.
3 Thus, whether by truck, train, or barge, on roads,
4 rails, or waterways, the mobile Chernobyl risks of
5 this scheme must be addressed.

6 But another aspect of shipping risks is
7 the risk of so-called routine or incident free
8 shipments, nonetheless, being like mobile x-ray
9 machines that can't be turned off. This phrase was
10 coined by Lauren Olson more than 20 years ago. This
11 is due to gamma and neutron radiation being emitted
12 from the highly radioactive wastes aboard.

13 To shield it all would require radiation
14 shielding so thick that containers would be
15 extraordinarily expensive to construct but also so
16 heavy as to be difficult or impossible to move. So
17 NRC allows a certain amount of gamma and neutron
18 radiation to be emitted. Granted, this radioactivity
19 dissipates quickly with distance, but, at six feet
20 away from the container's exterior surface, a dose
21 rate of 10 millirem per hour is allowed. That's about
22 one to two chest x-rays' worth per hour.

23 At the exterior surface of the container,
24 the allowable dose rate increases dramatically to 200
25 millirem per hour. That's 20 to 40 chest x-rays'

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1 worth. Workers, such as truck drivers, locomotive
2 engineers, inspectors, security guards, etcetera, who
3 come in very close physical proximity into the
4 shipping container would be exposed to the highest
5 radiation dose rates. But even innocent passersby and
6 bystanders in the general public would also be
7 exposed. This includes those who live close to
8 transport routes exposed to large numbers of shipments
9 going by over time. Some people, such as pregnant
10 women, should not be exposed to any radiation dose
11 that can be avoided due to the high risk of harm
12 caused to the fetus in the womb.

13 Of course, shipments externally
14 contaminated with radioactivity would emit even worse
15 radiation dose rates. The state of Nevada, based on
16 federal government data, has documented 49 incidents
17 of accidental surface contamination on these highly
18 radioactive waste shipments between the years of 1949
19 and 1996. And in France, Areva Corporation had many
20 hundreds of externally contaminated shipments, a full
21 one-quarter to one-third of all shipments bound for
22 the La Hague reprocessing facility. On average, these
23 French contamination incidents emitted 500 times the
24 allowable radiation dose rates. One even emitted
25 3,300 times the allowable dose rate. Allowable does

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1 not mean safe. Any exposure to ionizing radioactivity
2 carries a health risk, and these risks accumulate over
3 a lifetime. Thank you.

4 MR. CAMERON: Thank you very much, Kevin.
5 This is Ramda. Okay. And if you could just introduce
6 yourself to us.

7 MS. GARDENER: Okay. Hi, my name is
8 Ramda. I'm a student at the University of New Mexico
9 and I'm studying nuclear engineering. I would like to
10 start by saying that radiation is natural. We're all
11 radioactive. We produce radioactivity naturally. But
12 I understand the concern of high-level radioactive
13 material, and that's okay. But the only way to
14 overcome that fear is through true understanding and
15 knowledge without bias.

16 One of the main concerns is the
17 transportation of the spent fuel. Transportation of
18 spent fuel or radioactive material is not new and it
19 has already been done. URENCO stores and ships tons
20 of radioactive material by rail and truck without any
21 incident. And I can be more than certain that this
22 project wouldn't take off without first thoroughly
23 testing and assuring safe transportation.

24 In one of the posters outside today, we
25 can see the different environmental and hypothetical

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1 accidents the canisters can endure. Some of these are
2 heat, cold, pressure fluctuation, vibration, water
3 spray, free drop, compression, penetration, 30 feet
4 free fall, crash emersion, puncture, and 800-degree
5 Celsius fires. And so I would highly doubt that, you
6 know, they would put people in danger without testing
7 these things.

8 I would also like to mention that Holtec
9 has already been transporting spent nuclear fuel for
10 decades here in the U.S. and around the world. So it
11 is not new and it's not a mere luck that this has been
12 done with excellence. It is not luck. We have tested
13 and taken and are still taking the necessary
14 precautions to get these materials to their
15 destination safe.

16 So there's the question of the rails and
17 how they are going to withstand the weight. And, yes,
18 these things will get tested, and if they need repair
19 there will be repair. And I understand our industry,
20 the nuclear industry, is so fragile because we are
21 constantly being watched by people, so we want no
22 mistakes. So I believe that the NRC, along with
23 Holtec, will do everything in their power to make this
24 project safe for our environment, our community, and
25 our next generation. Thank you for listening.

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1 MR. CAMERON: Okay. Thank you very much,
2 Ramda. We have -- this is James? Okay. And Jemma?
3 Okay. James, James Pike.

4 MR. PIKE: Hello, everyone. My name is
5 James Pike. I'm also a student at the University of
6 New Mexico studying nuclear engineering. I'm a
7 graduate student looking into material science so a
8 lot of applications of radiation and how to store
9 stuff, too.

10 I just want to point out I grew up in Los
11 Lunas, New Mexico. I know what a small town culture
12 feels like. I understand you guys' safety and
13 concerns. But I want to let you guys know that what
14 the NRC is doing is they are trying to keep you guys
15 safe. They are the guidelines for the world for any
16 type of radioactive material handling or any type of
17 nuclear power plants.

18 I just went to a talk recently, and they
19 talked about how countries around the world look to
20 the NRC for safety and for health and for everything.
21 They model what they look at after the NRC, and I know
22 the NRC takes pride in that. So I don't think they
23 would lie to you guys because they are setting a world
24 example for you guys.

