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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

+ + + + +

TUESDAY,

MAY 22, 2018

+ + + + +

ALBUQUERQUE, NEW MEXICO

+ + + + +

The Public Scoping Meeting was convened in  
the Crown Plaza Albuquerque, Southeast Ballroom, 1901  
University Boulevard, at 6:00 p.m., Chip Cameron,  
facilitating.

NRC STAFF PRESENT:

CHIP CAMERON, Facilitator

BRIAN SMITH, Deputy Director, Division of Fuel Cycle  
Safety, Safeguards, and Environmental Review,  
Office of Nuclear Material Safety and  
Safeguards (NMSS)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

6:04 p.m.

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

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

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

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1 in other words, grant the license.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

13 We have Barbara Romero. Barbara?

14 MS. ROMERO: I'm right here.

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

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

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

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

25 Let me introduce the NRC staff to you, and

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

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

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

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

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

25 Dave McIntyre back here is from the NRC's

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

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

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

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

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

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

16 Thank you all for being here.

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

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1 They fired me. Okay?

2 (Laughter.)

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

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

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

16 (Foreign language spoken.)

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

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

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

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

4 PARTICIPANT: Yes.

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

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

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1 meeting is one of those opportunities.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

25 Moving on, this slide is a high-level

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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1 this slide here.

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

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

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

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

25 I know that some of you in audience are

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

14 MS. CATECHIS: Catechis.

15 MR. CAMERON: Ah, Catechis?

16 MS. CATECHIS: Yes.

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

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

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

24 If you could come up here?

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

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1 Vern Payne, Joe Mumley and Ed Mayer.

2 Senator?

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

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

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

24 (Applause.)

25 MR. McSORLEY: The other thing is if you

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

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

15 (Applause.)

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

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

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

6 (Applause.)

7 MR. CAMERON: Thank you, senator.

8 John Heaton?

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

12 (Applause.)

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

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

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

19 PARTICIPANT: We can't hear you.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

11 (Applause.)

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

13 Is Mr. Mumley her, Joe Mumley?

14 Mr. Mumley?

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

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

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

16 (Applause.)

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

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

22 Ed?

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

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

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

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

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

25 And Holtec is an American company. We

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

22          MR. CAMERON: Thank you very much.

23                        (Applause.)

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

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1 Asmerom and Terry Sloan.

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

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

9 (Laughter.)

10 (Simultaneous speaking.)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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1 very much.

2 (Applause.)

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

5 Greg? Greg Mello?

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

8 (Applause.)

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

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

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

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1 that disposal facility is.

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

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

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

25 We need to look at the contagion of

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

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

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

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

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

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

3 (Applause.)

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

11 And, Stan Fitch?

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

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

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

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

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

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

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1 location.

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

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

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

19 (Applause.)

20 Thank you. Thank you, Stan.

21 Yemane? This is Yemane Asmerom.

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

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

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

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

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

3 (Applause.)

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

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

12 (Applause.)

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

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

24 (Applause.)

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

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1 move in. Thank you.

2 (Applause.)

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

5 Dr. Terry Sloan. Terry?

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

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

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

21 (Applause.)

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

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

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

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

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1 They could build --

2 (Laughter.)

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

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

8 (Applause.)

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

16 (Applause.)

17 DR. SLOAN: Thank you.

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

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

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

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

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

5 I speak for Dorrie Bunting who just  
6 entered.

7 (Applause.)

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

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

17 (Applause.)

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

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1 they're planning to send here?

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

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

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

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1 hope not.

2 MR. CAMERON: Thank you.

3 (Applause.)

4 MR. CAMERON: Chris Timm?

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

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

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

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

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

19 (Simultaneous speaking.)

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

22 (Applause.)

23 MR. CAMERON: Pastor.

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

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

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

7 (Laughter.)

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

13 (Laughter.)

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

15 (Laughter.)

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

19 (Applause.)

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

25 (Applause.)

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

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

6 (Laughter.)

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

12 (Applause.)

13 MR. CAMERON: Okay. Thank you.

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

17 So, Peter?

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

24 (Applause.)

25 MR. CLARK: I have been employed in the

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

16 (Applause.)

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

25 (Applause.)

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1 MR. CAMERON: Danny Rupper?

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

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

8 (Applause.)

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

14 (Applause.)

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

20 (Applause.)

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

25 (Applause.)

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

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

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

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

21 (Applause.)

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

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

4 (Applause.)

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

7 (Applause.)

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

11 (Applause.)

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

18 (Applause.)

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

21 Susanne? Oh, here she is.

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

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1 (Laughter.)

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

7 (Applause.)

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

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

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

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1 talking about is alternatives.

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

10 (Applause.)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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1 project.

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

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

21 (Applause.)

22 MR. CAMERON: Thank you.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

6 MR. CAMERON: Marcus Nells.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

25 Before we get even deeper into this

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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1 the different generation companies.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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1 nuclear waste in our state.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

25 We have a security business in Hobbs, and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

25 I mean, you can take your ceramic little

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

18 MR. CAMERON: Okay, thank you.

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

23 MR. CAMERON: All right.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

20 MR. CAMERON: Randella, Randella  
21 Bluehouse.

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

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1 language spoken.)

