

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

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UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

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

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MONDAY,

MAY 21, 2018

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GALLUP, NEW MEXICO

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The Public Scoping Meeting was convened in  
the Gallup Downtown Conference Center, 204 West Coal  
Avenue, 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)

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

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1 JOSE CUADRADO, Licensing and Safety Review Project  
2 Manager, Spent Fuel Licensing Branch, NMSS  
3 DAVID McINTYRE, Public Affairs Officer, Office of  
4 Public Affairs  
5 JOHN McKIRGAN, Chief, Spent Fuel Licensing Branch,  
6 NMSS  
7 ANGEL MORENO, Congressional Affairs Officer, Office  
8 of Congressional Affairs  
9 CINTHYA ROMAN, Chief, Environmental Review Branch,  
10 NMSS  
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## P R O C E E D I N G S

6:02 p.m.

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3 MR. CAMERON: Okay, everybody, we're going  
4 to get started. It's a little bit after six o'clock.  
5 And my name is Chip Cameron, and I'm going to serve as  
6 your facilitator for tonight's meeting. And in that  
7 role I'll try to help all of you to have a productive  
8 meeting. And I want to welcome you all to the NRC  
9 public meeting.

10 NRC is for the United States Nuclear  
11 Regulatory Commission. And we're going to try not to  
12 use many acronyms at all tonight, but one you are  
13 going to hear is NRC, for Nuclear Regulatory  
14 Commission. You're also going to hear NEPA, that's  
15 National Environmental Policy Act. And you're also  
16 going to hear EIS, that stands for Environmental  
17 Impact Statement.

18 And the meeting tonight is about the NRC's  
19 environmental review process to help the NRC to decide  
20 whether to grant a license to the Holtec International  
21 Company to construct and operate an interim spent fuel  
22 storage site in Lea County, New Mexico.

23 And the NRC staff is here, and I'll  
24 introduce them in a few minutes. The NRC staff is  
25 here tonight to explain its license application review

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1 process to you. Not only the environmental review,  
2 but the safety review. Those are the two major  
3 components of the NRC review process.

4 And after the NRC gives its presentations,  
5 gives its information to you, then the NRC wants to  
6 listen to your comments and your recommendations on  
7 something called the scope of the EIS. And the scope  
8 is a very simple concept. It's what should the NRC  
9 consider in putting together the Environmental Impact  
10 Statement, the EIS. What issues doesn't it have to  
11 consider?

12 And that's where they're asking advice  
13 from all of you. And it'll be clear, after their  
14 presentations, what that's all about.

15 Now, your comments tonight are going to be  
16 part of a formal record. We have Bruce Carlson right  
17 here, he's our court reporter. He's taking a  
18 transcript of the meeting tonight of all your  
19 comments, of the NRC presentations. And that will be  
20 publicly available to all of you within two to three  
21 weeks, I think.

22 Now, I have a list of names of people who  
23 want to comment tonight, and we got those basically  
24 from the blue cards that people filled in when they  
25 come in, came into the meeting. And I'm going to call

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1 your name, and I'll ask you to join me up here at the  
2 podium, and then we'll listen to your comment.

3 And I'll try to call four names at a time  
4 so that you're prepared; you know when you're going to  
5 come up next to comment. But because we have so many  
6 speakers tonight, and that's really totally gratifying  
7 that we have so many people coming out to talk to us,  
8 but because we have so many, I'm setting a four-minute  
9 time limit for each comment.

10 Fortunately, you can amplify on your  
11 comment. You can amplify on anything you heard here  
12 tonight in a written comment to the NRC. And they'll  
13 be telling you how you do that.

14 And one of the useful things about these  
15 meetings is not only for the NRC to hear your comment,  
16 but you may hear other people in the audience say  
17 something that'll make you think about, you know what,  
18 I want to comment on that also. So even though it's  
19 four minutes, you're going to hear a lot of useful  
20 comments.

21 Now, the NRC staff is here tonight to  
22 listen carefully to what you have to say. They're not  
23 going to be responding to any of your comments, not  
24 going to be responding to any questions that you have  
25 in your comments. But they will evaluate your

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1 comments and your questions when they prepare the  
2 draft Environmental Impact Statement.

3 We do have some representatives of your,  
4 the staff of your elected congressional  
5 representatives. We have Jim Dumont, Jim. It's Jim  
6 Dumont, who's with Senator Heinrich. And Brian Lee,  
7 who's with Congressman Lujan. Brian, there's Brian  
8 right back there. And thank the Representative and  
9 the Senator for having you come here tonight.

10 There are also representatives of the  
11 license applicant here tonight, Holtec International.  
12 They'll be here after the meeting to talk with you if  
13 you have any questions for them. And just let me  
14 introduce Joy Russell from Holtec, right back there.

15 Let me introduce the NRC staff. First  
16 we're going to hear from Cinthya Roman, Cinthya. And  
17 Cinthya's the Chief of the Environmental Review Branch  
18 in the NRC's Office of Nuclear Materials Safety and  
19 Safeguards. And she's going to open the meeting up  
20 for us.

21 Then we're going to hear from Jill  
22 Caverly. Jill is the Project Manager for the  
23 Environmental review of the Holtec license  
24 application. And you're going to hear a lot of  
25 information from her.

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1                   We also have Brian Smith here. He  
2 shouldn't look relaxed because he was, his flight was  
3 delayed, and then he had a flat tire coming here. But  
4 he looks relaxed, okay. But Brian is the, he's our  
5 senior NRC official. He's the Deputy Director of the  
6 division where Cinthya's branch and Jill's branch is,  
7 and it's the Division of Fuel Cycle Safeguards and  
8 Environmental Review. So those are our three  
9 speakers.

10                   But let me introduce quickly a few others who  
11 are here. We have Jose Cuadrado, who's right here.  
12 Now, Jose's the Project Manager for the safety review  
13 of the Holtec license application. And we have Jose's  
14 Branch Chief, John McKirgan, here, and that's the  
15 branch, he's Chief of the Spent Fuel Licensing Branch.

16                   Now we also have Dave McIntyre back there,  
17 he's from our Office of Public Affairs in Rockville,  
18 Maryland. And we have Angel Moreno. Angel is right  
19 back there, he's from our Office of Congressional  
20 Affairs.

21                   And a final point is just let's extend  
22 courtesy to everybody. You may hear comments that  
23 don't agree with your own, but let's respect the  
24 person giving them. And I have to say, I have to  
25 emphasize, we've done three meetings on this subject

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1 in New Mexico, and we've had lots of people there.  
2 And at every one of those meetings, people were very  
3 courteous. So I know we're going to continue that.

4 But we did have a little kerfuffle at the  
5 end of the Carlsbad meeting about timekeeping. So  
6 tonight we have official timekeepers, rather than  
7 unofficial timekeepers like myself. We have an  
8 official timekeeper, Miriam Juckett, okay.

9 We're setting a four-minute limit, as I  
10 said, for comment. And Miriam is going to hold up a  
11 sign when you have one minute left, okay. And then  
12 when your four minutes are up, she's going to hold up  
13 that red sign.

14 Now, since we're doing the timekeeping,  
15 we're going to have to be a little bit more  
16 disciplined. When that time is up, I'm going to have  
17 to ask you to stop and we're going to call the next  
18 person up. So plan accordingly for your comments so  
19 that you can get it all in in four minutes. If you  
20 don't get it all in in four minutes, then send in a  
21 written comment.

22 And with that, one other last important  
23 thing is that there's a little sign here that says  
24 restroom, well, it's because they're back there, if  
25 you need to know. Okay, with that, Cinthya.

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1 MS. ROMAN: Can you hear me? Can you hear  
2 me now? Can you hear me? First I want to say a  
3 couple of things in Spanish.

4 (Foreign language spoken.)

5 MS. ROMAN: Good evening. As Chip  
6 mentioned, the staff in my branch will be working on  
7 the environmental review for the Holtec license  
8 application. And our main goal today is to hear from  
9 you, so I am going to be very brief.

10 First, I want to give you a very quick  
11 overview of what NRC does, and our role in regulating  
12 the Holtec project. Our agency is charged by federal  
13 law to be the nation's only regulator of commercial  
14 nuclear materials, independently ensuring these  
15 materials are used, handled, and stored safely and  
16 securely.

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

24 The NRC regulates the operation of 99  
25 nuclear power reactors that generate about 20% of the

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1 electricity in the United States. We also regulate  
2 civilian use of nuclear materials, research reactors  
3 at university, transportation of nuclear materials,  
4 and storage and their disposal.

5 NRC strives to be open and transparent in  
6 its review. As such, stakeholders will have many  
7 opportunities to participate in public meetings on  
8 environmental and safety issues. This scoping meeting  
9 is one of those opportunities. Next slide.

10 So, what is the NRC role regarding the  
11 Holtec proposed facility? As an independent  
12 regulator, the NRC determines whether it's safe to  
13 build and operate a storage facility at the proposed  
14 site. The NRC does not promote or build any nuclear  
15 facility. We do not own or operate the facilities.  
16 Our mission and our regulations are designed to  
17 protect both the public, workers, and the environment,  
18 as I mentioned earlier.

19 Holtec is applying for a license to store  
20 waste. Holtec is not asking NRC for permission to  
21 reprocess or generate more nuclear waste. NRC does  
22 not select the location for the storage facility; we  
23 just evaluate the impacts of building and operating  
24 the facility at the location proposed by the licensee.

25 As we will explain later in these

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1 presentations, the results of our environmental review  
2 will be documented in an Environmental Impact  
3 Statement, which is a public document. This analysis,  
4 along with other factors, will form the basis for the  
5 staff decision on whether to issue a license or not.

6 This concludes my remarks. And now Jill  
7 Caverly will provide additional information about the  
8 environmental review process. Thank you.

9 MS. CAVERLY: Hello, I'm Jill Caverly, and  
10 I'm going to be acting as the Environmental Project  
11 Manager for this project.

12 The next few slides are going to be  
13 specific to the Holtec review. Holtec has applied for  
14 a license to construct and operate a storage facility  
15 under 10 CFR Part 72, the NRC's regulations governing  
16 the storage of spent nuclear fuel and reactor-related,  
17 greater than Class C waste.

18 So if granted, Holtec would receive a 40-  
19 year license to construct and operate the consolidated  
20 interim storage facility. The current application  
21 before the NRC requests construction and operation of  
22 only the first phase of up to 20 planned phases. In  
23 the current application, Holtec is requesting storage  
24 of up to 500 canisters of spent nuclear fuel.

25 The spent fuel would come from shut-down

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1 and operating nuclear power plants from around the  
2 country. Holtec anticipates applying for up to 20  
3 phases of construction and operation of 500 canisters  
4 of spent nuclear fuel each, for a total of 10,000  
5 canisters of spent fuel storage.

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

12 So this slide shows the approximate  
13 location of the proposed consolidated interim storage  
14 facility in southeastern New Mexico. And as you can  
15 see, the proposed facility would be located  
16 approximately halfway between the cities of Carlsbad  
17 and Hobbs in Lea County. Next slide.

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

25 This system is a dry, in-ground, spent

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1 fuel storage system. Each of the modules holds one  
2 canister of spent fuel, and Holtec has applied for  
3 storage of 500 canisters of spent fuel. The  
4 canisters' transfer facilities would be below ground.  
5 This is a low profile design, and this is a conceptual  
6 drawing from the application. Next slide.

7 So this a flow chart that provides an  
8 overview of the license application review process,  
9 which is generally described as a three-parallel-  
10 phrase process. After the application is submitted,  
11 the NRC conducts an acceptance review to determine if  
12 the application has sufficient enough information to  
13 begin a detailed technical review. If so, NRC  
14 documents the application, and that begins the safety  
15 and environmental review paths.

16 From a safety standpoint, we work through  
17 a separate review to decide if a license should be  
18 issued. The results of the safety review phase is a  
19 Safety Evaluation Report. This is graphically  
20 represented on the left column of the flow chart, or  
21 the steps in orange.

22 The environmental review results in an  
23 Environmental Impact Statement, which describes the  
24 impact on the environment of the proposed project. On  
25 the right-hand side, you'll see the adjudicatory

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1 hearings. That blue box on the figure refers to the  
2 opportunity for the public to request a hearing on the  
3 application.

4 These hearings would be held if a petition  
5 to intervene was granted. So the results of these  
6 three processes, a hearing if granted, the results of  
7 an environmental review documented in an Environmental  
8 Impact Statement, and the safety review, documented in  
9 a Safety Evaluation Report, will factor into NRC's  
10 final decision on whether or not to grant the license  
11 to Holtec for the storage facility.