25 One thing I'd also like to mention, and my

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1 colleague touched on it, radiation is everywhere. Who
2 had a banana this morning? That had radiation in it.
3 Also, one thing you guys might not know is
4 radioactivity is used in the oil business, and you
5 guys are not protesting that. They use radioactive
6 tracers to put into the ground and they track oil.
7 They use radioactivity to find the formation of where
8 oil is.

9 So radioactivity, it is kind of scary, but
10 we have knowledge of it and we know how to keep it
11 safe and keep it away from dairy farms and from places
12 like that. And as future nuclear engineers, we want
13 to ensure that safety. That's why we're down here,
14 too. We are listening to you guys' concerns and, in
15 the future, we want to make sure you guys' concerns
16 are in our design. Thank you guys for listening.

17 MR. CAMERON: Thank you, James. Thank
18 you, James. And is it Jemma? So in other words, when
19 I called Bobbi Reydel, you guys are changing
20 identities. But do you want to talk? Well, go ahead.

21 MS. REYDEL: Hello, my name is Bobbi
22 Reydel. I'm sorry for any confusion. Today, I want
23 to say I'm a nuclear engineer. I'm a graduate student
24 and Ph.D. candidate of the University of New Mexico,
25 and I want to say I ardently believe in this project.

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1 Nuclear spent fuel casks are designed in
2 such a way that they are designed to be with -- the
3 fuel, the dry fuel is in a leak-proof container that
4 is sealed. And that is within a larger container that
5 is filled with an inert gas that allows cooling of
6 that spent fuel.

7 I've heard a lot of really important
8 concerns tonight about radiation leakage, about the
9 fuel leaking out of these containers. And if you look
10 at the actual designs of these spent fuel casks,
11 you'll see that this isn't a problem. We are here
12 today as experts in this field to talk to you about
13 your concerns, to speak with you, and I'm so glad that
14 I spoke to so many of you today.

15 I would also like to say that the fear
16 that people have around radiation, it is a concern.
17 But if you actually look at the design of this place,
18 if you are at the edge of this facility, let's say
19 you're at the fence of this proposed Holtec facility,
20 you will receive 25 millirems per year if you stood at
21 the edge of this Holtec facility for an entire year.
22 Now, what is 25 millirems? Well, if you took a plane
23 flight from New York to L.A., it's about that much.
24 So if you stood there an entire year, day and night,
25 that's what you would get.

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1 How many of you like to take vacations?
2 I would assume that many of you like to take
3 vacations. Many of you have flown in planes. Many of
4 you have gone to the dentist. Many of you, I see we
5 have an older population, maybe many of you have
6 suffered from cancer. Did you know that all of the
7 diagnostics for cancer treatment, that's radioactive
8 material.

9 The nuclear industry, if you actually look
10 at CANDU reactors up in Canada, they produce all of
11 the medical isotopes for the U.S. Things that you use
12 everyday, things that help you survive are
13 radioactive.

14 And so what I'm here saying is is that you
15 don't need to fear this. You don't need to fear,
16 like, oh, my gosh, there's going to be some radiation
17 that leaks. Like, okay. If you ate a banana this
18 morning, you also got potassium-44 in your system, as
19 well. That's a radioactive isotope.

20 I heard that people have said nuclear
21 power hasn't done anything for me. The Palo Verde
22 reactor in Arizona supports 35 percent of the carbon-
23 neutral energy for New Mexico. Twenty percent of all
24 power in the U.S. is from nuclear power plants, and
25 all of that, zero carbon emissions. If we get rid of

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1 our power plants, if we decide we don't want to find
2 a place to store this nuclear waste, it would be like
3 getting rid of every single windmill in the U.S. You
4 would be destroying the environment.

5 I am here because I believe in supporting
6 the environment and mitigating climate change. I am
7 here because I believe that this is a safe facility,
8 and I believe that we, as a community, with knowledge
9 and understanding and talking to these people and
10 reading the reports and learning about, okay, what is
11 ALARA, what is a millirem? How many of you know what
12 a millirem is? Learning those things are so
13 important.

14 I want to answer your questions. We'll be
15 here. You have questions for me? You have concerns?
16 You're a skeptic? Please ask me. Thank you.

17 MR. CAMERON: Thank you. Thank you,
18 Bobbi. And Deiter. This is Deiter, and then we're
19 going to go to Karen Bonime, Ira Strong, Charlene
20 Hernandez, and Jimi Gadzia. Deiter.

21 MR. HANBICKI: Hello. I am Deiter
22 Hanbicki. I'm a current junior at the University of
23 New Mexico where I study nuclear engineering. Before
24 I get into my speech that I've prepared, one of my
25 classmates wanted to show this. It is a letter of

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1 recommendation that we go along with the Holtec plan.
2 We have 31 signatures on this petition along with it,
3 including one of the distinguished faculty members at
4 UNM, Dr. Robert Bush, and the incoming American
5 Nuclear Society president.

6 So three years ago, I decided to move from
7 my sleepy little town in Southeastern Pennsylvania to
8 New Mexico for my degree. I had never visited the
9 state before, and my first thought when getting off
10 this plane was, wow, it's hot. Later, I would go to
11 see the state and see everywhere and see how beautiful
12 it is. I started my New Mexico journey because I saw
13 online that the Bureau of Labor Statistics website say
14 that nuclear engineers make a starting salary of
15 \$80,000 a year, and I came to UNM because they
16 accepted me.