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

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

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

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

25 What other people believe and what you

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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1 various environmental manufacturer's conditions.

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

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

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

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

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1 item. Thank you.

2 MR. CAMERON: And Ray Garduno.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

20 MR. CAMERON: Kevin, Kevin Kirby.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

25 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: We can't hear you.

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

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

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

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

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1 local farmers.

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

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

13 MR. CAMERON: This is Susan Tiano.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

25             And you know, all of these permissible and

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

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

10 MR. CAMERON: Thank you.

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

17 (Applause.)

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

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

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

5           (Applause.)

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

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

17           (Applause.)

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

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

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

5 (Applause.)

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

12 (Applause.)

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

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

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

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

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

5 MS. MARLEY: Yes.

6 PARTICIPANT: We can't hear you.

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

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

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

22 (Applause.)

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

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

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

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

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

18 (Applause.)

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

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

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

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1 with the money?

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

6 (Applause.)

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

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

17 (Applause.)

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

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

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1 done.

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

6 (Laughter.)

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

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

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

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

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1 socializing the costs.

2 (Applause.)

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

7 (Applause.)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

10                           (Applause.)

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

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

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

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

4 (Applause.)

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

7 (Laughter.)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

22 (Applause.)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

10                           (Applause.)

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

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

16                           (Applause.)

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

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

25                           Finally, the asshole chimed up and said,

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

3 (Laughter.)

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

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

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

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

23 (Applause.)

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

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

5 (Applause.)

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

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

16 (Applause.)

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

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

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1 this on the record.

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

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

18 (Applause.)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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1 their knowledge or consent are also suffering.

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

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

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

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

15 (Applause.)

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

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

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1 activity.

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

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

10 (Applause.)

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

12 MR. TSIHHNAHSINNIE: Over here.

13 MR. CAMERON: There he is.

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

20 (Applause.)

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

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1 United States --

2 (Applause.)

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

8 (Applause.)

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

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

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

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

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1 planning.

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

7 (Applause.)

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

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

15 (Applause.)

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

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

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

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

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

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

10 (Applause.)

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

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

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

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

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

4 (Applause.)

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

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

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

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

12 MR. CAMERON: I just called Sarah Kelly.

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

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

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

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

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1 means to stand up for themselves.

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

8 (Laughter.)

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

12 (Applause.)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

18 (Applause.)

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

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

25 Sinking lands as much as four inches due

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

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

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

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

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

25 (Laughter.)

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

6 (Laughter.)

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

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

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

22 (Applause.)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

9 (Applause.)

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

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

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

25 So, please pay attention to the data.

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

4 (Applause.)

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

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

10 (Laughter.)

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

14 (Applause.)

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

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

23 (Applause.)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

5 (Applause.)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

15 (Applause.)

16 MR. CAMERON: Thank you. Janet?

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

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

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

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

9 (Applause.)

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

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

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

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

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

4 (Applause.)

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

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

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

22 (Applause.)

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

25 MS. GREENWALD: I'm sorry?

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

3 MS. GREENWALD: I just want to thank all of  
4 you for resisting, because I think that there's a path  
5 forward here. I think we have a path forward. Thank  
6 you.

7 (Applause.)

8 MR. CAMERON: Thank you, Janet. Now,  
9 Barbara Endicott and then, Judy Kaul and Karen Bohime.

10 MS. BOHIME: Bohime.

11 MR. CAMERON: Yes. And Lauro, Lauro Silva.

12 MS. ENDICOTT: My name is Barbara Endicott.  
13 And since I heard about this proposed nuclear waste  
14 dump, I've been very frightened.

15 And so glad that I came tonight, because  
16 I feel very encouraged by everybody and what everybody  
17 has said, hearing that the big majority of the people  
18 that came here tonight do not want this waste dump.  
19 We do not want it.

20 (Applause.)

21 MS. ENDICOTT: -- part as human beings and  
22 what this could mean to our health. Health is  
23 everything. And we all know that. And I just -- I  
24 hope everybody here spreads the word, because it is  
25 not being -- a lot of people don't even know about it.

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1                   And so, I hope everybody goes home tonight  
2                   and calls their friends and talks about this to  
3                   everybody that they meet, because it's important that  
4                   we defeat this. And we will, we will. Thank you.

5                   (Applause.)

6                   MR. CAMERON: Thank you. Judy Kaul? Oh,  
7                   Judy? Do you want to use this microphone, is it  
8                   easier for you?

9                   MS. KAUL: Yes, thank you. Thank you. I'm  
10                  Judy Kaul. I'm a New Mexican. And I want to say,  
11                  there was a woman who was talking about, is there  
12                  intelligence on the planet? And I think there is, but  
13                  we still, as a species, have human error. And this is  
14                  what the NRC needs to remember, that mistakes do  
15                  happen.