12 It's important to note that tonight's  
13 focus will be on the environmental review process. So  
14 this diagram outlines the environmental review in more  
15 detail, or the middle column of the previous slide.  
16 The opportunities for public involvement are  
17 highlighted in light blue.

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

24 The purpose of this phase is to gather  
25 more information to use to help us prepare the EIS.

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1 Comments gathered from this meeting, as well as many  
2 other information collections, will be independently  
3 evaluated for impacts of this particular project on  
4 the environment.

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

9 It's important to know that we analyze the  
10 information gathered, we'll develop an EIS, and issue  
11 it for public comment. At that time, we will again  
12 invite the public's comment on the draft Environmental  
13 Impact Statement, and that's the lower blue box on the  
14 left side. At that time, we will schedule a meeting  
15 to hear your comments on the draft EIS. NRC will  
16 evaluate those comments and consider modifying the  
17 draft EIS before issuing a final EIS.

18 The final EIS and the results of the  
19 safety review, the Safety Evaluation Report, will  
20 contribute to NRC's final decision on the application.  
21 Next slide, please.

22 So our environmental review is based on  
23 the requirements of the National Environmental Policy  
24 Act, or NEPA. NEPA requires federal agencies to apply  
25 a systematic approach to evaluate the impacts of its

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1 actions on the environment. NRC will prepare the EIS  
2 in accordance with those regulations. Next slide,  
3 please.

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

9 We are currently gathering information for  
10 scoping to help us determine which issues should be  
11 considered in our review. We also expect to request  
12 additional information from Holtec following the  
13 completion of these activities. Next slide.

14 The NRC will gather information on a wide  
15 range of topics related to the environmental issues.  
16 This slide shows many of the resource areas that we  
17 will consider in our Environmental Impact Statement.  
18 We typically include all of these in our impact  
19 statement. Okay, next slide. Thanks.

20 This slide is a high-level timeline of our  
21 anticipated environmental review. The stepwise  
22 approach meets our responsibilities under the National  
23 Environmental Policy Act, or NEPA.

24 We started the review with a notice of  
25 intent to conduct scoping and prepare an EIS, and that

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1 started a 60-day scoping period. The NRC has since  
2 received several requests to expand the scoping period  
3 and did so. The revised scoping period will end on  
4 July 30. We will continue to gather and analyze  
5 information related to the review and develop and  
6 publish a draft EIS.

7 At that point, we'll publish a notice of  
8 availability that starts at least a 45-day period for  
9 the public and other agencies to comment on the draft  
10 EIS. Those comments, like I said earlier, will be  
11 addressed, and analysis adjusted if necessary. Next  
12 slide.

13 So the scoping process helps the NRC to  
14 determine the scope of the EIS and identify  
15 significant issues to be analyzed in depth. It also  
16 identifies and eliminates issues which are not  
17 significant. Finally, it identifies other  
18 environmental reviews and consultation requirements  
19 related to the proposed action. Next slide.

20 The NRC is requesting information and  
21 input specific to the proposed facility regarding what  
22 should be included or excluded from the scope of the  
23 EIS. Some examples of the information NRC is  
24 requesting are, are the local projects that are being  
25 planned -- are there local projects that are being

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1 planned or developed nearby? Have you identified any  
2 wildlife or habitat that should be considered?

3 Are there cultural resources that should  
4 be considered in the evaluation? Are there particular  
5 populations nearby that should be considered? Are  
6 there unique characteristics of the project site or  
7 local communities that NRC should consider in its  
8 evaluation? Next slide.

9 There are several ways you can submit  
10 comments on the scope of the EIS. You may present  
11 your comments orally or in writing at this public  
12 meeting. You may submit comments through the  
13 regulations.gov website by searching for the docket ID  
14 listed here, and I'll say it for the record, NRC-2018-  
15 0052.

16 You also may mail comments to the address  
17 on the slide. You may also email your comments to the  
18 address listed on this slide. So we've extended the  
19 scoping period until July 30, so please, if you choose  
20 to provide comments in one of these four ways, please  
21 do so by July 30. Next slide.

22 So for additional information on this  
23 application and review, you can access many different  
24 publications, including the federal rulemaking  
25 website, NRC's public document room, and through the

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1 NRC's project-specific website for the Holtec  
2 application, and that's listed on the slide here.

3 We've also asked that the public libraries  
4 in Hobbs, Carlsbad, and Roswell to hold a copy of the  
5 Environmental Report for your review. If you want to  
6 be on our mailing list, please make sure that your  
7 name and your email was provided to one of the NRC  
8 staff in the back of the room. This is one way to  
9 ensure that you'll be notified of upcoming meetings  
10 and the issuance of the draft and final EIS.

11 So at the bottom of this slide are the NRC  
12 points of contact, it's Jose and myself. Feel free to  
13 contact us if you have any further questions. Please  
14 remember to provide all those comments by July 30.  
15 I'm going to turn it over to Brian for some closing  
16 remarks.

17 MR. SMITH: Good evening, everyone.  
18 Welcome, and thank you attending our public scoping  
19 meeting tonight. We look forward to receiving your  
20 comments. My name's Brian Smith, I'm the Deputy  
21 Director of the Division of Fuel Cycle Safety,  
22 Safeguards, and Environmental Review at NRC's  
23 Headquarters in Rockville, Maryland.

24 My division has the responsibility for  
25 leading this Environmental Impact Statement review,

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1 and it's a responsibility that we take very seriously.

2 I know there's those of you in the  
3 audience who may be supportive of the project and  
4 those of you that may be against the project tonight.  
5 We want to hear from both sides. But most  
6 importantly, we want to hear from you what you think  
7 is most important for us to review as part of our  
8 Environmental Impact Statement review.

9 We treat all the comments the same,  
10 whether submitted by one person or many. And as we  
11 complete our Environmental Impact statement, we will  
12 consider every comment that we've received.

13 Through the last few public scoping  
14 meetings, there was a consent-based process that was  
15 brought up by several commenters. I want to provide  
16 a little bit of clarification on that. This was a DOE  
17 initiative that they started a while back, and then  
18 subsequently ended.

19 The NRC does not follow a consent-based  
20 licensing process. The way the NRC process works is  
21 we establish the regulations that applicants have to  
22 meet. The applicants then choose a site and then  
23 prepare a license application that is submitted to the  
24 NRC for review. We do our review, safety, security,  
25 environmental review. And if the applicant satisfies

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1 all of our regulations, we then issue a license.

2 So once again, we look forward to hearing  
3 your comments tonight. And with that, I'll turn it  
4 over to chip.

5 MR. CAMERON: Okay, thank you, thank you  
6 all for that clear explanation of the process. Was  
7 that clear to everybody, how the NRC process works?  
8 Okay, well we're going to go to public comment now,  
9 and I'll ask you to come up here. And we have a State  
10 of New Mexico representative with us tonight,  
11 Stephanie Garcia Richard. And I'm going to ask  
12 Representative Richard to come up. Then we're going  
13 to go to Mr. Norman Patrick Brown, Mervyn Tilden, and  
14 then Jonathan Perry. So this is Representative  
15 Richard.

16 REPRESENTATIVE RICHARD: (Native language  
17 spoken.) Good evening, everyone. (Native language  
18 spoken.) My name is Stephanie Garcia Richard. I  
19 represent Los Alamos, so I am very familiar with the  
20 NRC, with the process that we are considering here  
21 this evening.

22 I am very gratified to see so many people  
23 in attendance, because truly, this is a matter of  
24 national importance that we are here to speak about  
25 this evening. And so I'm happy to see so many New

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1 Mexicans, so many local people here to give their  
2 comments on this process.

3 It's my job in the state legislature to  
4 represent my people and their concerns about safety.  
5 And so that's the capacity that I'm here this evening.  
6 I'm here to represent the people that I represent in  
7 New Mexico and some of the concerns and health and  
8 safety, environmental concerns that they have shared  
9 with me with you all here this evening.

10 And I would really urge the NRC to take  
11 into account the folks that are going to speak to you  
12 tonight, because they have history of a long legacy of  
13 nuclear matters. They live with a legacy uranium here  
14 in this community, as we do in Los Alamos. We live  
15 with the legacy storage of defense waste. And so I  
16 really hope that you take into account their comments.

17 I learned on Friday, we had a legislative  
18 hearing about this same matter, and I learned that  
19 there was site that was approved in Utah over the  
20 objections of the public there. And so I really hope  
21 that, you know, that that does not become the case  
22 here. Because I know that a lot of these scoping  
23 meetings have had much opposition.

24 And so I hope that we are not going to  
25 approve a license over the objections of New Mexicans.

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1 The site in Utah has actually not even been used  
2 because there's so much opposition that they are  
3 actually not even granting access to it or approving  
4 the lease to access it.

5 So some of the concerns I have been sent  
6 here to share with you this evening, these come from  
7 about seven of my Senate colleagues and about 21 of my  
8 House colleagues, and they include analysis of the  
9 transportation routes that would be utilized, the  
10 state permits that have been requested and what  
11 permits would be required for this facility.

12 The potential liability to the state and  
13 financial assurances to New Mexico. Emergency  
14 preparedness and need for equipment and training.  
15 Water contamination risks. Seismic concerns. The  
16 stability and suitability of the site. Contamination  
17 risks due to the oil, gas, dairy, ranching, and other  
18 industry within the area that we are speaking of.

19 Longevity and viability of the  
20 transportation of the storage casks and canisters, and  
21 how damage or cracked waste containers would be  
22 handled at the facility if there is indeed going to be  
23 no hot cell or that kind of facility to care for these  
24 casks should they rupture.

25 So that is my comment this evening. I

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1 very much appreciate being included, and I look  
2 forward to listening to the rest of the local  
3 community and hearing their comments. Thank you very  
4 much.

5 MR. CAMERON: Thank you, thank  
6 Representative Richard. Mr. Brown. Then we'll go to  
7 Mervyn Tilden and then Jonathan Perry. This is Mr.  
8 Brown, Norman Patrick Brown.

9 MR. BROWN: I'd like to say good evening.  
10 My name is Norman Patrick Brown, I'm a co-founder of  
11 one of the largest grassroots organizations, the Diné  
12 Bidziil Coalition, which means the people's strength.

13 I've been very honored over my lifetime to  
14 speak on behalf of my grassroots community. I was  
15 asked by Grandma to come here to speak my truth and to  
16 speak her truths. As you know, we have suffered the  
17 horrible uranium legacy. We call these crimes against  
18 humanity. Earlier, I saw your logo saying that you  
19 protect the environment and the people.

20 We believe that the Nuclear Regulatory  
21 Commission, through factual history, their collusion  
22 with energy corporations that come out to our land.  
23 You are 70 years late in reaffirming your trust  
24 responsibility to -- you have failed in your trust  
25 responsibility to my people.

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1           Because of your failure, we have lost  
2 thousands of our men. I'm speaking on behalf of my  
3 mothers, my aunties, my sisters, my daughters and  
4 nieces who've lost their fathers, their grandfathers,  
5 their uncles and their brothers to uranium mining.  
6 The Nuclear Regulatory Commission knew the effects of  
7 uranium and they still allowed our Navajo men into  
8 those mines.

9           So I'm here to remind you we are at the  
10 front end of the nuclear fuel cycle. How are you  
11 going to fix the DNA, the radioactive DNA in our DNA?  
12 How are you going to fix the air and the water and the  
13 land? There's a historical legacy here that you must  
14 examine. You all are going to leave here. We are  
15 stuck here.

16           I want you to listen to my people when  
17 they come here and they tell you what is happening to  
18 them and what has happened to them, and what is going  
19 to happen to us in the future. There is no safe way  
20 to store uranium. There is no safe way.

21           It's hard to believe, under this  
22 administration, the Trump Administration, with all the  
23 environmental rollbacks and the hard-earned fight and  
24 struggle for these laws that we have now that protect  
25 the land and environment. I just want to remind you

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1 that you have failed. If the Navajo nation or other  
2 indigenous nations asks you not to transport this  
3 garbage across our lands, will you adhere to them?

4 We made a treaty. In that treaty, you  
5 promised us certain things, and you guys have failed.  
6 I've been to dozens of scoping meetings over my  
7 lifetime, US Forest Service, sacred sites issues,  
8 uranium issues, the Rica issues. And each time, the  
9 NRC has failed to install and has failed to initiate  
10 our concerns into law. You and the uranium companies  
11 to my people, to my elders, are one and the same.