17 Holtec states that they will have about a
18 hundred operators, a hundred construction jobs, and
19 perhaps 50 manufacturing jobs if they get to stage
20 three just in this area. That may not seem like a
21 lot, but that would be 250 well-paying secure jobs for
22 a minimum of up to 40 years. The little town in
23 Pennsylvania that I hail from has a population of only
24 3,000 people with a median income of \$56,000 per
25 household. So while it doesn't seem like a lot, to

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1 me, that seems like a lot of jobs and a lot of money.

2 In addition, my little town of New
3 Britain, Pennsylvania recently vetoed, we had a town
4 hall meeting like this where a gas plant wanted to be
5 built in the town and we vetoed it. So I know, I
6 sympathize with you guys of not knowing something that
7 we don't want in our town because we think it might be
8 dangerous.

9 Additionally, I agree with all of you we
10 should have a permanent waste solution site here in
11 the United States. However, we don't, so this is the
12 next best thing that we can have.

13 New Mexico was here in the beginning of
14 the nuclear industry, and it should continue to be
15 there in the future of the industry. Even if it's for
16 selfish reasons, I want the Holtec plant to be here so
17 that I may be able to live here for the foreseeable
18 future. Thank you.

19 MR. CAMERON: Thank you very much, Deiter.
20 And, Karen, are you going to come up and talk to us?
21 Okay. And then we're going to Ira Strong, if Ira is
22 still here, and then to Charlene.

23 MS. BONIME: According to these -- can I
24 just hold it? Okay. According to this guideline for
25 commenting on the scope of the EIS, some examples of

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1 information NRC is requesting are, I'm going to skip
2 to the second one, what reasonable alternatives to the
3 proposed action should be analyzed and why? I think
4 the reasonable alternative that should be examined is,
5 sure, if these casks are so safe, great. Let's
6 distribute them to the places where the nuclear power
7 plants are, and I think this would be safer because
8 having a centralized target for terrorism is a dumb
9 idea. I know that they're vulnerable just being in
10 pools with a roof over them or whatever. I don't know
11 enough about that. I'd like to know more. But if
12 these dry casks are really so great -- and I want to
13 thank John McKirgan for explaining to me how they
14 actually go about putting the fuel rods into these
15 casks. It's done underwater, and then there's a
16 drying-out process where helium, an inert gas,
17 replaces the water vapor that's left. And I like
18 that, and I think it's a great idea, and I think they
19 should stay right there where they've lived their
20 whole active lives.

21 Also, he did mention that a tiny bit of
22 water vapor -- can you all hear me -- would probably
23 remain inside the cask but only a tiny amount but that
24 radiation escaping the inner container, the stainless
25 steel cask, which someone mentioned is only a half-

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1 inch thick and in Europe they're much bigger. I
2 wonder why NRC is considered model if Europe has
3 something better. Something is funny?

4 So, anyway, the little bit of radiation
5 that can exist inside the larger cask could cause that
6 water vapor to separate into hydrogen and oxygen and
7 hydrogen, of course, is explosive in the presence of
8 oxygen. So that sounded to me like a concern. I hope
9 that that can be controlled somehow. Maybe it's not
10 enough. Maybe I didn't understand you completely, but
11 maybe it's not enough to cause harm.

12 But I also learned from talking with you,
13 John, about the fact that when the fuel rods are first
14 transported to the nuclear power plants they're not as
15 hot as they are later because, as uranium breaks down,
16 giving off this tremendous energy that's used to boil
17 water to drive turbines to make electricity, they
18 break down into other radioactive elements. And so
19 some of those have longer half lives or, instead of
20 alpha, maybe they've got beta or gamma radiation so
21 the things actually get hotter, and this is a concern
22 to me.

23 But what I'd like to move to is what local
24 sources of information should the NRC consider? I
25 think you've already heard eloquent testimony from the

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1 dairy industry, and I know you're going to hear about
2 the pecans that we grow here, which are yummy. And
3 then you've heard about the immense amount of oil that
4 we're sitting on that could be at risk.

5 What I'd like to look at in terms of local
6 information, and I don't mean just local to Southeast
7 New Mexico, I'm talking about the state as a whole.
8 We have paid our nuclear dues starting at the Trinity
9 site where the first bomb was exploded. The people of
10 the Tularosa Basin who lived, I forget, 16 - 18 miles
11 away were never warned, were never acknowledged. They
12 suffer still. Even the ones who've moved away from
13 that poisoned community have children who develop
14 cancers that are thyroid cancers especially that are
15 associated with exposure to radiation.

16 MR. CAMERON: Karen, I'm going to have to
17 ask you sum up, please.

18 MS. BONIME: All right. I will. Other
19 people have mentioned the Navajo miners, and it wasn't
20 just Navajos it was also Laguna Pueblo people, a woman
21 named Dorothy Perly testified in the 90s at an event
22 that was sponsored by CARD -- oh, and I forgot to say
23 I'm a member of CARD and a retired teacher. She
24 testified about how she was given no warning and no
25 protection as she drove trucks full of mining, the

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1 uranium ore to the milling sites and all the dust that
2 she was inhaling and so forth. She was already dying
3 of cancer at that time. It's environmental racism all
4 over the state.