16                  I mean, in New Mexico, we -- somebody made  
17                  a mistake between one kind of kitty litter and the  
18                  other and then caused a fire in WIPP. I mean, this  
19                  kind of thing does happen. So, we're in -- there are  
20                  mistakes and other places can keep their own nuclear  
21                  waste.

22                  (Applause.)

23                  MS. KAUL: Contrary to others opinion, New  
24                  Mexico is not your place. And we want to keep New  
25                  Mexico clean. And thank you for listening.

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1 (Applause.)

2 MR. CAMERON: Thank you very much. Karen?  
3 Here's Karen.

4 MS. BOHIME: Hello, everybody. My name is  
5 Karen Bohime. I'm a retired teacher and I have time  
6 to fight this thing. And I hope everyone will take  
7 the time to fight this thing. And I welcome the offer  
8 of the gentleman from California to collaborate with  
9 us and share information to fight this thing.

10 One thing I took away from the Roswell  
11 hearing was, not only the presence of the oil and gas  
12 people from Midland, Texas, but a woman who is the  
13 head for all of Texas of the League of Women Voters.  
14 No one, I don't think, has mentioned her yet.

15 She spoke for the women and, actually, for  
16 all people of Texas, but especially for the League of  
17 Women Voters. They arrive at decisions that are  
18 general enough to apply to many situations.

19 They take a long time to arrive at a  
20 consensus, but when they do, that is written in stone.  
21 And they said, something to the effect of, this is a  
22 threat to air, water, and plant and people's health.

23 And I was very grateful that she came all  
24 the way from Texas to add her voice and the voices of  
25 the women voters of Texas. Thank you very much. I

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1 have her contact information, her name is Susiebell  
2 (phonetic) that's her first name, I can't remember her  
3 last name.

4 I've been thinking about the  
5 transportation risks and it occurs to me, with all  
6 those thousands of miles of railroad track, who's  
7 going to protect thousands of miles of railroad track  
8 from sabotage?

9 How hard would it be for some deranged  
10 person or terrorist to attach an IED, an improvised  
11 explosive device, or perhaps something more  
12 sophisticated to the track, so that as the train  
13 passes over, it explodes? And maybe it's planted on  
14 a bridge over a deep canyon? Has Holtec tested their  
15 casks for a 200-foot drop from a railroad bridge? I  
16 doubt it.

17 One last thing, I echo the person who said  
18 that there's human error in everything. And since  
19 there is human error, you can't say anything is risk-  
20 free, you have to do a risk-benefit analysis. And it  
21 just does not add up.

22 There is no benefit to New Mexico, there's  
23 a huge threat. The very existence of a national high-  
24 level nuclear dump in New Mexico will discourage  
25 tourism, our major industry.

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1           As the dairy man said, one little leak  
2 would be enough to destroy the whole dairy industry of  
3 Southeast New Mexico, because people would just say,  
4 oh, that's where they had that leak, don't drink that  
5 milk, don't eat that cheese.

6           And the pecan farmers, same thing. No one  
7 will want -- some people would probably give up pecans  
8 period, because they think they all come from New  
9 Mexico or something. People think that way.

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

12           MS. BOHIME: Certainly. This is just the  
13 beginning, folks. We're going to keep our hearts  
14 strong and we're going to fight this thing with every  
15 cell in our bodies. Thank you.

16           MR. CAMERON: Okay, thank you.

17           (Applause.)

18           MR. CAMERON: Thank you. Lauro Silva?  
19 Lauro Silva? Here he is. And then, Denise Brown and  
20 Athena, if you're here, I apologize that I don't know  
21 how to pronounce your last name.

22           MR. SILVA: (Native language spoken.) May  
23 the light within you shine ever more brightly, in the  
24 language, our ancient language of our ancestors, my  
25 family ancestors.

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1           May the light shine brightly within you  
2 every day. Because as luminous beings on this Earth,  
3 we walk and we try to live the best way we can. And  
4 all of you here are those folks that are continuing to  
5 shine your light brightly to your families.

6           My name is Lauro Silva. I've been an  
7 organizer for many years. I happen to be a lawyer by  
8 profession, but I still need to make a living so I can  
9 get paid.

10           But the point being that I grew up in  
11 Southeastern New Mexico, I worked in the fields there,  
12 in the cotton fields and alfalfa fields. And I worked  
13 very diligently on the project.

14           I'm one of the founders of the Citizens  
15 for Alternatives to Radioactive Dumping, CARD, as it's  
16 known. It's called Alternatives. For 40 years, since  
17 1978, we've been working. Forty years later, today,  
18 this year, we're still fighting against the national  
19 sacrifice area that is our community.

20           Corporations like Holtec and others, GE  
21 and many others, have contaminated already substantial  
22 areas of our communities. The impact that it has on  
23 the DNA and the future generations, future generations  
24 and the unborn, is something that's incalculable.