12 MR. CAMERON: And Mr. Brown, I'm going to  
13 have to ask you to --

14 MR. BROWN: I just want to say thank you.  
15 I hope you understand this anger that we have. We are  
16 the poorest of the poor. But we are the rich  
17 guardians of this land. So I want you to acknowledge  
18 that when you leave here. You're leaving, we're still  
19 here.

20 MR. CAMERON: Okay, thank you, thank you  
21 very much, Mr. Brown. Thank you.

22 And Mr. Tilden, Mervyn Tilden is up next,  
23 and then we'll go to Jonathan Perry.

24 MR. TILDEN: Good evening, everyone, I  
25 want to thank everyone here involved that made this

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1 meeting possible. I want to point out one thing in  
2 advance, the incorrect name that has been used for me.  
3 My name is Mervyn Tilden, not Marvin.

4 This is a fact in everything that the NRC  
5 or any uranium mining extraction company that comes  
6 out to our land had been guilty of, and that's  
7 providing misinformation from the outset. Again, my  
8 name is Mervyn Tilden, I am a resident of Church Rock.  
9 I'm also living here temporarily in Gallup.

10 I want to address several things that talk  
11 about the safety or the transportation of nuclear  
12 waste and nuclear, to the nuclear storage. The first  
13 one is that there is no safe --

14 MR. CAMERON: And can you just back a  
15 little bit off from the mic so they can hear you.

16 MR. TILDEN: Okay, sorry. There is no  
17 safe transport or storage of nuclear waste. I  
18 represent Eastern Navajo Dine against uranium mining,  
19 which is comprised of 23 Navajo chapters on the  
20 Eastern Navajo Agency, which is in the part of the  
21 Four Corners Area otherwise known as the National  
22 Sacrifice Zone.

23 I would like to know what kind of meetings  
24 are going to be held in the Arizona chapters along the  
25 I-40 route, the Navajo chapters. Are there going to

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1 be public meetings? This is a concern, safety, in  
2 regards to the storage factor.

3 There was an incident in February 2014  
4 where a single drum burst at the waste isolation pilot  
5 project plant. And the chief soulistic was cat  
6 litter, which is used to absorb liquid nuclear waste.  
7 The canister was, it exploded. So what kind of safety  
8 factors are going to be used for the transfer?

9 Everything that I've been reading, nuclear  
10 transportation has gone through 43 states in the  
11 United States. The Department of Transportation  
12 regulates this. How is this regulations, these  
13 regulations, being given to the Navajo people along  
14 the way, beginning from -- oh, and also the Laguna of  
15 Agua Pueblo People, what is their involvement?

16 But along the way, there are chapters that  
17 are also going to be affected. And this goes back to  
18 the fact that in July 16, 1979, there was the nation's  
19 largest nuclear accident, which spilled radioactive  
20 waste into the Rio Puerco that went down the Rio  
21 Puerco past the Navajo chapters along the way. And  
22 nothing was ever done for cleanup. Nothing was ever  
23 done for cleanup in the Church Rock and Crownpoint  
24 areas.

25 We have not heard anything from the NRC or

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1 the State of New Mexico or any other agencies  
2 regarding cleanup or reclamation of the mines that are  
3 already there. So what's going to happen if there is  
4 an accident along the way?

5 In the like one minute left, I want to  
6 point out the fact that there needs to be inter-  
7 government relations with the Navajo Nation, the  
8 Nuclear Regulatory Commission, and any other tribe.  
9 This includes public record inspections, protections  
10 against radioactive waste spills, and the fact that  
11 the nuclear industry is on a decline.

12 Also, the notice for this meeting here was  
13 in the Gallup Sun, dated May 18. And also the  
14 deadline of that notice was, to preregister, was May  
15 18. So you're not giving them enough time, Nuclear  
16 Regulatory Commission or anybody else involved in  
17 promoting this deadly transport of nuclear waste.

18 The half-life of nuclear, of uranium-238  
19 isotope is 4.5 billion years. In human terms, this is  
20 forever. We've got to be careful, not only from the  
21 extraction of the uranium but for the transport to the  
22 storage. Thank you.

23 MR. CAMERON: Okay, thank you. Thank you,  
24 Mervyn, thank you very much. And is Jonathan? Here  
25 comes Jonathan Perry, he's coming up. And then we're

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1 going to go to Kimberly Wahpepah, Be Sargent, Lillie  
2 Lane, and Rosemarie Cecchini.

3 MR. PERRY: Good evening, everyone.  
4 (Native language spoken.) It's good to see everyone  
5 here. I'd like to make a few comments. First off,  
6 I'm very disappointed in the presentation, coming into  
7 our area here. It would be much more courteous to  
8 have translation, verbal translation for my people  
9 here who don't really understand the full technical  
10 terms of the presentation.

11 Number two, the presentation of our people  
12 and how we conduct our business, we would like to be  
13 respected. And four minutes is not long enough for us  
14 to present and also to identify ourselves as people,  
15 as Dine.

16 Now, I am a Council delegate for Eastern  
17 Navajo Agency, I represent eight chapters. And I am  
18 strictly, and I have always been against anything  
19 regarding nuclear, nuclear development. The reason  
20 being is that we have a long history here, as stated  
21 by some of my people earlier, that we have many  
22 generations are going to be impacted.

23 Today I was very disappointed to hear that  
24 our Navajo Nation Government, Navajo EPA, was told not  
25 to have these discussions with the Council delegates.

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1 Why is the federal government, why is NRC dictating to  
2 the Navajo Nation how we can have these discussions?  
3 That is a major disappointment.

4 So I'm asking my congressional  
5 representatives and those with the state and the  
6 federal level, please allow the Navajo Nation  
7 Government to have these discussions internally, as  
8 well as with our communities. It is very important.

9 Now, in terms of providing comments on  
10 this particular project, we don't even know what the  
11 project is specifically. There has been no detailed  
12 information on this given to my community members.  
13 Sure, we got the process at NRC, but how can we make  
14 adequate comments if we don't even know what the full  
15 extent of the project is going to be? That needs to  
16 be shared.

17 Now, I ask for respect for the Navajo  
18 Nation because of our laws, of course. That we have  
19 a Radioactive and Related Substance, Equipment,  
20 Vehicles and Person and Materials Transportation Act  
21 of 2012. Different routes that will be used,  
22 different transportation forms will be used to  
23 transport these things to the location. And that's  
24 going to be a big question as to the emergency  
25 response.

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1           But also, can our infrastructure, of the  
2 state, can we handle these type of transportation?  
3 No, we are very, very inadequately set up in terms of  
4 our railway, in terms of highways. It's going to be  
5 a very dangerous thing to undertake, and I ask for you  
6 to understand that.

7           The other one is the United States is part  
8 of the Organization of American States, which adopted  
9 the American Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous  
10 Peoples on June 15, 2016. And there, there's two  
11 articles I want to point out. The first article is  
12 the right to protection of a healthy environment.

13           Indigenous peoples are entitled to be  
14 protected against the introduction of and abandonment,  
15 expiration, transit, and discriminate use or deposit  
16 of any harmful substance that could be negatively  
17 affect the indigenous communities, lands, territories,  
18 and resources.

19           The second one is Article 12, Indigenous  
20 law and jurisdiction. The indigenous law and legal  
21 system shall be recognized and respected by the  
22 national and regional, international legal systems.

23           Again, this is where I ask that we, as a  
24 Navajo Nation, be allowed to have our indigenous laws  
25 and jurisdictions respected, not only written laws,

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1 but our traditional law, the Navajo fundamental law  
2 that exists that connects us to our land, to air, and  
3 to our people, no matter where it's at on the face of  
4 the Earth, it's still our mother. We have to respect  
5 it and we have to protect her.

6 So I'm used to time limits, so I'm going  
7 to say thank you for hearing my comments. But in  
8 respect to my colleagues on the Council, especially at  
9 Eastern, we do oppose any type of nuclear development.  
10 Thank you.

11 MR. CAMERON: Thank you very much, Mr.  
12 Perry. Okay, Kimberly, and then we'll go to Be  
13 Sargent, Lillie Lane, and Rose Marie Cecchini.

14 MS. WAHPEPAH: (Native language spoken.)  
15 Welcome. First of all, I've been born and raised  
16 here. I was born west of Gallup, Granulito. That's  
17 a tribal land. First of all, I would ask that the NRC  
18 take accountability for the oil and gas, because  
19 Standing Rock has happened. Who is going to protect  
20 our Indian people? Who is going to stand up for us?

21 Because there's no law. There's police  
22 officers across the street, and there's no one to  
23 protect us here. A lot of our elders have mental  
24 problems because of the uranium. There's no one to  
25 help them, no doctors or nurses, but yet you guys

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1 still come over here wanting to do this in a good way,  
2 but really it's not solving nothing.

3 As being indigenous, it's very hard. We  
4 live in poverty. Some of us have no transportation in  
5 rural areas. But yet, we have no say in our own land.  
6 And it's up to us to preserve the land as who we are.  
7 We are not something as costumes, nor we're not a  
8 joke. Nor we don't, we're not, we're mocked and we  
9 shouldn't be discriminated against. We are not  
10 puppets, we're not guinea pigs. We are human beings,  
11 we have rights too.

12 And since this uranium thing has happened,  
13 this has been going on since 1970 and nothing has been  
14 resolved. And we sit here on our sacred lands trying  
15 to plea for help throughout the corporations that are  
16 coming just to make money off our lands. I don't  
17 appreciate it, because most of them are dying.

18 At the same time, there's no medicine to  
19 help those that are affected by uranium. Our Earth is  
20 dying every day because of pollution, of gas. At the  
21 same time, we have corporations coming here making  
22 money off of our land and on sacred sites. We have  
23 Bear Ears also to protect also.

24 And at the same time, it should not be  
25 messed with, it should not be touched. Our land

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1 should not be touched. Because many historical trauma  
2 has been through us as we walk through this historic,  
3 here on 66, the Long Walk. Also, our missing and  
4 murdered have been affected by these oil camps, by the  
5 man camps. They've been raped, sex trafficking also  
6 with the oil companies. And much more needs to be  
7 done.

8 So I ask all the legislature and their  
9 leaders of New Mexico to help our people right now.  
10 And at the same time, I ask for solidarity for our  
11 community right now. Thank you.

12 MR. CAMERON: Thank you very much, thank  
13 you. And Be, Be Sargent.

14 MS. SARGENT: So here we are again,  
15 listening to the eloquence of ourselves. You know,  
16 those sausages that they showed in the beginning, that  
17 we're all going to follow these sausages, this  
18 person's going to ask this person. And it's all going  
19 to be fair in the end. It's absolute bullshit and we  
20 all know it.

21 These companies, which never should have  
22 been started in the first place, can't take care of  
23 their own shit and they're bringing it here. It only  
24 encourages other companies to start and be polluters.  
25 The whole thing is so fucking bad, I want to scream.

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1 MR. CAMERON: Lillie Lane. This is Lillie  
2 Lane.

3 MS. LANE: (Native language spoken.)  
4 That's my introduction in Navajo. Navajo people, we  
5 have clans, and that's why we're all connected. And  
6 a lot of us native people in this audience, we  
7 consider each other relatives. And so we are the  
8 first, we are the first people on this continent.

9 And we have traditions, beliefs, songs,  
10 prayers that connect us to places within where we  
11 live. And here in the Southwest, we, the Southwest is  
12 a native land to maybe 30 tribes or so. And so, and  
13 we're the ones that have, like my brothers and sisters  
14 talked before me, we're the ones that paid for liberty  
15 in the United States.

16 And so Navajo people, uranium was mined on  
17 lands. Those uranium, that uranium was used to build  
18 bombs for the wars. And then Navajo people, they used  
19 our language in the South Pacific. They used the  
20 Navajo language to win the war against the Japanese.  
21 And then, but our people died. Our people died in the  
22 communities where there are a concentrations of  
23 uranium mines.

24 And this is Monument Valley, these are  
25 beautiful places. Cove, Arizona, Church Rock, New

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1 Mexico, and Cameron, Arizona. These are where all the  
2 uranium mines are. And they did not get cleaned up.  
3 All the companies fled. They made their money. They  
4 fled our beautiful people, our lands. And then now  
5 we're dealing the sickness, and we're also dealing  
6 with areas that are not safe for our people.

7 And so in my eight-to-five job for the  
8 Navajo Nation, I work with uranium mines, I work with  
9 communities to try to clean up these mines. And in  
10 this, the president's, President Russell Begaye's  
11 administration, they assigned me to be on the Tribal  
12 Caucus for radioactive transport and radioactive  
13 materials transport.