5 The first nuclear victims to be
6 compensated were white. They were the Utah Mormon
7 Downwinders. One of them was also at this dinner
8 honoring atomic veterans, and she said, "We are the
9 most patriotic people in the United States, Mormons.
10 We could not believe our government did this to us."

11 Then, finally, after a while, after a lot
12 of legal work --

13 MR. CAMERON: Karen, I'm going to have to
14 ask you to wrap up, please.

15 MS. BONIME: Yes. Navajos began to be
16 compensated but not the ones in New Mexico and not the
17 ones who worked in mines and mills after 1970. There
18 are so many gaps. We have paid our dues, and we have
19 not, some of us, the most vulnerable, not been
20 compensated or acknowledged. That's it.

21 MR. CAMERON: And, Karen, just for the
22 record, could you tell people what CARD stands for?
23 I don't know if people know.

24 MS. BONIME: Oh, yes, yes. CARD, and I've
25 only been a member for a few short years, although I

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1 attended many of the hearings that they invited me to,
2 it stands for Citizens for Alternatives to Radioactive
3 Dumping. We don't want our state to be a dump.

4 MR. CAMERON: Thank you. And that's a New
5 Mexico group?

6 MS. BONIME: Yes.

7 MR. CAMERON: Okay.

8 MS. BONIME: It formed when WIPP was first
9 being discussed.

10 MR. CAMERON: Okay. Thank you. Thank
11 you, Karen.

12 MS. BONIME: Thank you.

13 MR. CAMERON: All right. And is Ira, Ira
14 Strong here? How about Jimi, J-I-M-I? Oh, here comes
15 Jimi. And then we're going to go to Charlene. Hey,
16 thank you, everybody, for your patience tonight, but
17 I think we're in the homestretch or at least at the
18 far turn.

19 MS. GADZIA: I'm the one that's going to
20 talk about pecans. A lot of my concern -- sorry. My
21 name is Jimi Gadzia. My family and I came here in
22 1906, so we've been here a long time, love New Mexico
23 and really care about it.

24 I could talk about a lot of issues, but
25 they've really been covered here tonight. Health is

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1 a concern for me. Water is a concern, been discussed,
2 and the oil and gas industry which has also been
3 discussed.

4 Our family has three properties, oil and
5 gas interest, that's within ten miles of the site. So
6 it is a deep concern that we depend on, as our family.

7 But tonight I'm going to focus on
8 agriculture because my family is also pecan farmers.
9 Just after oil and gas, agriculture, and I'm going to
10 talk about agriculture in general, is the second
11 largest industry in New Mexico. This region, Chaves,
12 Eddy, and Lea Counties, are the largest agricultural
13 region in the state. We have over 145,000 irrigated
14 acres just in the Pecos Valley Conservancy Districts
15 alone.

16 Pecans specifically are New Mexico's
17 number one food crop. In 2016, which is our latest
18 numbers because we've just finished harvesting the
19 2017 crop, New Mexico producers produced 72 millions
20 pounds of pecans worth over \$213 million in sales.

21 Now, New Mexico is only second in the
22 nation in producing pecans, second only to Georgia,
23 but we lead in cash receipts due to our improved
24 varieties and our superior quality. So New Mexico
25 also has the highest concentration of pecan production

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1 in the nation, and this production is from Roswell
2 south, also west but all in the southern part of the
3 state.

4 There's a lot of front-end costs to
5 starting a pecan field, so it's really a multi-
6 generational kind of crop because the trees last a
7 hundred years and it takes about seven to ten years
8 before you even get a first crop. So there is a lot
9 of front-end investment.

10 So we started our farm in 1965. It took
11 us five years to get our trees in. So seven to ten
12 years from then is when we first started seeing a
13 little bit of crop. So we have had invested a lot of
14 time and money into our pecan orchard.

15 My concern has been mentioned before when
16 talking about the dairy industry. Consumers are
17 really looking for cleaner foods. They're looking for
18 higher-quality foods. They're buying organic foods.
19 They want less contamination. People eat pecans
20 because they taste great but also they're very
21 nutritious, high in vitamins, fiber, and protein, high
22 in good cholesterol-lowering fats. Pecans are heart
23 healthy. The American Heart Association suggests that
24 it reduces the risk of heart disease. So that's kind
25 of our market and, as consumers demand better, higher-

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1 quality products, our agriculture is moving in that
2 direction, as well. So just the siting of this
3 facility could seriously impact our product, as well
4 as all agriculture in the state. And there's never
5 been accumulation of this magnitude before, and so I
6 truly believe that, once the association is made, I
7 think it could be an insurmountable reputation to
8 overcome and could seriously devalue our product or
9 eliminate it altogether. Any accidents will just
10 exacerbate that problem and really could gut the food
11 industry in New Mexico.

12 And there's just an example of the E. coli
13 contamination that's going on with romaine lettuce.
14 It was discovered on one farm, and the message to
15 consumers or consumers are deciding, you know, I'm not
16 eating any romaine, I don't care where it's from. And
17 that's the way it happens. Even the CDC is supporting
18 that, even though they've already identified where
19 it's happening. You can clean E. coli up but I don't
20 know that you can even clean up contamination from
21 radioactivity.