25           I'm a grandfather, I have six children, I

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1 have nine grandchildren, and I have 12 great-  
2 grandchildren. I'm one of the downwind folks, because  
3 I was born in Capitan, New Mexico, Southern New  
4 Mexico.

5 The exploitation of Native peoples,  
6 Chicano peoples, Mexicanos, is part of the  
7 environmental racism that we're dealing with today.  
8 I already turned in my comments, my written comments.  
9 I have extra copies, if anybody wants to see a copy of  
10 those.

11 I'm not going to dwell on the point  
12 anymore, because I agree with everything you've said.  
13 All of you that have those beautiful spirits that have  
14 been here all day long, all night long, enduring some  
15 of our profound knowledge with each others.

16 I hope that Holtec and the companies, the  
17 NRC, that's been promising that they would never take  
18 high-level radiation or radioactive materials from  
19 fuel rods, would stand at a 50-yard line in front of  
20 one spent nuclear fuel rod for ten minutes before they  
21 come and talk to us about what they plan to do.

22 (Applause.)

23 MR. CAMERON: Thank you. Ms. Denise?  
24 Denise Brown?

25 MS. BROWN: I'm Denise Brown. I'm with the

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1 Nuclear Issues Study Group. And first of all, I want  
2 thank the NRC for coming out and listening to our  
3 comments. And thank you -- all right, got it.

4 So, thank you, sir, and the NRC for  
5 adjusting the Gallup meeting, where there is a  
6 pamphlet in Navajo that was incorrect. I will talk to  
7 you after to find out more about that.

8 So, first of all, I want to make a comment  
9 in regards to the Department of Transportation. And  
10 it is the joint responsibility with the NRC and the  
11 Department of Transportation for the transportation of  
12 the nuclear waste.

13 So, where is the Department of  
14 Transportation at this hearing and the meetings prior  
15 to this? Because clearly, their presence should be  
16 here. As many have said prior, the routes need to be  
17 addressed. So, how can we comment without those  
18 routes?

19 (Applause.)

20 MS. BROWN: People are talking about the  
21 reactor facilities across the country. Where's the  
22 discussion with them? Obviously, I would like to  
23 thank Mr. Torgen Johnson for coming here all the way  
24 from California, San Onofre.

25 (Applause.)

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1 MS. BROWN: As he had mentioned, and has  
2 informed us that there is a miscommunication between  
3 New Mexico and the waste that is being stored at  
4 reactor communities across the country.

5 Somebody else mentioned Plant Vogtle,  
6 which the NRC is also in charge of, and the licensee,  
7 and how the bankruptcy of private corporations, such  
8 as Westinghouse, has done. But also, the situation  
9 with Holtec and Eddy Lea Energy Alliance, as private  
10 corporations in that community as well.

11 So, the company and Georgia Power have  
12 done a great injustice to the people of color in those  
13 communities that are affected, because that is a black  
14 community and houses the -- where Plant Vogtle is  
15 situated.

16 So, this is clearly environmental racism  
17 at its core. Indigenous communities and nations in  
18 New Mexico and across the country, including black  
19 communities, such as the Shell Bluff Community in  
20 Georgia, and the brown communities in Southeastern New  
21 Mexico, do not want this.

22 Under the Clinton administration, there  
23 was Executive Order 12898 that states that federal  
24 actions shall address environmental justice in  
25 minority populations and low-income populations. So,

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1 I think the NRC needs to address those questions.  
2 Thank you so much.

3 (Applause.)

4 MR. CAMERON: Thank you, Denise. And  
5 Athena? Is Athena here? There she is. And then,  
6 we'll go on to Susan Schuuman.

7 MS. CHRISTDOULOU: New Mexicans keep  
8 fighting against becoming more of a sacrifice zone.  
9 NRC failed the New Mexicans, and especially the people  
10 who spread the word to bring the regular people like  
11 myself here.

12 My first job, I was actually interviewed  
13 at the NRC. I taught nuclear power. It was awesome.  
14 But when I taught reactor power principles, any  
15 changes in lessons, any notes that were changed along  
16 the way, were written in blood.

17 And then, when I finished teaching for the  
18 Navy, I learned environmental engineering. Wow. That  
19 nuclear power needs to be safely nine million miles  
20 away in the sun.

21 (Laughter.)

22 MS. CHRISTDOULOU: Not in my backyard.  
23 That's a favorite term in environmental engineering,  
24 NIMBY, not in my backyard. Because this is going to  
25 be so out of sight and out of mind for the rest of the

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1 nation, that they will consider nuclear power as a  
2 possible source to continue on making electricity.

3 And yes, this is part of a bigger issue,  
4 actually, the future. Because climate change is  
5 happening, so say the scientists and I believe them  
6 over our wonderful fossil fuel people.

7 From what? From fossil fuel burning. We  
8 need to ditch those fossil fuels. We need to stop  
9 burning our future. I myself am going fossil fuel  
10 free by 2023.

11 But neither should we continue with  
12 nuclear power. End this, for the sake of clean air,  
13 water, and soil. So, let's keep it in everybody's  
14 backyard and in their minds. There's even been talk  
15 of putting nuclear in Four Corners.