14 And so on behalf of the Navajo Nation, and  
15 on behalf of those tribes who do not have a  
16 representative, I am a member to the Tribal Caucus for  
17 these issues that are being discussed tonight. And  
18 so, and that covers my job. What I've learned covers  
19 the whole lifetime of uranium, from extraction to  
20 processing to now the spent nuclear fuel.

21 And so it's a new subject for me, but I'm  
22 passionate about the work that I have done earlier,  
23 and that's to advocate for the cleanup of over 500  
24 uranium mines on the Navajo Nation. And this is  
25 throughout the entire, the Nation. And so thank you

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1 for listening to me. (Native language spoken.)

2 MR. CAMERON: Thank you, thank you, Lillie  
3 Lane, thank you. And this is Rose Marie Cecchini.

4 MS. CECCHINI: Good evening, everyone, I'm  
5 Rose Marie Cecchini. I'm a Maryknoll Sister, and I'm  
6 coordinating the Office of Life, Peace, Justice,  
7 Creation Stewardship, under the auspices of Catholic  
8 Charities of Gallup Diocese.

9 As concerned people of faith in  
10 communities of New Mexico, we want our voices heard  
11 regarding this Holtec Environmental Report to bring  
12 100,000 metric tons of spent fuel, high-level  
13 radioactive waste from nuclear power plants from  
14 around our country to southeast New Mexico.

15 In light of our covenant relationship with  
16 our creator, to be responsible stewards of God's gift  
17 intended for the life and wellbeing of the entire  
18 community of light, we strongly oppose plans to make  
19 New Mexico a national radioactive waste dumping  
20 ground, or to transporting up to 10,000 canisters of  
21 highly radioactive waste, irresponsibly putting at  
22 risk the lives, health, and environment of thousands  
23 of communities throughout our country.

24 There are moral, ethical, and  
25 environmental justice principles that must be included

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1 in all decision making that threatens human life,  
2 communities, wildlife, the environment that sustains  
3 us all. We should not have to risk the death-dealing  
4 contamination of our land, aquifers, air, the health  
5 of vegetation, wildlife, livestock, endangering  
6 present and future generations in our country.

7 This Holtec proposal is contrary to  
8 current law. Current law only allows the US  
9 Department of Energy to take title to commercial spent  
10 fuel, quote, Following commencement of operation of a  
11 repository, unquote, or at a DOE owned and operated,  
12 monitored, retrievable storage facility.

13 The Holtec site meets neither requirement,  
14 as it is a private facility. The Holtec plan is an  
15 ill-fated experiment, a temporary stopgap measure that  
16 contributes nothing toward a long-term strategy for  
17 storing our nation's spent nuclear fuel and high-level  
18 radioactive waste in a way that will protect public  
19 safety and national security, that will preserve our  
20 natural resources and environment.

21 A stopgap, temporary plan is not a  
22 solution to the real challenge. It does not provide  
23 the required long-term solution of verifiably safe,  
24 permanent storage of lethal radioactive waste from the  
25 over 99 nuclear power plants in the US.

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1 Nuclear waste should be stored in  
2 hardened, secure facilities at or near nuclear sites,  
3 radioactive, radiation sites until a permanent,  
4 scientifically proven, publicly acceptable and  
5 ethically chosen waste solution is implemented.  
6 Ending the generation of nuclear waste is also  
7 essential in addressing the challenge.

8 The environment report is inadequate and  
9 incomplete because it does not analyze the impact of  
10 the spent fuel being left at the Holtec site  
11 indefinitely. Holtec is requesting from NRC a 40-year  
12 license to store the waste in Lea County, with the  
13 opportunity to extend the license for 120 years.

14 But Holtec stated in its license  
15 application that the waste could be stored there for  
16 300 years. More alternatives need to be analyzed.  
17 Keeping the spent fuel cask in some form of hardened  
18 onsite storage on the reactor sites must be analyzed.

19 The alternative of consolidated storage  
20 being done at an existing licensed independent spent  
21 fuel storage facility also must be analyzed. So we  
22 must look at the 34 closed, shut-down nuclear power  
23 plants with sizable territory and highly guarded as  
24 sites for possible permanent storage. Thank you.

25 MR. CAMERON: Okay, thank you. Thank you,

1 and we're going to go to Roger Lewis next, here's  
2 Roger. And then we're going to go to Oray and Casey,  
3 Dennis Romero, and then Ed Mayer.

4 MR. LEWIS: Good evening everybody. My  
5 name is Roger Lewis, I live up here near the impacted  
6 area where all your mines work. Northeast Church Rock  
7 area.

8 And let me go back. When I was in the  
9 Military I served in a unit with the Persian Missile  
10 that had a nuclear armament.

11 And it had a warhead that a nuclear, maybe  
12 like 25 yield megaton and you could actually touch it.  
13 And I think it was emitting radiation, we didn't know  
14 about it.

15 Then when I came back I got hired by  
16 United Nuclear Corporation and I worked for them for  
17 about maybe 14 years. And I know how to extract the  
18 uranium away from grinding all the way to packaging  
19 and drying. I knew every step of the way, all the way  
20 across. I knew how to do it. We knew how to do it.

21 And a lot of our people I guess were  
22 affected by it today. And as we speak right now,  
23 there is nothing good about it, nothing.

24 (Applause.)

25 MR. LEWIS: I lost a brother, I lost a

1 sister through all this scourge.

2 (Foreign language spoken.)

3 MR. LEWIS: Nothing will cure it. And  
4 right now it has the hurt the Mother Earth down below  
5 us. We don't see it. It's just how this inland is,  
6 this flat area, there is nothing there. We'll never  
7 see it. That's what it is.

8 It's so much, be able to do so much damage  
9 maybe we'll never see it. That's the way it is.  
10 That's the way I see it.

11 And the mines right now, the tailings,  
12 everything, that's still piled up right there. The  
13 wind was blowing today. I was out there watering my  
14 livestock and it's still sitting there. What's it  
15 doing there?

16 You know to people that left it there,  
17 they never came back to pick it up.

18 (Applause.)

19 MR. LEWIS: Yes. That's the way it is.  
20 People just come here, they do studies, studies,  
21 studies, studies, nothing is coming out, coming back.

22 At least they should say, can we help you  
23 here, can we help you do this. No, they don't do  
24 that.

25 We're trying to fight that radiation

1 Exposure Compensation Act today. They're still  
2 fiddling around with. New Mexico legislature and all  
3 this, the federal government, they don't want to pay  
4 us back of all the ill effects from it.

5 I was a miller, so, a lot of miners are,  
6 we're still trying to compete with the day in and day  
7 out, nothing is ever done to us to help us back.  
8 Nothing. So I'll just say:

9 (Foreign language spoken.)

10 MR. LEWIS: No matter how you look at it,  
11 it will never come up to anything good. That's the  
12 way I see it.

13 MR. CAMERON: Thank you very much. And,  
14 Ovray and Kasey, do you want to come up? This is  
15 Ovray and Kasey.

16 PARTICIPANT: We are hurting Mother Earth  
17 a lot by this radioactive waste. We don't see it  
18 because it's radioactive.

19 It can hurt your DNA. It can do a lot of  
20 things beyond what we know. And people just leave it  
21 there, they don't move it, it just stays in one place.

22 And when the people move it, it starts  
23 spreading to towns, cities, and it starts to ruin how  
24 we live.

25 (Applause.)

1 PARTICIPANT: The only reason I came is  
2 because of my son. If you have children you  
3 understand, if you have a future, you understand.  
4 Thank you.

5 (Applause.)

6 MR. CAMERON: Thank you. Thank you very  
7 much. Dennis. Dennis Romero. There's Dennis and  
8 then we're going to go to Ed Mayer and then Thompson  
9 Bell and Teresa Lowry. Thank you.

10 MR. ROMERO: Good evening. So, thank you  
11 for coming here, thank you for allowing the public to  
12 speak. I'm going to give you a little background  
13 about myself and then I'm going to go straight to the  
14 point here.

15 So, I have a BS in civil environmental  
16 engineering, I am a licensed engineer, master's  
17 degrees in geology and chemistry from Mexico Tech and  
18 a certificate of waste management from your DOE and  
19 work program out of New Mexico Tech. I worked for Los  
20 Alamos National Lab for ten years and I was an NMED  
21 employee for ten years.

22 And, you're not going to find a more  
23 supportive person than nuclear technology and the  
24 promise it holds. And that being said, I'm going to  
25 tell you, I would strongly recommend that the

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1 Applicant withdraw its application.

2 (Applause.)

3 MR. ROMERO: I've done a dime in the Nuke  
4 Navy. Here's the beautiful thing about the Nuke Navy.  
5 Close to 60 years with zero accidents. They do it  
6 right.

7 You work for the NRC you'll nothing but  
8 the upmost respect for you and your profession and  
9 your agency. But, privatizing waste storage does not  
10 seem to be a wise choice.

11 You have had, for example, I look at, I  
12 worked on the WIPP project, I've worked on the Yucca  
13 Mountain project, I analyzed TRUPACT I and II  
14 containers.

15 Here is the bottom line, those were  
16 beautifully designed facilities, beautifully designed,  
17 and you know what, you still had an accident. Okay.

18 (Applause.)

19 MR. ROMERO: I'm not here to put down Los  
20 Alamos National Lab, my former employer. I love the  
21 people that worked up there, they're good people,  
22 okay. Everybody in the world has some element of  
23 goodness and kindness, but you still had an accident.  
24 One error ladies and gentlemen.

25 So I urge, as part of your scoping, please

1 examine all risks associated with the packaging at the  
2 sites, with the transport, the risk associated with  
3 the transport of the material coming into New Mexico  
4 as well as the offloading and the storage.

5 I know NRC is huge on risk assessment, you  
6 do a beautiful job in every document I've ever seen,  
7 I ask you not just to look at the small footprint of  
8 the facility, but to look at the entire operation from  
9 the time it goes from a nuke plant to the time it  
10 arrives in New Mexico. Okay, so that's the first  
11 thing I'll ask you to do is to properly assess risks.

12 I will also ask that you require the  
13 Applicant to do something very similar to what DOE did  
14 with WIPP. They had to pay for a neutral third party  
15 analysis.

16 I understand the NRC has some great  
17 technical people. What DOE did is they paid for the  
18 environment interim research institute, PhD level  
19 folks to adequately assess the technical feasibility  
20 of WIPP, the TRUPACT containers contact handled waste.  
21 I ask that you require the Applicant to do that.

22 I ask that you require the Applicant to  
23 provide a full-fledged economic analysis. They are  
24 doubting the fact, and I have no reason to doubt them,  
25 they're probably great people at a good company, but

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1 they're saying, we're going to bring 135 jobs in New  
2 Mexico.

3 I'm here to tell you, unless you raise  
4 Sandia and Los Alamos National Labs or WIPP, you are  
5 not going to get those people, so you're going to have  
6 train them up or even have to bring them in from out  
7 of state.

8 I'm also going to ask to look at certain  
9 political issues. You know, the top priority should  
10 be public health, welfare and safety. And I go to a  
11 friend of mine, Steve Zappi, who was the WIPP manager,  
12 the program manager for New Mexico Environment  
13 Department.

14 He did a beautiful job. He knew his  
15 stuff, technically competent, and he didn't back down  
16 from anybody.

17 Unfortunately, and I won't say this to  
18 make this political, but it is political. The  
19 Martinez Administration came in, they wanted LANL to  
20 move more waste to WIPP. They made Steve Zappi a food  
21 inspector. He went to restaurants.

22 Within two years of removing Steve Zappi  
23 from that position, WIPP had an accident from a  
24 packaged stored, drum at LANL, packaged at LANL, that  
25 I guarantee you Steve Zappi would not have left in

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1 package.

2 So what I am saying is, I'm a proponent of  
3 nuke power, I'm a proponent of nuke technology and I'm  
4 asking you to seriously consider this application and  
5 possibly deny it. And I thank you all very much for  
6 your time. Thank you.

7 (Applause.)

8 MR. CAMERON: Thank you. Thank you very  
9 much. We're going to go to Ed Mayer now and then  
10 Thompson Bell and Teresa Lowry. This is Ed Mayer.

11 MR. MAYER: Thank you. Good evening, my  
12 name is Ed Mayer and I'm a program director at Holtec  
13 International.

14 And specifically, I'm a program director  
15 for this project. And I appreciate the complements to  
16 the Nuclear Navy.