22 So I think, at that point, it's all over
23 for us here and there's no coming back from it.
24 That's my concern.

25 MR. CAMERON: And could you sum up for us?

1 MS. GADZIA: Really? I have five pages.
2 Just kidding. So I want to restate that this isn't
3 really our waste. I mean, the gal said that we have
4 30 percent in New Mexico, but really most of this has
5 been produced in other areas. So I have a really hard
6 time agreeing to house all this waste that was not
7 produced here.

8 So let me get to my last page. And I
9 think with so much that New Mexicans have to risk, I
10 have to ask myself what are the benefits to us, to us
11 New Mexicans? And I can't come up with any. So, I
12 mean, a few jobs maybe, but I think that's it. So all
13 we're asking for is to keep our clean environment so
14 we can continue to make our living, and that's really
15 all I have to say.

16 So I don't consent to bringing material
17 here. I think it will impact my livelihood and my
18 life. So thanks. Thanks for being here and thanks
19 for letting us speak.

20 MR. CAMERON: Thank you. Thank you.
21 We're going to go to Charlene Hernandez, and then
22 we're going to go to Janet Greenwald. And then we're
23 going to go to Pakeia.

24 MS. HERNANDEZ: Good evening, everybody.
25 My name is Charlene Hernandez, and I was born in

1 Capitan, New Mexico in 1945. No, actually, it was
2 1946. My mom was pregnant with me when the atomic
3 bomb at Trinity site was exploded, okay? So that
4 said, I want to say that I agree with most of the
5 speakers that spoke tonight and I hope you listen well
6 because this is my state where I was born. We were
7 already blasted once, and we're still suffering the
8 effects from that atomic bomb blast.

9 Now, if this is so safe, like these people
10 have said here, why does it cost so much for clean-up?
11 I have read that it costs not just hundreds, not just
12 thousands, but billions of dollars to clean up after
13 a problem with these waste containers, like we had at
14 Carlsbad, okay? That was shut down for two years, and
15 the clean-up, all that other stuff, and little brief
16 places, I read it in the paper over the last few
17 years, I've been keeping track of what's happened
18 there. But I also have been in contact with people,
19 like the Downwinders, who have families, who have lost
20 entire families because of Trinity site.

21 Now there is, I've been telling people
22 about the RECA Act. When I looked in the computer,
23 the RECA Act is radiation compensation, Radiation
24 Exposure Compensation Act. It was passed in Colorado,
25 Utah, parts of Arizona, but not New Mexico. I've been

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1 keeping track with Senator Udall who says that they're
2 trying to expand the law to cover New Mexico and that
3 means they will compensate people who have relatives
4 who have certain cancers, and they will pay people up
5 to \$50,000 for each loss for certain cancers. They
6 will also pay your medical costs. If you're found to
7 have those certain cancers, they'll pay your medical
8 bills until you die. Now, not too many people know
9 about that. I'm making that discovery, and it's a sad
10 thing.

11 Why are New Mexico people always the last
12 to know, and why did they pick New Mexico? They
13 picked New Mexico to test the atomic bomb, and they
14 didn't ask anybody. I mean, scientists that didn't
15 know what was going to happen did it to us.

16 Now, Lincoln County used to be where they
17 had the very best apples. You go over there now, you
18 can't find a single good apple bigger than that. We
19 had big, huge apples, wonderful apples, different
20 kinds of apples, not just one little kind. You know,
21 we had several different kinds of apples. Now
22 nothing, nothing grows that's bigger than that. A lot
23 of contamination has happened.

24 I agree very much with the scientist who
25 spoke earlier, Mr. Steve Shuffleman, Schafersman?

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1 Okay. He was from Texas. I totally agree with him
2 200 percent. The stability of this place is not good.
3 I was in my house one day when my house shook like in
4 California when I was out there. So what's up with
5 that? My house shook. The ground is not stable here,
6 and that man was absolutely correct.

7 Now, did you hear about the new caves that
8 they found in Fort Stanton? The longest cave in the
9 nation vertically, like this, or horizontally,
10 whatever. But it's the longest one, more than 30
11 miles. The end of that cave is at the bottom of the
12 Ruidoso Airport. It ends there. It's a beautiful
13 cave. And then my cousin said to me, my cousins live
14 there, they said, "Charlene, that cave connects up to
15 the other caves that are there and probably the
16 Carlsbad cave." So I think that you pay attention to
17 that gentleman. I think he had it all exactly
18 correct, and that's all I have to say.

19 Thank you very much. And thank you for
20 being here and for looking into this situation. I
21 hope you can come to a good conclusion that this is
22 not a safe state. My suggestion is to let the people
23 who have those things where the radioactive waste is
24 made, the nuclear reactor people who have those, they
25 can keep it in their own place where they have their

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1 reactors, not send it somewhere else.

2 MR. CAMERON: Thank you. Thank you,
3 Charlene. And we're going to go to Janet Greenwald,
4 and then we're going to have Pakeia Marquez come up,
5 and then Susybelle Gosslee, Soya Stevens, Alfredo
6 Dominguez, and Stephen Picha I think. And this is
7 Janet.

8 MS. GREENWALD: Hi, I'm Janet Greenwald.
9 I'm a coordinator of Citizens for Alternatives to
10 Radioactive Dumping, and that was an organization
11 formed 39 years ago by people in this part of the
12 state.