16 And human memory is too short, making this  
17 plan too much of a risk. No, Holtec, don't even  
18 consider it. Keep resisting, my friends. Keep  
19 fighting against becoming more of a sacrifice. Thank  
20 you.

21 (Applause.)

22 MR. CAMERON: Thank you. Thank you very  
23 much. And, Cody will be next, and then we're going to  
24 go to Ace and Sharon Hoffman.

25 MS. SCHUUMAN: Thanks, everybody who is

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1 still here. I've spoken at three previous meetings,  
2 but I do have some new comments that I want to share  
3 with the NRC Commissioners. Welcome to Albuquerque.  
4 We too have a high nuclear IQ, especially when it  
5 comes to our experience with WIPP, as you heard  
6 tonight.

7 I do have three points I want to make.  
8 And one is health studies, two is employee concerns,  
9 and three is about consent. Number one, please look  
10 at two documents when you do your draft EIS.

11 One is the Navajo Birth Cohorts Study.  
12 The Navajo Birth Cohorts Study, you can find it via  
13 the Southwest Research and Information Center website,  
14 that's SRIC.org.

15 They've studied, they've taken a lot of  
16 blood samples from pregnant moms and fathers and  
17 infants, and they've been tracking it for years.  
18 There's a lot of data that I think would be very  
19 helpful to you when you're deciding what kind of  
20 impact this project could have.

21 The second document I want to share, this  
22 is to followup on the comments that Tina Cordova made  
23 from the Tularosa Basin DownWinders Consortium, they  
24 put a lot of effort into a health impact assessment.

25 A health impact assessment by the Tularosa

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1 Basin Downwinders Consortium, it's entitled, this came  
2 out in February of 2017, and the title is Unknowing,  
3 Unwilling, and Uncompensated: the Effects of the  
4 Trinity Test on New Mexicans and the Potential  
5 Benefits of Radiation Exposure Compensation Act (RECA)  
6 Amendments.

7 So, I urge you, when you're assessing your  
8 impacts, to include both of those in your research and  
9 the record. So, that's the health studies. And then,  
10 there was a lot of correlation between the Trinity  
11 Test and health issues that are experienced by people  
12 living downwind and their descendants.

13 Number two, employee concerns. I was  
14 doing a little bit of research on Holtec International  
15 and I was surprised how quickly I found this, and the  
16 source is, Working at Holtec International: Employee  
17 Reviews. And you can find that at indeed.com. I'll  
18 repeat that. Working at Holtec International:  
19 Employee Reviews.

20 I'm going to quote from three different  
21 reviews. And anyone can find this, you can research  
22 this yourself. But to me, there's some safety  
23 concerns with this company and their application.

24 Number one, quote, one employee said, "you  
25 get in trouble for asking questions." This is from a

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1 former Holtec employee. Number two, many injuries and  
2 accidents and safety does not fix the safety issues.  
3 I assume they mean the safety department.

4 And the third quote alarmed me from a  
5 former Holtec employee, they have a questioning  
6 attitude policy. Like they have a policy that's, it's  
7 called questioning attitude. And that is part of  
8 their culture, supposedly.

9 It's supposedly encouraging workers to  
10 question things that they feel are wrong or  
11 inefficient. But if you practice this policy, you  
12 will soon be labeled as a troublemaker that is  
13 unwilling to conform to the company's culture.

14 So, I invite you to go to that site,  
15 Working at Holtec International: Employee Reviews. I  
16 was really astonished at the negative reviews by  
17 former Holtec employees.

18 And finally, about consent. I noticed  
19 your motto, I never noticed it before, your motto is  
20 protecting people and the environment. And one of  
21 your slides had environmental justice listed.

22 And yet, I also hear, in the introduction,  
23 that you don't need to obtain our consent. And I just  
24 don't know how you can give those two things. If you  
25 do believe in environmental justice and that's one of

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1 your factors, you have to seek our consent.

2 And I want to rebut the Holtec press  
3 release that said there was overwhelming support in  
4 Southeast New Mexico. I've got the numbers right  
5 here, numbers are really important to our group. And  
6 I forgot to identify myself, I'm with the Nuclear  
7 Issues Study Group.

8 MR. CAMERON: Could you just --

9 MS. SCHUUMAN: I'm summing up.

10 MR. CAMERON: -- sum up?

11 MS. SCHUUMAN: Yes, I'm summing up.

12 MR. CAMERON: Okay, thank you.

13 MS. SCHUUMAN: I'm also the Outreach  
14 Coordinator for the Albuquerque Center for Peace and  
15 Justice.

16 At the Maryland National Call, it was 23  
17 against, zero for. At the Roswell NRC meeting, it was  
18 45 against, seven for. At the Hobbs NRC meeting, it  
19 was 33 against, 14 for. At the Carlsbad NRC meeting,  
20 it was 32 against, 28 for.