17 Before I joined Holtec I served the  
18 Nuclear Navy for 27 years. I served on submarines and  
19 I commanded two of them. And I have a deep  
20 understanding of Holtec's technology and their very  
21 high standards. It's the safest and most secured  
22 technology on the planet.

23 Thanks, Chip. Well, I'll just start over.  
24 My name is Ed Mayer and I'm a program director at  
25 Holtec International. And I appreciate the comments

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1 to the Nuclear Navy.

2 Before I came to Holtec I served in the  
3 Nuclear Navy for 27 years on submarines and I  
4 commanded two of them. And I have a deep  
5 understanding of Holtec's technology, HI-STORE UMAX.  
6 And it's the safest and most secured technology on  
7 earth.

8 So, I'll start today by saying it's a  
9 pleasure to be here. And first, I'd like to provide  
10 Holtec's commitment to the NRC to provide quality  
11 responses in a timely manner to ensure, first, the  
12 accuracy of our submission, but also to meet the  
13 schedules for the NRC's review.

14 And I'd also like to provide some facts  
15 about HI-STORE. It's a consolidated interim storage  
16 facility, and ask for your support.

17 The Eddy-Lea Energy Alliance, also known  
18 as ELEA, is our partner. ELEA was formed in 2006 with  
19 the expressed mission of providing economic benefit to  
20 New Mexico.

21 All of its members are long time proud  
22 residents of New Mexico. And the power teaming with  
23 them, it's a public-private venture, is that they  
24 understand the community and they understand the local  
25 area. And that's what they bring to the table for us,

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1 as Holtec International, that deep understanding.

2 Holtec International is a strong  
3 technology company and our core business, for the past  
4 32 years, is the safe and secure storage of nuclear  
5 fuel. All the equipment supplied by Holtec is  
6 designed, engineered, fabricated and most cases,  
7 operated by Holtec employees.

8 And we're an American company. We  
9 fabricate everything in the United States. We have  
10 three production facilities. One in Orrville, Ohio,  
11 one in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania and where we're  
12 located, we, as myself, Stephan and Joy, are located  
13 in Camden. That's the third production facility.

14 And we have an impeccable safety record.  
15 None of our equipment has ever experienced the safety  
16 issue, has leaked or caused injury.

17 And to get back to ELEA, the members of  
18 ELEA asked Holtec to be their partner in 2013 after  
19 careful evaluation of the safety and security of our  
20 used fuel storage and transportation of equipment.  
21 And that transportation is the HI-STORE 190 and the  
22 storage is the HI-STORE UMAX.

23 Holtec, without standing support from  
24 ELEA, will obtain the NRC license to construct and  
25 operate the consolidated interim storage facility.

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1 And the name is HI-STORE, so that's what we call it.

2 Once appropriate contractual and funding  
3 provisions are in place, Holtec will construct and  
4 operate a facility. Local residents and local  
5 businesses will be hired to construct and operate the  
6 facility.

7 And we're going to bring high paying jobs  
8 to the area and we categorize --

9 PARTICIPANT: I have to interrupt.

10 MR. MAYER: -- and we have to categorize  
11 --

12 PARTICIPANT: This is public comment, why  
13 is Holtec allowed --

14 MR. CAMERON: Will you sit down.

15 PARTICIPANT: -- to talk during public  
16 comment?

17 MR. CAMERON: Fair enough. Now, please  
18 sit down --

19 PARTICIPANT: They're not a member of the  
20 public.

21 MR. MAYER: Actually, I am a member of the  
22 general public and that's why I am here. You'll note  
23 that I'm not sitting in the front row and I have a  
24 desk in the back -- up front.

25 So, we're going to hire local residents

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1 and companies and we're going to provide high paying  
2 jobs to the area. High paying \$60 to \$70,000 jobs.

3 The people in New Mexico are rich in  
4 technical knowledge, especially in nuclear technology  
5 with two national laboratories, three Air Force bases,  
6 an Army base and URENCO and also the waste isolation  
7 processing plant.

8 The geology site characteristics,  
9 environment and other factors on the proposed site are  
10 ideal for the storage of used nuclear fuel.

11 Our mission is to offer a temporary, safe  
12 and secured storage facility for the nation's nuclear  
13 waste.

14 And a temporary is measured in decades.  
15 So, I heard 300 years, it's not 300 years, it's  
16 measured in decades and it will be permanently stored  
17 in a deep repository, either Yucca Mountain or  
18 something like Yucca Mountain. But again, interim  
19 storage.

20 We're going to be good stewards to the  
21 environment and good neighbors to the local  
22 communities with our safe technology that will  
23 minimize impacts to the environment. And will help  
24 diversify the economy by providing well-paying jobs to  
25 New Mexico.

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1           So, I close by saying, if you have any  
2 questions, myself, Stephan, who is our vice president  
3 for engineering, and Joy, our vice president for  
4 external communications and mark development, we'll be  
5 in the back, we'll answer any questions you have. So  
6 thank you.

7           MR. CAMERON: All right --

8           PARTICIPANT: Boo. We don't want it.

9           MR. CAMERON: -- we're going to go to  
10 Thompson Bell. Now, Thompson.

11          PARTICIPANT: We don't want your waste.

12          MR. CAMERON: And then we're going to go  
13 to Teresa Lowry. This is Thompson Bell. And after  
14 Teresa we'll go to Terry Sloan and Larry King and  
15 Talia Boyd.

16          MR. BELL: As you said, for four minutes,  
17 I felt like I was back on a long walk trying to get  
18 out of the time, you know.

19          (Laughter.)

20          MR. BELL: So, I just want to show you my  
21 family here that involved in this Red Water Pond, this  
22 community. And my daughter is actually part of the  
23 design team with the --

24          (Applause.)

25          MR. BELL: -- what do you call it, the

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1 dump site. Where they're going to move the uranium.

2 Like I said, my name is Thompson Bell,  
3 this is my little boy's and my wife Rose. And my boy  
4 is 12, 11, 10 and a 4-year-old. And my oldest  
5 daughter.

6 We know what it means to be impacted,  
7 right there. As you live close to the uranium mines  
8 and be ignorant enough to work in it also.

9 As you know that as I was working, I was  
10 inside the mine 1,670 feet down, as you are  
11 contaminated day-by-day as you work, and you take it  
12 home, you don't know what you have given your family.  
13 So, because of that, right now as you see me, I have  
14 four limbs but yet you don't see the torment that I  
15 have with things I have health wise.

16 It hurts, it itches and things like that  
17 just, you don't see it. So, when you have these  
18 effects, you have contaminations that penetrates. And  
19 penetrations that you can't see.

20 And these things that our body takes that  
21 most people, not even the medical groups don't even  
22 know about. They just think it's all lumps. But the  
23 thing about it is, like you said, they always pinpoint  
24 the lumps, but it's the whole body.

25 So, the thing that I want to stress here

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1 is that it is dangerous and deadly when you get  
2 contaminated. I don't know how many things that were  
3 named here, of all the contamination done, this Arroyo  
4 that was flooded, all of that hasn't even been  
5 touched.

6 Second of all, I'd say the structure. We  
7 all know about the second law of thermal dynamics,  
8 things wear out. Things that can't hold together  
9 after so many years.

10 When you are born you're already dying,  
11 right? Things that we make, it comes apart. And as  
12 a mechanic I see things hold back by 2,000 psi by a  
13 little O-ring. But when it breaks, what happens, it  
14 makes a mess.

15 And things about structure. When you have  
16 to open it, guess what, it has a hinge. Don't they  
17 get rotten and rusted also? Things that we make is  
18 actually no good.

19 And also, one of the things that EPA did  
20 to us, as a family, they told us we're going to be  
21 involved but yet here, everything was already  
22 determined before we even argued about it. So, being  
23 things that we say, I don't know if it's going to be  
24 told.

25 And so, these things that I'm trying to

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1 tell you is that, I don't know if we're going to be  
2 hurt just because of us, as Navajo Nation, as people  
3 here.

4 And I can't imagine every one of you take  
5 a can tonight and throw it to your neighbors,  
6 neighbor's backyard, and see how it likes it. When  
7 you throw that can into our backyard with those cans  
8 bigger than our trucks.

9 That's what I think it is, trash in our  
10 backyard. Thank you.

11 (Applause.)

12 MR. CAMERON: Thank you. Thank you, Mr.  
13 Bell. And is Teresa, Teresa is coming up. And then  
14 we'll go to Larry King and Talia Boyd.

15 MS. LOWRY: Hello, I just wanted to speak  
16 to some personal experience that I've had lately and  
17 that is, in the last four weeks going down I-40 I have  
18 been run off the road by semis twice. Completely off  
19 the road.

20 So there is no way any vehicle coming  
21 through this town can be guaranteed to pass through  
22 safely. There are a lot of trucks on our highway and  
23 I am totally against this.

24 You need to keep that stuff wherever it's  
25 at and not traveling on the highway. Not any highway.

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1 Somebody created it, let them deal with it in their  
2 own backyard. Thank you.

3 (Applause.)

4 MR. CAMERON: Thank you, Teresa. Mr.  
5 King. Larry King, okay. And then you go ahead and  
6 then Mr. Sloan, did you want to --

7 Okay. Go ahead.

8 MR. KING: Oh, did I go --

9 MR. CAMERON: No, no, don't worry about  
10 it.

11 MR. KING: Good evening everybody. My  
12 name is Larry King. I live up near the old Church  
13 Rock site.

14 Back in '96 there was an aggressive  
15 organization that was formed to challenge the NRC  
16 license, that NRC granted a license to a mining  
17 company from South Texas. And the grassroots  
18 organization that I joined, we challenged more than  
19 five issues that they mining company had on their EIS.

20 And for close to 20 years we went through  
21 court with NRC and all of the hearings were always  
22 held in D.C. Away from the community defective sites.  
23 And each one NRC sided with the mining company.

24 NRC is always with the mining company.  
25 Any industry, any polluters. So they won't listen to

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1 us. But I plead with you, listen to the community.  
2 There is an outstanding objection to this company,  
3 Holtec.

4 I can guarantee you, there are going to be  
5 some accidents. Our roads in New Mexico aren't the  
6 best in the nation. It's bad.

7 There's always barrels, orange barrels,  
8 when I go from here to Albuquerque. There is always  
9 orange barrels.

10 Roads are being repaired all the time.  
11 There wasn't any discussion on the roads that were  
12 going to be taken.

13 There is more than 60 years of uranium  
14 legacy that's in our area. There's one right behind,  
15 in my own backyard. And also, where my cousin's  
16 brother live, Thompson Bell and the family, Red Water  
17 Pond.

18 They're sandwiched in between two  
19 abandoned mines. And they've been dealing with EPA,  
20 another government agency.

21 And they've been told that the mine legacy  
22 was going to be cleaned up 2010, '12, '16. Now it  
23 goes all the way up to 2022. What are they waiting  
24 for, people to die off?

25 So, NRC, are you going to listen to the

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1 people and all these objections? It seems like it's  
2 a no-brainer, everybody is objecting to this new  
3 proposed plan.

4 So we need to, our area is already dealing  
5 with a mine legacy for more than 60 years left by a  
6 mining company. Okay, one minute. But I always go  
7 over, let me tell you that.

8 (Laughter.)

9 MR. KING: But we can't allow another  
10 proposed waste to come into our area, we need to  
11 address our local legacy first. We need our elected  
12 officials to stand with the public and say no to this  
13 new company.

14 And also, on your slide it says that  
15 you're going to keep the tribe in the loop in the EIS  
16 process. And I just heard my, one of elected  
17 officials says that Navajo Nation EPA was told not to  
18 make any comments. Why? But yet you showed us up  
19 there that the Navajo Nation, the tribal's, are going  
20 to be included in these input.

21 So, I plead with you, keep it out of our  
22 area. Keep it out. And just like the lady before me  
23 said, keep it where it's being planned. Keep it  
24 there.

25 (Applause.)

1 MR. CAMERON: Okay, thank you, Mr. King.  
2 Thank you very much. We're going to go to Terry Sloan  
3 and then we're going to go to Talia Boyd and then Anna  
4 Rondon. This is Terry Sloan.

5 MR. SLOAN: Can you hear me okay? Okay,  
6 thank you very much for allowing me to say a few  
7 comments.

8 The reason I am here is I'm a small town  
9 internist. I've provided care to Native Americans for  
10 40 years. Thirty years in Gallup.

11 I have a long track record of fighting for  
12 my patients. And I consider health to be my passion,  
13 and it is the passion for need for this community.

14 Radiation itself is simply incompatible  
15 with life. It damages all living organisms. We know  
16 that biologically.