13 I'd like to report to you from a community
14 that's close to a nuclear facility. It's the
15 community where I raised my children, a beautiful
16 little place in the Embudo Valley which some people
17 consider the organic bread basket of New Mexico. It's
18 in northern New Mexico. This community is a bedroom
19 community from Los Alamos and it's also directly
20 downwind from Los Alamos.

21 Over a decade ago, there was a fire there
22 that Cerro Grande fire. And after that, the New
23 Mexico Environment Department visited the valley and
24 they said there's cobalt in your plums and there's
25 cesium in your broccoli, but don't worry about it,

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1 it's below regulatory concern. And then several
2 months later, my daughter-in-law became pregnant and
3 a few months later she lost one of her twins, and that
4 was the first time in our memory, and we have twins on
5 both sides of the family, first time anyone lost a
6 twin. And then they found out that the remaining
7 twin's fallopian tube was malformed. So then she had
8 a double-risk pregnancy. So in order to have her baby
9 in the Espanola hospital, my son and she had to look
10 through this book of the deformed babies from Espanola
11 Hospital. We're talking about badly deformed babies,
12 no arms, etcetera. And they had to look through this
13 book because they had to decide if their baby was born
14 deformed, would they want to hold it after it was born
15 or did they just want someone to take it away?

16 So we were very lucky because Olivia was
17 born whole. But Espanola is also downwind and a
18 bedroom community for Los Alamos.

19 Not long after that, we found out that one
20 of the mountain lakes that feeds the river that goes
21 through the Embudo Valley had so much cesium around
22 its shore that it was close to being a super fund
23 site. This is the head waters in the Embudo River and
24 also the Rio Grande.

25 Then the other day, Olivia and her

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1 brother, Ezra, and I went to the library in this
2 little community, and on the door there was a sign and
3 it said, "Support Group for Contaminated Los Alamos
4 Workers 9 a.m. on Saturday Morning." So what do you
5 think? Are nuclear facilities a benefit to the
6 communities around them? Perhaps you've had a
7 different experience than I've had. You can judge
8 from what I've said.

9 Thank you for this opportunity to speak.

10 MR. CAMERON: Thank you. Thank you very
11 much. Pakeia, could I ask you to come up? And this
12 is Pakeia Marquez, and I can hold this for you or do
13 you want to hold it?

14 MS. MARQUEZ: I can hold it myself. Thank
15 you. My name is Pakeia Marquez and I am 11 years old.
16 I'm here on behalf of unborn kids and born kids like
17 me. I think this whole situation is very important
18 because it affects everything and everybody. It
19 affects the plants and wildlife around here.

20 I have recently been writing an essay
21 about ecosystems and how it can be changed and
22 affected and damaged and, you know, but I read that
23 ecosystems can be very easily poisoned through water,
24 air, and soil. Water, if all this radiation leaks
25 into the water, everything needs water, everything

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1 that's living needs water. It's going to suck up all
2 of that, and it's going to get poisoned.

3 My house, it has a pump. We pump
4 underground water to our house, and we use it for
5 everyday necessities. What if that gets poisoned? We
6 will get poisoned and all of our produce, our garden.
7 My dad planted a bunch of trees. Is that going to get
8 poisoned, too?

9 We also are pecan farmers, too, and we get
10 a living off that, too. And we use it for our food.
11 We also grow chili, tomatoes, and a lot of other
12 stuff. Is that going to be affected, too? Who is
13 going to be, you know, who is going to give us back
14 all that produce that we just probably lost? Who is
15 going to be, you know, who is going to pay for it?
16 Who is going to, like, you know, reimburse us for it?

17 I've been reading this book on climate
18 change. It says radioactivity does contribute to
19 climate change. It doesn't really produce that much
20 carbon dioxide, but, at the same time, it still does
21 affect. And if you've seen a microwave, that's
22 radiation. Imagine a microwave in the world. The
23 whole world is a microwave. Microwaves make heat.
24 That's going to be contributing to climate change.
25 It's going to be contributing to a whole lot of

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1 problems. You may think you might be solving a
2 problem but really you're just creating more problems
3 to solve, and they might just be forever and you might
4 just not be able to solve them.

5 So please do remember that I cannot vote,
6 so you need to vote for this because I don't really
7 have a vote for this. So please do vote against this
8 horrible mistake. Thank you.

9 MR. CAMERON: Okay. Thank you. Thank
10 you, Pakeia. And that will be a hard act to follow,
11 but Susybelle? Yes, I know. It's been one of those
12 nights. Do you want to sit down and have me hold this
13 for you?

14 MS. GOSSLEE: No, no, I do not. I'm
15 perfectly capable.

16 MR. CAMERON: All right.

17 MS. GOSSLEE: Sorry. I'm Susybelle
18 Gosslee. I'm testifying as a member and on behalf of
19 the League of Women Voters of Texas regarding the
20 license application for the consolidated interim
21 storage facility that has been described today.

22 We appreciate the opportunity to appear
23 before you today and thank you for allowing us to
24 share the League of Women Voters of Texas position on
25 this issue. We are very concerned about many aspects

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1 of the high-level radioactive waste disposal, the
2 storage proposal, most importantly the health, safety
3 of people and the environment and the transportation
4 risks.

5 Our position on hazardous materials and
6 high-level radioactive materials, like other League
7 positions, is derived through a lengthy and thoughtful
8 process involving the participation of 25 city leagues
9 representing our members and supporters throughout the
10 state of Texas. We support the League of Women Voters
11 of New Mexico.