21 At the Gallup NRC meeting, it was 36  
22 against, one for. Tonight, so far, we're at, 59  
23 against and six for. So, anyway, I think it's pretty  
24 obvious, we do not consent. Thank you very much.

25 MR. CAMERON: Thank you.

1 (Applause.)

2 MR. CAMERON: Thank you. Cody? This is  
3 Cody, Cody Sloma.

4 MR. SLOMA: All right. Hello, everyone.  
5 Thanks for hanging in there, it's been a long night.  
6 How many people are left? Can we get a number?

7 MR. CAMERON: We've got two more.

8 MR. SLOMA: Cool. Good to know. All  
9 right.

10 MR. CAMERON: Carlsbad and --

11 MR. SLOMA: All right. So, we've got  
12 Carlsbad.

13 MR. CAMERON: And California.

14 MR. SLOMA: Cool, there's California, okay.  
15 Carlsbad, California, cool. Okay. So, anyway, thank  
16 you all. Thank you NRC for coming out here and coming  
17 to Albuquerque, I know that was a request of mine and  
18 many others, too. So, thank you for doing that.

19 One thing I want to request is that you  
20 all go into other communities along the transport  
21 routes, other communities in New Mexico. There is a  
22 lot of places you could go here, perhaps Santa Fe  
23 would be a good place. Yes, so, think about that.

24 I want the staff to be considerate to go  
25 into the Environmental Impact Statement, and that is

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1 that we don't want this waste. So, yes, consider  
2 including that in there.

3 There's a few other things I would like  
4 you to include in your Environmental Impact Statement,  
5 but I'll get to those in a second. One thing I'm  
6 requesting is that you add additional days to the  
7 scoping comment period.

8 One of these reasons is that  
9 regulations.gov hasn't worked in the last four days.  
10 I'm not sure if you all are aware of this, but, yes,  
11 your website hasn't worked in the last four days. So,  
12 at least an additional four days, or however long it  
13 hasn't worked, needs to definitely be added.

14 And then, one thing I want to bring up is  
15 that, here in Albuquerque, we have a rich  
16 environmental justice community. And that means that  
17 there's a lot of organizations here working for  
18 environmental justice, as well as throughout New  
19 Mexico, because we deal with a lot of environmental  
20 injustice.

21 So, we're not -- in your Environmental  
22 Impact Statement, of course, you all have to include  
23 a section on comments, make sure to include a lot of  
24 that, because environmental problems go deep.

25 With that, there's a lot of organizations

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1 here, if you care to reach out to. They help find or  
2 found the key principles, so that's something to  
3 definitely look at.

4 I'm not sure how, like, familiar you all  
5 are with environmental justice. There's the Southwest  
6 Organizing Project, the Albuquerque Center for Peace  
7 and Justice, Citizens for Alternatives to Radioactive  
8 Dumping, Red Water Pond Road Community Association,  
9 the Alliance for Environmental Strategies, and of  
10 course, the Nuclear Issue Study Group.

11 And I'm sure any of these groups would be  
12 glad to talk with you all, but maybe try reaching out  
13 to us, because you all haven't reached out to us at  
14 all.

15 So, yes, I'll actually provide quick  
16 contact info and we'd be glad to hear from you all and  
17 help you out with getting the Environmental Impact  
18 Statement.

19 Another thing that you should include in  
20 your Environmental Impact Statement, and I'm asking  
21 you to take this very, very serious, that being,  
22 consent.

23 You started this meeting saying the  
24 Nuclear Regulatory Commission doesn't deal with  
25 consent. There's a big problem with that, you should

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1 really look that over and try to figure out how you  
2 can include consent. Without consent, you've got  
3 nothing.

4 MR. CAMERON: Cody, could you wrap up for  
5 us, please?

6 MR. SLOMA: Yes. And this would help, this  
7 would definitely help, because it would give a more  
8 ethical approach to this. A lot of what you all are  
9 doing is based on science, which is fine, we need to  
10 be sure that whatever you all are regulating is based  
11 off good physics, but you also need to include ethics,  
12 right?

13 You need to have the moral stance figured  
14 out of what you all are doing. I would strongly  
15 recommend including that in your Environmental Impact  
16 Statement and really considering whether this is good  
17 or bad.

18 And then, my last thing I would like to  
19 say is, there needs to be more time for this. As many  
20 people have said, this issue has been going on for a  
21 long time, this waste stays dangerous for a very, very  
22 long time.

23 So, don't rush the process, take it slow,  
24 extend the comment period. There's no reason why you  
25 all can't extend the comment period, why not, right?

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1 We'll --

2 MR. CAMERON: And Cody, I'm going to have  
3 to ask you to wrap up.

4 MR. SLOMA: Yes, so, we'll continue helping  
5 you all get comments, because, yes, I know you all  
6 don't do too much outreach.

7 (Applause.)