17 I was the medical director here when the  
18 Church Rock spill occurred. Our entire medical staff  
19 was totally aghast that this happened. Because  
20 everybody said it was safe, that stuff wouldn't  
21 happen.

22 And yet, it really was one of the largest  
23 oil spills in the history of this country. The  
24 response was inadequate.

25 And currently, actually, I have a list of

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1 families that may have been exposed. And that list  
2 actually has never been revealed because they won't  
3 allow me to reveal it for patient confidentiality  
4 issues.

5 But needless to say, one of the things  
6 that I've noticed in my practice of internal medicine  
7 is the surprising and alarming increase in renal cell  
8 cancer in this region. I've seen more renal cell  
9 cancer in each year than most internist see in a  
10 lifetime.

11 We don't know exactly why. It's in the  
12 Four Corners area, and I actually have a graph. And  
13 Senator Udall has this graph, but it really shows a  
14 striking increase in the Four Corners area compared  
15 with the rest of New Mexico.

16 We don't know why, but we think it may be  
17 related to either radiation or petroleum product  
18 contamination and exposure.

19 I talked about the unintended consequence  
20 of radiation exposure. I had a young man, 18 years  
21 old, star track athlete who came in with a small  
22 lesion in the perirectal area. And in fact, what it  
23 turned out to be, because he had a nodule in his  
24 groin, was an aggressive form of amelanotic melanoma.  
25 He died in three months.

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1 He was a runner for Shiprock High School  
2 and he ran a lot. I mean, he really trained hard.  
3 This man had so much courage I've never forgotten him.  
4 And I actually started running because of him.

5 Needless to say, what we found out later  
6 is that the track that he practiced on in fact had  
7 high radiation levels. And there he ran for years.  
8 That's where he practiced, that's where he became  
9 good.

10 And so what I'm saying is, once radiation  
11 exists, and where it is, it in fact can have  
12 unintended consequences. And so why, what I say is,  
13 why New Mexico?

14 Why can't they just keep the waste of  
15 local sites that produce it and they can handle that  
16 waste and develop contracts or whatever to take care  
17 of it.

18 I think the reason New Mexico is picked is  
19 because it's a small state, it's impoverished. They  
20 feel like there is wide open areas, just like here.

21 But they don't realize that doctors see  
22 patients with cancer and sometimes we have no  
23 explanation. And in the back of our mind it's the  
24 Church Rock spill, the radiation exposure in this  
25 area.

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1           And all I can say is, as part of a  
2 physician here, that I really think you should deny  
3 this application.

4           (Applause.)

5           MR. SLOAN: -- so that our state, my  
6 state, New Mexico, is not contaminated with radiation  
7 inadvertently. Thank you very much.

8           (Applause.)

9           MR. CAMERON: Thank you.

10          PARTICIPANT: We don't want it.

11          PARTICIPANT: We don't want it.

12          MR. CAMERON: Okay, is Talia, Talia Boyd?  
13 And then we're going to go to Anna Rondon, Erin Lorenz  
14 and Karthik Kavasseri.

15          (Foreign language spoken.)

16          MS. BOYD: Welcome to Indian land.  
17 Welcome to Gallup.

18                God, there is so much to say and I want to  
19 reiterate what everybody has said but, we want health  
20 studies, we want clean water, we don't want waste.

21                New Mexico has been a nuclear sacrifice  
22 state for tomorrow. We want water testing, we want  
23 real answers and real solutions to what we've been  
24 dealing with for decades.

25                Our people are sick and our sacred sites

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1 are being desecrated on a daily, a lot by extractive  
2 industries. And our people are sick for those  
3 reasons.

4 We depend and we know how to utilize the  
5 land and the power that exist within in it, but when  
6 it's compromised by such things as extractive  
7 industries and colonialism, then it compromises our  
8 particular selves.

9 I would like the NRC to take that into  
10 consideration, the cultural impacts, the significance  
11 of the land, the indigenous people that live down  
12 there. These are all things that aren't included in  
13 the EIS.

14 We want to talk about water, we want to  
15 talk about air. Everything that is nuclear is  
16 invisible. We can't see it, we don't know how we're  
17 being, what pathways we're being exposed.

18 So, there's so many things that aren't  
19 included that we would like to have real answers to.  
20 And again, I'd like to just reiterate and appreciate  
21 everything, especially what Council Delegate Jonathan  
22 Perry mentioned.

23 Everything that he mentioned was on point.  
24 Everything from under the united declarations of  
25 indigenous rights of indigenous people.

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1           The transportation routes include the  
2 freeway and the railroads. All of our rural  
3 communities will be impacted on some way.

4           Again, we don't have any answers as far  
5 emergency response teams if anything should happen.  
6 Our communities are very well aware of the detrimental  
7 impacts, again, with the 1979 uranium Church Rock  
8 spill.

9           So, these are the answers that we want.  
10 We want health studies, we want some real solutions.  
11 And we don't want the waste, you can keep the waste.

12           We've dealt with enough already, we've  
13 been traumatized, and we're trying to heal. We need  
14 to heal. Thank you.

15           (Applause.)

16           MR. CAMERON: Okay, thank you. Thank you,  
17 Talia. Anna, Anna Rondon. And then we're going to  
18 Erin Lorenz and then to Karthik Kavasseri.

19           MS. RONDON: Greetings relatives.

20           (Foreign language spoken.)

21           MS. RONDON: As a Navajo woman, a private  
22 citizen, I wanted to recommend during the scoping  
23 meeting that you let the public know on why this a  
24 rush process and why in 2012 Department of Energy was  
25 getting some lawsuits from the utility companies that

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1 owned this waste onsite.

2 So, it's because it's going to save \$15  
3 billion from the government on lawsuits. I would like  
4 to have the NRC explain the history since 1988 when  
5 this process began.

6 And also to look at the fracking that's  
7 going on in Texas. There's a lot of earthquakes  
8 happening and I think that needs to be looked into as  
9 potential threats.

10 Because those earthquakes are getting more  
11 and more as our earth is becoming more unstable.  
12 Because of the extractive industries.

13 I believe that the communities in Hobbs  
14 and Carlsbad strongly oppose this burial site.  
15 Because it's going to contaminate in the future, the  
16 livestock. The cows, the dairy farms that provide  
17 food for this country.

18 So we stand in solidarity with the people  
19 from Ennis County, Eddy County. And we hope to  
20 converse with them and stand in solidarity louder and  
21 more forceful.

22 And I appreciate our state representative  
23 that speaks so truthfully to this issue. Because New  
24 Mexico is tired of being nuked, we're tired of our  
25 children being exposed to radioactive nuclides that

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1 have infiltrated into our children.

2 Through the Navajo birth cohort study, we  
3 have evidence that newborn babies that were in our  
4 study have burden in their bodies equivalent to a 30  
5 year old adult that has lived by a uranium mine waste  
6 tailing site.

7 I appreciate our doctor that provided  
8 information on one example of why our people are  
9 dying. And to Norman Brown to how our miners, our  
10 elders who have mined uranium since, for 70 years.

11 I've heard that Nuclear Regulatory  
12 Commission made a statement that it's in morale to  
13 leave the waste at these utility company sites. It  
14 was in morale, it was filthy, it was like a dirty  
15 White man to come to our land and dig up our earth and  
16 leave us with filthy drinking water that's  
17 contaminated this state now throughout the country.

18 We will not continue to be silenced with  
19 the Nuclear Regulatory industrial complex. It began  
20 here and it's going to end here and we're going to say  
21 no to nuclear waste of any kind.

22 (Applause.)

23 MS. RONDON: We fought the Nuclear  
24 Regulatory Commission in 1998. They were trying to  
25 put waste through here, the same project.

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1           And we feel that deprivatization of this  
2           to these companies, somebody else is getting rich over  
3           this \$2 billion that's going to go into Eddy County,  
4           supposedly.

5           I would like to know who are these  
6           politicians in Washington and in this state. So with  
7           that --

8           MR. CAMERON: Thank you.

9           MS. RONDON: -- thank you.

10          MR. CAMERON: Thank you very much.

11          (Applause.)

12          MR. CAMERON: And this is Erin Lorenz.

13          MS. LORENZ: Hi, my name is Erin Lorenz  
14          and I'm a physician that works here in the Gallup  
15          community. I want to make clear that I speak on  
16          behalf of myself and not for any institution.

17          Folks in this community were reassured  
18          that uranium mining was safe 70 years ago. It turns  
19          out that the mining itself and the residue nuclear  
20          waste has taken a toll on this community in the form  
21          of kidney disease, lung disease, cancer. There's also  
22          evidence that in utero exposure affects the most  
23          vulnerable among us.

24          There is radioactive waste in the water,  
25          in the dust, the air, the livestock and even in the

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1 plants growing on Navajo Nation.

2 This is a direct result of private  
3 companies and our complicity prioritizing financial  
4 gain and winning the nuclear arms race above the  
5 health and safety of the indigenous communities who  
6 still reside here.

7 How do you remove uranium, radon, arsenic,  
8 lead and other heavy metals from every part of your  
9 environment?

10 If you have an answer, perhaps our time  
11 would be better spent cleaning up the mess we already  
12 have. And if you don't have an answer, maybe we  
13 should consider the wisdom in welcoming more nuclear  
14 waste into our community.

15 Two generations after the commencement of  
16 uranium mining on Navajo nation, many of the mining  
17 communities no longer exist. And those tasked with  
18 cleaning up the mines have not done so as you have  
19 heard from several members of those communities this  
20 evening.

21 What will happen in 100 years, will Holtec  
22 still be around?

23 What happens if Holtec can't find a  
24 storage place in Yucca Mountain or something like  
25 that?

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1                   Who is responsible? I'm not asking for  
2 myself, I am asking for our kids and grandkids. Thank  
3 you.

4                   (Applause.)

5                   MR. CAMERON: Okay, thank you. Karthik  
6 Kavasseri. And then we'll go to Terracita Keyanna,  
7 Kathryn McGill Peters and Joe Pacal.

8                   MR. KAVASSERI: Hi, I'm Karthik Kavasseri,  
9 I'm a family physician that works in this community.  
10 It looks like we have a handful of physicians here.

11                   I'd like to first of all just kind of  
12 highlight the fact, the NRC came here and we spent  
13 the, half of this time talking about the mess that's  
14 already here rather than the mess that's about to  
15 come. Or potentially come.

16                   And I want the NRC to pay attention to  
17 that because we don't know how else to get a hold of  
18 you. We don't know how to tell you that we have fears  
19 in this community that uranium waste is already here.

20                   And there's a preponderance of evidence at  
21 this point that there are ill effects to the health of  
22 this community. To my patients.

23                   I think Talia Boyd brought up the Navajo  
24 birth cohort, which has yet to be published. It's a  
25 study that's coming out with researchers from UNM.

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1           And we'll be finding out a lot of things  
2 about the extent of exposure in this community. And  
3 hopefully some of the health effects that are  
4 happening because of it.

5           But so far, in the preliminary results  
6 that everybody here can find online, we know that 83  
7 percent of dust collected in this area has uranium in  
8 it. About 15 percent of pregnant women, fathers and  
9 then their infants have urine uranium level in the  
10 95th percentile. Among many other things.

11           And there are animal studies, population  
12 studies and in vitro studies that show that there are  
13 links of uranium exposure to kidney disease, cancer,  
14 autoimmune diseases.

15           There are a lot of questions still, like  
16 Dr. Sloan brought up. I've also seen way more kidney  
17 cancer here than I ever saw before and I can't explain  
18 that. It's a total mystery to me.

19           Well, maybe it's not a mystery to  
20 everybody. But we don't have that smoking gun proof.  
21 And while I have the ear of the NRC I ask for help  
22 with cleanup, research. And then of course to help  
23 prevent another disaster.

24           So that's really why we're here. Or at  
25 least why we were brought here.

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1           Nothings disproves that scientific factor  
2 will be considered a fact today, like time. And I  
3 think one of the, Mervyn it was, who brought up the  
4 fact that the half-life of uranium is four and a half  
5 billion years. That's not a length of time that I can  
6 even comprehend.

7           And I just don't think that there is any  
8 way that we can safely store the waste from uranium  
9 that will last for that long. I mean, I think that's  
10 just insane to think that we could, we can't even  
11 pretend that that's a possibility.

12           But he did say, how many years was it? It  
13 was 300 years in this last string, so I don't know  
14 what the plan is for after that, but I can't imagine  
15 that it stretches 4.5 billion years.

16           What I do know is that there is plenty to  
17 clean up, there is plenty of work to do. And working  
18 on more ways into this state is just, it's an absolute  
19 travesty.