12 Neither Holtec International, WCS, or any
13 other company should be allowed to develop an interim
14 storage location without a plan for a permanent
15 disposal site and a robust system for storage. Doing
16 other site-wise would not protect local residents,
17 their health, or the environment from having this
18 temporary site become a permanent site. What is the
19 plan for locating a permanent repository for this
20 hazardous material?

21 More specific information is needed by a
22 verifiable independent third party to authenticate the
23 suitability of the proposed New Mexico and Texas sites
24 by using data accumulated with the most up-to-date
25 research, in addition to the past data that's been

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1 accumulated. A conflict of interest and the
2 appearance of a conflict of interest should be
3 avoided.

4 Transportation issues are a great concern.
5 We have a number of questions concerning those, in
6 addition to the ones that have been presented.
7 Accidents do happen. They said that there would be,
8 you know, the Titanic would not sink and it did. I
9 can go on with numerous examples. What would be the
10 standards and guarantees for the railroad routes for
11 this highly-irradiated material? What would be the
12 financial assurances provided by the railroad
13 companies, the states, and Holtec International? How
14 would the financial assurances be monitored? Who
15 would inspect and monitor these systems? What would
16 be the penalties if the safety and financial
17 assurances are not adequate? There are many questions
18 that are posed in the paper that I will submit online.

19 I would also like to say, since the time
20 is so limited, the same questions for the railroads
21 apply for the roads and the highways that would be
22 carrying the heavy high-level radioactive waste. How
23 much transport of high-level radioactive waste would
24 be on the highways exactly, really? Heavy loads do
25 more damage to highways than the lighter traffic.

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1 We can learn from past accidents. In
2 fact, there was the comment about the incidents in
3 Sweden, and 80 percent of the reindeer had to be
4 killed after the Chernobyl site and every year
5 reindeer have to be killed in Sweden because of
6 continued contamination, even though that was over 30
7 years ago. The wind carried the radiation across
8 Sweden, Europe, and the Northern Hemisphere. That can
9 happen also in Texas and in this country.

10 Thank you for having the public comment
11 meeting in Roswell in Carlsbad, New Mexico. However,
12 none of these cities has easy access by airlines and
13 are accessible to most people. Meetings should be
14 held in Dallas and Fort Worth, a major hub of
15 transportation by rail. San Antonio, El Paso,
16 Albuquerque, Santa Fe. In addition, major cities
17 across the U.S. that would be highly likely radiation
18 transport routes. Thank you for considering the
19 League of Women Voters' comments.

20 MR. CAMERON: Thank you. Is Soya, Soya
21 Stevens? How about Alfredo Dominguez? Alfredo? And
22 then we're going to try Stephen P-I-C-H-A. I'm not
23 sure how you pronounce that. But, Alfredo, welcome.

24 MR. DOMINGUEZ: My name is Alfredo
25 Dominguez. I live in Roswell since 1980. I thought

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1 a lot about what I was going to say here tonight, and
2 then when I get here and look at the slide show and it
3 says this purpose is to determine if it's safe to
4 build and operate a consolidated interim storage
5 facility at the proposed site. And I cannot conceive
6 any stretch of the imagination how transporting this
7 nuclear waste across Texas and the nation is ever
8 going to be safe. Each cannister is a target for
9 terrorists that want to do us harm. Terrorists have
10 already used our airlines against us, our postal
11 system. They're trying to hack our internet to
12 control the nuclear reactors. This is giving them a
13 giant bomb. All they have to do is formulate a shape
14 charge, and they won't set it off at the Holtec site,
15 they'll set it off at a major metropolitan center.
16 There is nothing that can stop, if that happens,
17 there's nothing that will clean that up ever.

18 Licensing this site for 40 years for 500
19 canisters will not help alleviate the problem of
20 permanent solution there. We'll just create another
21 site that's going to be contaminated. Thank you.

22 MR. CAMERON: Thank you. Thank you very
23 much. And is Stephen Picha here? Tom Gorman?
24 Abraham, Abraham Guevara? Cole Ford? Okay. How
25 about Morton, Morton Kral, K-R-A-L? Okay. Larry

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1 Martin? Larry.

2 MR. MARTIN: Am I the last one?

3 MR. CAMERON: No, that honor goes to Bill
4 Madison if Bill is here. Is Bill here? Yes, Bill
5 will be our last speaker.

6 MR. MARTIN: I didn't see anyone come in
7 after me. That's why I said that. I'm sort of
8 neutral on this. I didn't hear about it until
9 yesterday, so I think the publicity was lacking,
10 although I was obviously out of the loop. I suggest,
11 just like Mr. Jimi said, that you get a bigger room.
12 I mean, there's a theater down here with 406 seats in
13 it. Instead, we're in this dinky little room here
14 where not enough to argue with you.

15 I realize you have a problem. You've got
16 all this waste sitting around on the East Coast, West
17 Coast, that somebody wants to put somewhere else. And
18 that's usually the politicians in those states, not
19 here. On the other hand, I don't want the politicians
20 in Austin and Santa Fe determining whether or not
21 Roswell gets them, okay? That may be against a lot of
22 the people who have come in from Santa Fe and have an
23 argument, but southeast and southern New Mexico always
24 seem to get on the short end of the stick in the
25 politics in this state.