8 MR. CAMERON: We'll go to Judy Smith. And  
9 then, we'll go on to Ace Hoffman and Sharon Hoffman.

10 MS. SMITH: Can you hear me? Okay. My  
11 name is Judy Smith and I've lived in New Mexico since  
12 1979. I love this state. I'm a retired teacher,  
13 after 29.75 years. And that gives me some sense of  
14 the passage of time. I'm also a mother and  
15 grandmother of a darling three and a half year old  
16 grandson.

17 I would like to make three comments. The  
18 most disturbing to me is one that came to light when  
19 I read the Holtec review of Roswell, because I was  
20 there, you may remember me. And it wasn't what they  
21 said.

22 I don't want to name-call, but to have a  
23 company -- I really approach this project, trying to  
24 have an open mind. I studied about nuclear energy and  
25 I know the dangers, but I know we have a problem in

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1 this country, we need to find something to do with  
2 this waste that we've created.

3 So, I came with an open mind. But to have  
4 the company try to explain to me how safe and how  
5 reasonable and how wonderful their engineering and  
6 their project is, to deceive the state through their  
7 report, does not encourage me to feel comfortable in  
8 trusting --

9 (Applause.)

10 MS. SMITH: The reason that I'm here  
11 tonight again is because of that particular incident.  
12 I wanted to be sure to address that, because I  
13 consider misrepresentation at this stage to be a big  
14 red flag.

15 But in addition to that, I'm coming back  
16 again because of my Jewish faith. I was taught as a  
17 child and lived my life looking toward the future  
18 generations.

19 Our faith has been living our traditions  
20 for 5,775 years. So, that puts things in a long-term  
21 perspective. So, it encouraged me to take a look at  
22 this issue through the long view.

23 And when I think about a waste facility  
24 that's supposed to be interim, but interim could be  
25 120 years, I wonder, in 120 years, who will be

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1 responsible for that site? Who will be responsible to  
2 take care of it?

3 I also wonder how an interim site might  
4 become permanent, which other people have addressed,  
5 and we're ending up with a permanent site that was  
6 only meant to be interim.

7 Why not identify a permanent site, a  
8 permanent plan based on the science and based on input  
9 from the entire country that's affected, and then,  
10 maybe build an interim site while you're creating the  
11 permanent site? And I also wanted to --

12 (Applause.)

13 MS. SMITH: One other issue that I hope  
14 you'll address, because we've heard misinformation at  
15 these hearings that I've been to, is the geology  
16 underneath the site.

17 There was a geologist in Roswell who said  
18 that there was sandstone and limestone, I believe he  
19 said, that the earth under there is moving. Of  
20 course, we know geology, the earth moves and changes.  
21 And that there's an aquifer running through there.

22 Others have said it's the perfect, ideal  
23 geology. And I'd really like to know more about that,  
24 what makes it so perfect, and is it perfect, and how  
25 long will it be perfect?

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1 MR. CAMERON: Judy, could you wrap up for  
2 us?

3 MS. SMITH: Yes.

4 MR. CAMERON: Thank you.

5 MS. SMITH: Thank you very much.

6 (Applause.)

7 MR. CAMERON: Thank you very much. Ace  
8 Hoffman?

9 MR. HOFFMAN: I never thought I'd be saying  
10 this, but Holtec was very honest today, they said they  
11 didn't have any safety issues. Let me explain why  
12 they didn't have safety issues.

13 To give you an example, when San Onofre  
14 was shut down in 2011, it was because tubes about the  
15 size my pinky finger vibrated badly and one of them  
16 got a little crack in it and started spewing coolant  
17 into the secondary system. And then, they noticed the  
18 radiation and they shut it down, and they never  
19 restarted it, because those tubes were vibrating so  
20 much.

21 As a lot have said, two of those tubes,  
22 not just one, maybe even one, but certainly if two of  
23 those tubes had broken out completely, there would be  
24 four jets of water coming out. And that could have  
25 been a meltdown, could easily have been a meltdown.

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1           The NRC referred to that as a non-safety  
2           issue, that lack of a -- that vibrating problem they  
3           had was not a safety issue. That is how come Holtec  
4           hasn't had any safety issues.

5           Four of those casks that broke in shins  
6           are in use and they're going to get shipped here  
7           eventually, if you let them. That's not a safety  
8           issue either, I guarantee it. So, when Holtec says  
9           they don't have any safety issues, you can thank the  
10          NRC for that. That's how that works.

11          A nuclear reactor, when it's operating, is  
12          allowed to release about a thirtieth of a teaspoon of  
13          tritium. And you guys don't have to worry too much  
14          about tritium, because it's created in the reactor, as  
15          far as I know, there's not really any of it in the  
16          spent fuel.

17          But a thirtieth of a teaspoon is all  
18          they're allowed to release in an entire year, with  
19          probably -- so-called low-level radiation, it's the  
20          same deadly stuff that is going to get shipped here.

21          I would bet that it's entire load is less  
22          than maybe one cask of what is in a dry cask. That's  
23          how much lower low-level radiation is. What they want  
24          to ship here is extremely deadly.