20           Last little point I want to make, I got  
21 invited out to the Red Water Pond Community, there  
22 have been a few speakers here from there. And like  
23 they were saying, they're sandwiched between three  
24 radioactive sites.

25           The EPA is involved in one of them. And

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1 the plan is to move radioactive waste from one place,  
2 move it down the road and dump it into another place  
3 that's technically outside the Navajo Nation.

4 It's incredible to me that we're able to  
5 transport waste from across the country but we can't  
6 even move it out of this site here, down the road.

7 (Applause.)

8 MR. CAMERON: Okay, thank you. Is  
9 Terracita, Terracita. And then Kathryn McGill Peters  
10 and Joe Pacal.

11 MS. KEYANNA: Good evening everybody, my  
12 name is Terracita Keyanna and I come from the Red  
13 Water Pond Road Community Association. And our  
14 community is half a mile away from two uranium mines  
15 and a mile away from a uranium mill.

16 I have dealt with uranium issues my entire  
17 life. And it started before I was even born. So, my  
18 children have to deal with that also.

19 So now I have seen differences between my  
20 children. I was away for school during one pregnancy  
21 and my daughter was completely okay. My son on the  
22 other hand, I was at home the entire pregnancy and he  
23 was born with a hole in his heart.

24 I mean, how can you not see some evidence  
25 like that. I mean, that's concrete evidence. I

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1 didn't do anything else out of the ordinary. I didn't  
2 change my diet, I didn't do anything differently. I  
3 was just in my community.

4 So, now my kids all have to deal with  
5 this. We have impacts in our health, our mental  
6 health, our physical health, our emotional health.  
7 And it impacts our environmental health.

8 And it infringes onto our native cultures  
9 and our native religion. We no longer can have our  
10 traditional use of our herbs.

11 We can't even go to, we can't even  
12 practice certain things that we used to do because  
13 morning prays used to be offered to the east in the  
14 morning and for our community, the east is a big pile  
15 of uranium. Why do we want to offer prays to that.

16 So, I mean, even our rights of freedom and  
17 religion is infringed upon just because of uranium  
18 issues. And all over New Mexico.

19 We don't need more uranium issues brought  
20 into the State of New Mexico, we're not a dumping  
21 site. This is a beautiful place. We've had enough.

22 I watched my grandmother die from  
23 pulmonary fibrosis. I basically watched her  
24 suffocate.

25 She used to work. She was just a janitor.

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1 She wasn't even somebody who worked inside the plant,  
2 she was just cleaning their office. And I watched her  
3 suffocate and die that way.

4 How many lives do we have to lose to  
5 uranium issues? When is it enough? How much is a  
6 human body, how much is a human life, how much do you  
7 guys need?

8 You know, isn't that enough? You have  
9 taken my grandmothers, you have taken some of my  
10 grandfathers. My aunts and uncles are suffering from  
11 it. And I suffer from it too. My children are  
12 suffering from it too.

13 I have lost three babies. I didn't even  
14 get to see these three beautiful children because of  
15 them.

16 I had a whole statement prepared but now  
17 I have to go, I have to just condense everything into  
18 what I really wanted to say on my heart. Because I  
19 have to go home because my other son has medical  
20 issues that need to be addressed.

21 So thank you and just please, I mean, this  
22 is a plea to just say no, no more. We can't take this  
23 anymore.

24 Like my father said, we suffer and you  
25 can't see it. You can't see what we're suffering

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1 from. It's a lifelong. So please, just hear our  
2 pleas, understand that we don't want it. Thank you.

3 (Applause.)

4 MR. CAMERON: Thank you. Thank you.  
5 Kathryn? Kathryn McGill Peters and then we're going  
6 to go to Joe Pacal. And I apologize if I'm  
7 pronouncing that incorrectly.

8 MS. PETERS: Hi. I just wanted to say  
9 that I do not support this in any way. This seems to  
10 be a pattern that happens over and over around here  
11 that companies come from other places, they say, oh,  
12 we're going to make a lot of money, we're going to  
13 bring jobs and we're going to help people. And  
14 instead, people around here get environmental  
15 disasters and those companies disappear and we're left  
16 to deal with the problems.

17 I'm worried about the risk of derailment  
18 because my mother used to work for a railroad and I  
19 know they derail all the time.

20 I'm worried about the harm to the  
21 environment, I'm worried about who's going to pay for  
22 the cleanup when there is an accident because there  
23 will be one. I guarantee it.

24 Okay, we as -- people keep saying we have  
25 a lot of old uranium mines around here. We have

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1 people on the Navajo Nation with no water because they  
2 can't drink the drinking water where they live because  
3 it's contaminated with uranium.

4 I'm involved in this, well, I'm not  
5 involved in it but I'm trying to help raise money for  
6 this project to some wells out in the eastern Navajo  
7 Nation. And it's going to cost \$500,000. And they  
8 have to dig thousands of feet into the ground to find  
9 water that is not contaminated.

10 So, that is wrong that people in the  
11 United States live today without water because their  
12 water is contaminated and there is no one out there  
13 helping those people. We've got the federal  
14 government and the state and everyone is arguing about  
15 who should build these wells.

16 And meanwhile, we have some charity that  
17 normally digs wells in Africa that has come to the  
18 Navajo Nation to try to help people get water. And  
19 that's ridiculous in the richest nation in the world.

20 So, I'm opposed to this and I just wanted  
21 to say that, and that's all I have to say. Thank you.

22 (Applause.)

23 MR. CAMERON: Thank you. Now, please  
24 pronounce your last name for the transcript.

25 MR. PACAL: Okay. Hello everybody, my

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1 name is Joe Pacal. I've lived out in the Navajo  
2 Reservation for the past 18 years.

3 And everybody has made some great points  
4 up here. One thing that hasn't been mentioned is  
5 that, if a project like this is improved, whether it's  
6 here in New Mexico or Utah or Nevada, that's going to  
7 be seen as a solution to a real problem for the  
8 nuclear industry.

9 And the uranium mining companies and  
10 private investors are going to see this as a green  
11 light for expanding uranium mining. And there are  
12 uranium, New Mexico, we're going to have to deal with  
13 a whole another era of new uranium mines popping up  
14 all over the place.

15 And right now, that's been kind of held  
16 back. Things are set to go off and then Fukushima  
17 happened and that kind of slowed things down. But I'm  
18 just really concerned that if this kind of solution  
19 goes forward we're going to see a lot more uranium  
20 mining popping up all over here and have a lot more to  
21 deal with so thank you.

22 (Applause.)

23 MR. CAMERON: Okay, thank you. Thank you,  
24 Mr. Pacal. Our next speakers are Hamilene Yazzie,  
25 Simone Jones, Holly Herr Stravers and Janene Yazzie.

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1 So, Ms. Hamilene. Hamilene?

2 MS. YAZZIE: It's two r's. Harrilene. I  
3 apologize, I wrote my r's together. I am not a  
4 Hamilene.

5 (Laughter.)

6 MR. CAMERON: So, Harrilene.

7 MS. YAZZIE: She was actually before me,  
8 but --

9 MR. CAMERON: Oh, okay.

10 MS. YAZZIE: -- but I'll take her spot.

11 MR. CAMERON: Okay, thank you. Thank you  
12 for clarifying.

13 MS. YAZZIE: Harrilene, thank you.

14 (Foreign language spoken.)

15 MS. YAZZIE: Just a few points. As said  
16 earlier, as a lot of professionals that came up to the  
17 podium this evening to speak, this is somewhat my  
18 profession as well, is NEPA.

19 I work as an environmental protection  
20 specialist. But I here am representing myself as a  
21 private citizen as well as a mother.

22 Given what was displayed earlier on the  
23 slide show, it's my understanding that this is  
24 basically a yes/no proposition. That the application  
25 has been submitted and is being evaluated for an

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1 approval or disapproval, and doesn't necessarily open  
2 its way to alternatives.

3 Most processes that I have seen, there is  
4 a purpose and need. And in this case, interim storage  
5 of spent rods in some location that would be feasible  
6 for storage.

7 I would assume that that would be the  
8 purpose and need from the NRC. And meeting that need  
9 would be based on economic or technical viability.

10 So, again, I'm not familiar, too familiar  
11 with the NRC process but that's my take is, this is a  
12 yes or no approval, disapproval. And alternatives,  
13 whether they're technically or economically viable,  
14 are reason for dismissal.

15 It would have been nice to know that in  
16 the presentation, to the public, so they understood  
17 exactly what NRC is making a decision on and if it's  
18 a yes or no versus alternatives with purpose in need.

19 Secondly, the application is riddled with  
20 data. I see how, I think, made by councilmen earlier,  
21 that there was very little information presented to  
22 the public to formulate a very detailed scoping  
23 comments. You guys know locations, you know the sites  
24 that you're going to be receiving the rods from,  
25 potentially what kind of waste you're going to be

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1 receiving.

2 Is it, I don't know, plutonium, is it, I  
3 have no idea what you all may potentially be storing.  
4 And each of those activities have different half-  
5 lives. So what does that mean?

6 Human health risk assessments, this is  
7 what I want, in the record. Human health risk  
8 assessments that take into consideration the  
9 synergistic elements described earlier.

10 We, as Natives, we eat, hunt, sleep,  
11 smoke, digest almost anything and everything from  
12 prairie dogs to yucca plants. We have no shame.

13 (Laughter.)

14 MS. YAZZIE: And we do have no shame  
15 because we had to survive. And survival does mean  
16 using what we have.

17 So, the social, again, the synergistic  
18 impacts associated to human health should be  
19 considered in the human health risk assessment. As  
20 well as an ecological health risk assessment.

21 Like I said, we still eat prairie dogs.  
22 It's not anything new to our family, I was raised on  
23 prairie dogs. I also eat sheep and horse.

24 Geez, what else do we eat. What are those  
25 little ones that you use for your teeth?

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1 (Foreign language spoken.)

2 MS. YAZZIE: I don't know what they're  
3 called but, yes, I eat those.

4 Okay, the alternatives, proponents provide  
5 the application. And I would like to see those  
6 applications in Window Rock and Crownpoint as well as  
7 the Gallup library. In addition to the ones that were  
8 listed earlier.

9 Seismic activity related to fracking, how  
10 does that impact the area. I know that they're  
11 looking at that.

12 Transportation corridors important, but  
13 most importantly, I think, as said earlier, we've  
14 given, we've taken uranium, you've used the energy and  
15 now you're sending the waste back. You don't see a  
16 nuclear power plant on Navajo at all or in New Mexico  
17 period. Those are comments, thank you.

18 MR. CAMERON: Thank you.

19 (Applause.)

20 MR. CAMERON: Thank you very much. And I  
21 think that there was some relevant comments there that  
22 I'm going to ask Brian Smith from the NRC to come up  
23 and just tell you about the NRC efforts with  
24 communicating with the Navajo Nation. Go ahead Brian.

25 And then we're going to go on to Simone

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1 Jones and the rest of the speakers.

2 MR. SMITH: All right. So, I'll be quick.  
3 Jonathan Perry was one of the first speakers --

4 PARTICIPANT: Can't hear you.

5 MR. SMITH: Sorry. Jonathan Perry,  
6 Council delegate for the Navajo Nation was one of the  
7 earlier speakers, he's back there. You may have seen  
8 me walk out with him because I wanted to follow-up on  
9 one of the statements that he made regarding  
10 limitations on the amount of discussions that we've  
11 held on this project within his nation.

12 We have sent a letter, we, the NRC, have  
13 sent a letter to the Navajo Nation as part of our  
14 consultation process. Which is kind of just the  
15 opposite effect. We're reaching out to them to  
16 communicate with them on this project.

17 So there was nothing in the letter asking  
18 that they limit any type of discussion on this  
19 project.

20 So, I just wanted to try to clarify that.  
21 So, if anybody has any questions on that, just let me  
22 know.

23 MR. CAMERON: Okay, that's good. Let's go  
24 on to, thank you, thank you, Brian. This is Simone.

25 (Foreign language spoken.)

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1 MS. JONES: I'm here as a mother, as a  
2 citizen. I don't live too far from here. I live just  
3 a couple blocks from here as a matter of fact.

4 And also, my profession, I just put it out  
5 there, I'm in Indian real estate services. But I'm  
6 trying to kind of keep my comments here to the kind of  
7 input that you're seeking.

8 First off, your materials in Navajo are,  
9 I think your OCR might have gone really bad, is  
10 completely unreadable, not understandable. It has  
11 number digits, so you might want to correct that kind  
12 of going forward if there is any future scoping  
13 sessions.