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1 In Roswell, we have an aquifer. We don't
2 share it with Clovis or Midland. I don't think we
3 share it with Artesia. It's our own little lake down
4 there, and it's very valuable. If it should be
5 polluted, Roswell will dry up and blow away because
6 industry will leave. I mean, the agriculture will
7 leave and we're gone. The importance of maintaining
8 a clean aquifer, and that would be a problem if
9 something happened, would be catastrophic for Roswell.

10 The question I have is is the location
11 near an aquifer, which I might have missed. You may
12 have said it. I came in late. And also does this
13 place have to be cooled? I would imagine so. And the
14 problems with Fukushima, Chernobyl were cooling
15 problems, and Fukushima is still a spot where no human
16 can endure it's so hot and so polluted. And they
17 don't know what to do.

18 So if you have a nuclear problem where you
19 can no longer cool your trash, you are in serious
20 trouble and it will eventually, like the old movie.
21 I don't have much more to say other than that, but if
22 something happened where the cooling system fails,
23 such as a massive grid failure in this country, you
24 would have approximately 99 uncooled nuclear bombs.
25 You're talking about half the country totally out of

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1 it forever. That's what they're trying to prevent, I
2 think.

3 But I don't see anyone arguing the case
4 that you have to maintain these places to be cool. No
5 one talks about it, but that's a major, major factor.
6 Thanks.

7 MR. CAMERON: Okay. Thank you for those
8 comments. Bill?

9 MR. MADISON: My name is Bill Madison.

10 MR. CAMERON: Let me get you in there.

11 MR. MADISON: My name is Bill Madison.

12 I'm from Roswell. I live in Northern New Mexico also.
13 I have property in Roswell that I take care of. I was
14 at the WIPP hearings when the WIPP hearings came, and
15 I don't know, none of you obviously were there, you're
16 too young. We were told that that would be all that
17 would be in New Mexico and there would be no high-
18 level radiation in New Mexico, that there would be no
19 accidents at WIPP, it was failsafe, 100-percent
20 failsafe. So it's hard for me to kind of embrace
21 what's going on here because the government has lied
22 to us, blatant lie.

23 So I think that you should look at that
24 and understand that we've been told one thing and now
25 all of a sudden there's this new thing that's coming

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1 at us.

2 A lot of eloquent speakers today. There's
3 a lot of information that you folks -- this thing at
4 SMU. I'm not aware of it. It sounds kind of
5 interesting. The fracking going on in the area and on
6 the introduction of the liquids causing these tremors
7 in Oklahoma, will that happen in the basin? It well
8 could. Obviously, there's holes there, and I'm sure
9 you folks are out looking at that.

10 But the really main thing is that we've
11 been lied to. So that's my spiel. Thank you for your
12 time and thank you for being here and listening to
13 this, and I agree that -- I just found out about this
14 today, but I'm not really in the loop very much. So
15 thank you.

16 MR. CAMERON: Thank you, Mr. Madison. In
17 about a minute, I'm going to turn it over to the
18 senior NRC official here, Brian Smith, who is just
19 going to say a few final words. But I think that I
20 mentioned earlier in the evening that the NRC would
21 not be responding to any comments. Well, there's only
22 one time when they do do that when there were
23 statements or implications about NRC's statutory
24 authority or responsibility, and we don't want people
25 to leave thinking that the NRC regulates something

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1 that it doesn't. I think he's going to talk about
2 something like that.

3 But before Brian goes on, I just want to
4 thank all of you for your patience and for your
5 comments tonight. And I have to thank Chief Newberry
6 and his officers again for helping us. And I have to
7 thank Porter's father for bringing Porter in here.
8 Maybe the most sensible sentient being that's here,
9 but I'm not going to go further into that. But,
10 Brian, go ahead.

11 MR. SMITH: All right. Thanks, Chip. I
12 guess the clarification, the one thing there, is the
13 WIPP site has been mentioned several times and has
14 been correlated that the NRC has been involved with
15 that. There's been no NRC involvement with the WIPP
16 site. That's totally under the Department of Energy.
17 So we are not a regulator of that site.

18 And just one other clarification. Earlier
19 on in the session there was a question about has the
20 NRC ever denied an application? The context of that,
21 the way I took it was an application like the one that
22 we're talking about here, a consolidated interim
23 storage facility application. So that's how I
24 answered the question. There's been three of those
25 that have been submitted. One has been approved, one

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1 is on hold, and we're reviewing the Holtec one now.

2 But when you look at the NRC as a whole,
3 and we do lots of licensing for lots of different
4 types of uses of material, and we have denied
5 licenses, applications in the past. But what
6 typically happens is we ask so many questions, raise
7 so many issues with certain applications that they end
8 up being withdrawn and not pursued any further. And
9 it gets to the point or we don't get to the point
10 where we terminate or deny those applications. So
11 those two clarifications there.

12 So I just want to thank everyone again for
13 attending the meeting tonight. We appreciate you
14 coming out and staying this late, as well. We value
15 all of your comments, and we'll consider those as we
16 prepare our draft EIS. Once the draft EIS is
17 published, I want to encourage you to review the
18 document and again provide us any comments you think
19 that we need to complete the document itself.

20 So thank you again and have a good
21 evening.

22 MR. CAMERON: Thank you. We're adjourned.

23 (Whereupon, the foregoing matter went off
24 the record at 10:42 p.m.)

25