25          And something like 30 percent of the casks

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1 are going to have damaged cladding. One of the people  
2 got up and -- one of the six, got up and said that  
3 there's three elements of protection.

4 There's the cladding, there's the casing  
5 of the canister, and then, there's the cement. Well,  
6 the cement is nothing, because there's four vents and  
7 they're each about a square-foot.

8 I was talking to the Holtec people  
9 yesterday, and I have a lot of problems with what they  
10 told me. They said if a jet were to crash into the  
11 thing and fuel spilled down the sides, it would go  
12 out, because there was no way for the air to get in.

13 Well, that's how the thing cools, is  
14 there's convection, the air comes in, the hot air goes  
15 out. You start a fire there and the hot air can't go  
16 out any faster and the cool air's going to come in.  
17 And the National Academy designs this study and said  
18 that they could last about 20 minutes.

19 One last thing, I see my time is up. We  
20 went to the Los Alamos today, my wife and I. And they  
21 had a pill-shaped container about this big, which was  
22 used for testing some sort of explosive. So, they put  
23 explosives in there and it just tore the half-inch  
24 thick steel completely apart.

25 You can expect, if there was a terrorism

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1 attack, they're going to have no problem tearing that  
2 half-inch steel completely apart. There's plenty of  
3 explosives that can do that and planes can do that  
4 too.

5 MR. CAMERON: Thanks, Ace.

6 (Applause.)

7 MR. CAMERON: Thank you very much. And  
8 Sharon Hoffman?

9 MS. HOFFMAN: You guys are a tough act to  
10 follow. You are so awesome. New Mexico is awesome.  
11 I had never been to New Mexico until we came for the  
12 Carlsbad hearing. I've had a wonderful time, I've met  
13 wonderful people.

14 And I hope the NRC is listening, because  
15 I heard a lot of environmental impact issues tonight.  
16 Everything from geology to environmental justice, and  
17 lots of things in-between.

18 So, if you think that you can look at this  
19 project and say, there are no environmental impacts,  
20 then you haven't been listening. And that's a real  
21 shame. You've spent a lot of time, you've spent a lot  
22 of money, you're supposed to be listening. I hope you  
23 really were listening.

24 And the thing that I want to say to all of  
25 us is, the NRC has control. They're the group that

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1 can say whether or not this can happen. They control  
2 whether we can continue to make nuclear waste. And  
3 that, as several people have mentioned, is the biggest  
4 problem here.

5 As long as we're making it, then we cannot  
6 solve the problem. And I'm from California and I  
7 agree with you completely, this should not be, the  
8 places where it's coming from shipping it away and  
9 then allowing more to get created.

10 But as long as it's being created, people  
11 are going to try to do that. And it's not really the  
12 people that live there. It's the nuclear power  
13 companies, it's the NRC, it's Holtec, it's everybody  
14 who profits from this. So, we need to work together,  
15 we need to stop making more nuclear waste. It's the  
16 most important thing we can do.

17 And the final thing that I want to say is,  
18 and I have this t-shirt that says, danger, radioactive  
19 material, we all know that, everybody in this room  
20 knows, like everybody in New Mexico knows that.

21 Everybody all over the country needs to  
22 know that and needs to pay attention to this problem.  
23 This is all of our problem. The radiation is not  
24 going to stop at state lines, it's not going to stop  
25 being a problem unless we stop creating it.

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1           And then, we still have a really big  
2 problem. If they had thought of this 72 years ago, we  
3 would not be in the problem we are now. Thank you  
4 very much.

5           (Applause.)

6           MR. CAMERON: Thank you, Sharon. And thank  
7 all of you for your patience tonight and comments.  
8 And before I turn it over to Brian Smith to close the  
9 meeting out for us, I just want to thank our  
10 stenographer, Bruce Carlton.

11          (Applause.)

12          MR. CAMERON: And also, I want to thank the  
13 gentleman in the back of the room, who helped out with  
14 the microphones. So, thank you back there.

15          (Applause.)

16          MR. CAMERON: Brian?

17          MR. SMITH: Well, thank you once again for  
18 coming out tonight and for sticking with us to the  
19 end, for all of you that stayed with us. And to some  
20 of you that came to all of our meetings, we appreciate  
21 that.

22                 Just like the first five meetings, we did  
23 receive a lot of good comments tonight. We will take  
24 those into consideration as we prepare our draft  
25 Environmental Impact Statement.

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1           We have plans to issue that next summer,  
2           in that general time frame. And it will be out for  
3           public comment, we will do additional meetings around  
4           that same time to get public comment on that draft  
5           document, and we will then consider any comments for  
6           the final draft.

7           So, earlier tonight, there were a couple  
8           of commenters who suggested consultation with the  
9           tribes. I just want to let you know that we have  
10          initiated that process, we're in the early stages of  
11          that. There will be a lot more of that to come in the  
12          near future.

13          So, once again, thank you very much, we  
14          appreciate your comments. Have a good evening.

15          (Whereupon, the above-entitled matter went  
16          off the record at 10:15 p.m.)

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