14 As far as local issues, everybody has  
15 pointed out, Church Rock, I actually live in, was born  
16 and raised in Lepton, which is a community just down  
17 river. I went to school in Sanders, they found  
18 arsenic in the water recently.

19 I didn't realize this happened until I  
20 went to college. Recently everyone was passing away  
21 with cancer, David Bowie and what not.

22 I reached for my neck and I found my  
23 thyroid was enlarged. Had that biopsies, all of that.  
24 And one of the things the doctor asked me was, where  
25 are you getting additional exposure, are you using

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1 your microwave, all these different things. And I  
2 thought, well, just look at my backyard.

3 I think you guys are really remiss and not  
4 really understanding just the extent of this AUM mine  
5 cleanup project that we have out here. We also have,  
6 as people pointed out, we have a community north,  
7 south and to the east of us. It's a huge community of  
8 the Navajo Reservation.

9 Certain projects that we have ongoing out  
10 there, such as the Navajo Gallup water supply to bring  
11 some waters to community. It's a huge environmental  
12 justice issue out here, I think that you've heard.

13 One of the things, me living just a couple  
14 blocks from here that I'm very concerned about,  
15 hearing about 10,000 transports at some point in this  
16 project. That's like 10,000 shots at the wheel.

17 This town, we really have limited  
18 responses, we have limited hospitals. We have two  
19 here, we have one in Fort Defiance.

20 Actually, my son got sick on me about a  
21 year ago, it was very serious and we almost didn't  
22 transport him to Albuquerque because of fog. I mean,  
23 we're talking about a huge community and in terms of  
24 a historic properties, we have Chaco.

25 Ninety percent of the Navajo Reservation

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1 has not been archeological surveyed. You've heard of  
2 the Code Talkers just down the road, this Fort  
3 Wingate, where a lot of them were trained.

4 South of us is a community called Zuni  
5 where it was actually the point of contact with the  
6 Spanish conquistadors. So we have a lot of history  
7 here.

8 The other thing that I just want you to  
9 just be very aware of, again, is just the fact that we  
10 don't have a lot of facilities out here. People have  
11 talked about dust in the air.

12 We don't have improved roads, we have a  
13 lot of earth and roads out here and people drive on  
14 that. And that's that particulate that comes up every  
15 day.

16 You see in the community, you drive here  
17 in Gallup you see it hang, you drive out to  
18 Albuquerque you see it hang. I've driven, I've lived  
19 in this community my whole life. I've probably lived  
20 along the route in my whole life.

21 And one of the things that I've also  
22 noticed is the I-40 track has gotten really bad. You  
23 used to be able to just drive on it, hit your cruise  
24 control. You cannot do that anymore, the truck  
25 traffic is immense.

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1                   Railroads, I live, again, just up the  
2 road, you hear it night and day coming in there. And  
3 I think about it. I think what if something was to  
4 happen.

5                   You hear that, my kids hear this all the  
6 time, I say Murphy's Law. You know, something is  
7 going to happen, Murphy's Law.

8                   I sometimes game Murphy's Law. Sometimes  
9 I think, okay, if I go to this light, I'm pulling my  
10 phone out and it's going to turn green. It happens  
11 sometimes.

12                   But again, as a mother, as a citizen, as  
13 a person in this community I just really implore you  
14 to really consider alternatives. Like, my friend and  
15 colleague I pointed out, we don't know a lot of this  
16 information.

17                   Where is the source of this material, what  
18 is the material. I think you really have to take a  
19 look at this community, you have to take a look at  
20 whose here.

21                   In terms, part of input your seeking is  
22 historic properties. You know, there's 500,000  
23 members if my tribe, we're not replaceable. And we  
24 live to the north, to the south and to the east of  
25 Gallup.

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1           And so I really implore you to consider  
2           that in your decision making as you go forward. And  
3           I hope, as citizens of the world, that we can find  
4           different terms of, ways of energy.

5           But unfortunately, our needs and our wants  
6           kind of run this engine. We really need to change our  
7           ways. But, again, thank you for this opportunity to  
8           give your comments, and --

9           MR. CAMERON: Thank you.

10          MS. JONES: -- that's it, and I'm under  
11          time. Thank you.

12          MR. CAMERON: Thank you. Thank you,  
13          Simone. Is Holly here? This is holly, and next we're  
14          going to go to Janene and then to Darin Yazzio and  
15          Denise Brown.

16          MS. STEVENS: My comments will be brief.  
17          I wasn't planning on speaking because I don't like  
18          doing this -- and admire how effectively and  
19          eloquently the rest of you have spoken. But I like to  
20          be a good student, so my comments -- in order to be  
21          relevant -- fall under local issues. Local issue  
22          being we have children here who cannot speak for  
23          themselves. In 2015, I believe -- give or take a year  
24          -- the Annie E. Casey Foundation concluded that the  
25          children of New Mexico are ranked 50th of 50 states in

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1 child health and well-being. I am a pediatric nurse  
2 practitioner in Gallup, and I am a mother. Families  
3 in New Mexico, as you have heard reiterated repeatedly  
4 -- which is redundant, but anyway -- reiterated,  
5 currently and historically contend with a  
6 disproportionately high degree of economic, social and  
7 environmental adversity. And I see the physical,  
8 emotional, psychological and developmental challenges  
9 faced by families and children in my work every day.  
10 On behalf of the children of New Mexico who cannot be  
11 here to speak for themselves -- who cannot begin to  
12 comprehend the threats that this would potentially  
13 bring to our lives, and who face an unjust degree of  
14 adversity -- of preventable threats already to the  
15 realization of their full human potential, do not  
16 permit the shipment of nuclear waste to New Mexico.  
17 And I would also appeal to you, the NRC, to listen  
18 carefully to Sister Rosemary Cecchini and the others  
19 that are proposing wisely not to allow this experiment  
20 to threaten any community in this country. Thank you.

21 (Applause.)

22 MR. CAMERON: Thank you. Thank you very  
23 much and is -- is Janene? Janene here? Here is  
24 Janene.

25 MS. YAZZIE: (Native language spoken.) I

1 don't think I can say anything better than what has  
2 already been said. Coming here, it is always great to  
3 see our community come out and engage in these issues.  
4 And the power is right here among ourselves, speaking  
5 to each other and creating these solutions because I  
6 am tired of these processes. I am tired of coming to  
7 scoping meetings and being given a plan and all of  
8 these nice, printed out pamphlets that explain how  
9 great these projects are. And also stipulate that  
10 these guys are going to determine what the significant  
11 issues are that are pertinent to environmental review,  
12 or what is relevant, in terms of the comments being  
13 made here. All I can say is how dare you, a private  
14 company, come in without knowing ---

15 (Applause.)

16 MS. YAZZIE: Without knowing the history  
17 or the lived experience of the people here and  
18 regurgitate these promises about jobs and how good it  
19 is going to be for our economy and how safe your  
20 technology is. We haven't cleaned up the problem  
21 here. That's the overlying theme here. You're not  
22 the solution, you're part of the issue. Now, until  
23 you can show us what your plan is to not only clean up  
24 what has already been done to our communities and to  
25 listen to the concerns of everyone that stood up here

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1 asking for the health impact studies, asking for the  
2 ecological studies, asking for you to understand our  
3 lived experiences and value that for what it is and  
4 not determine in some other city or some other place  
5 what is significant or not -- until you can do that,  
6 these scoping periods aren't going to achieve what is  
7 just. I actually really want to hear what your  
8 definition is for social, economic and environmental  
9 justice because none of -- nothing else beside the  
10 term looks at any type of awareness or illustrates any  
11 type of awareness of what that actually means. We are  
12 tired of being your waste -- or your, exposed --  
13 expendable communities and your backyard for the waste  
14 to be transported. We are tired of hearing that we  
15 are dealing with this issues because nuclear power is  
16 so safe. We are on our way to transition to renewable  
17 energy, and we are tired of hearing these promises  
18 that we need to continue to accommodate these  
19 technologies that have devastated and destroyed our  
20 communities, our public health and our environment --  
21 and the futures of our children because our babies are  
22 being born with uranium in their bodies. And that  
23 can't be taken out. So don't come back here unless  
24 you really do have a plan to take into consideration  
25 the concerns that are being shared here. And unless

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1 you understand that it's not about tribal  
2 consultation, it is about free prior and informed  
3 consent. And unless you get that, this project is not  
4 going through. And we're not going to settle for  
5 participating in a scoping period.

6 (Applause.)

7 MS. YAZZIE: We are used to this fight.  
8 And we are used -- and we know -- we have years or  
9 experience and data of what happens when we allow  
10 these projects to come into our areas, and we are not  
11 going to allow it anymore. Thank you.

12 (Applause.)

13 MR. CAMERON: Okay, thank you. Nice job.  
14 And Darin -- Darin Yazzio? And then we will go to  
15 Denise Brown.

16 MR. YAZZIO: I am going to take off my  
17 glasses so I don't see you guys because, you know,  
18 stage fright and everything. Hello. Yá'át'ééh. The  
19 translation of "yá'át'ééh" is "it is good." If this  
20 plan follows through, it will not be good. It will  
21 still continue to get worse. My understanding is that  
22 we have no nuclear power plants in New Mexico and it  
23 sounds absurd that we receive the consequences rather  
24 than the benefits in terms of nuclear power instead of  
25 having low energy costs. Eighty-seven percent of

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1 water in New Mexico is supplied by groundwater, 13  
2 percent of which is river water. Storage -- storage  
3 -- nuclear storage underground puts 87 percent of our  
4 water at jeopardy. And with the Farmington incident,  
5 it already tarnished our DNA. I am a -- I am a victim  
6 of that DNA because I have an enlarged head that I was  
7 born with, and if I wasn't born in a big city, such a  
8 Phoenix, they would have done an operation that would  
9 have hindered my intelligence and hindered my perceive  
10 of life. The assumed nuclear material hidden in these  
11 lands, and as the gentleman earlier discussed how, if  
12 we opened the storage containment, it is going to open  
13 the floodgates for companies wanting to mine more  
14 nuclear -- nuclear materials in these lands and  
15 putting our people more at risk.

16 The Holtec CFS description says that they  
17 will have a total of 10,000 nuclear waste in terms of  
18 canisters. I don't know what a canister is. Is that  
19 in tons? What are they going to carry in it? What --  
20 how much and what is going to be in those canisters  
21 and how long will it be in our communities? Half-  
22 lives of different materials have been half-lives. So  
23 we could be looking at plutonium, which has the  
24 longest, or we could have other ones that have the  
25 half-lives of 30 years, which is still a decent amount

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1 of time -- which can hinder our ability to recuperate  
2 and heal ourselves over time. Thank you for your  
3 time.

4 (Applause.)

5 MR. CAMERON: Thank you. And, Denise?  
6 Denise Brown. And then we are going to go to Kathryn  
7 Morse.

8 MS. BROWN: Hello. (Native language  
9 spoken.) So hello, good evening everybody. My name  
10 is Denise Brown. I am speaking as part of the Nuclear  
11 Issues Study Group. You may have seen us around -- at  
12 the flea market and around time, flyering to get as  
13 many people here as possible. But also speaking as a  
14 person -- Navajo person who was born and raised in  
15 Gallup, New Mexico. So this issue is highly  
16 concerning and the reason why I am here is because, as  
17 a resident, the transportation of this waste is  
18 unacceptable -- as many of my relatives and community  
19 members have stated. The fact that you're barely  
20 consulting with the Navajo nation, I think, is very  
21 unprofessional, as well as the unprofessional  
22 presentation of your font in Navajo. That's  
23 unacceptable, as my relatives honor and -- our native  
24 language and need to understand this issue. But, in  
25 addition to that, indigenous peoples in the New Mexico

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1 region, such as Acoma Laguna have also been affected  
2 by uranium -- the uranium legacy. And you should also  
3 seek consultation with them as well.

4 And the fact that the DOT has not been a  
5 part of this discussion and has led to the inability  
6 for us to speak about the transportation risks --  
7 because what is proposed as what -- as Anton and John  
8 Heaton have said in their comments is that it will  
9 mostly be transported by rail. And the rail system  
10 that goes through Gallup is one of the few in New  
11 Mexico, so is highly likely and highly probable that  
12 we will be affected. And so -- yes, that is pretty  
13 much what I wanted to say. Thank you so much, the  
14 NRC, for coming here. And I hope you take into  
15 consideration all of what has been said today. Thank  
16 you.

17 MR. CAMERON: Okay, thank you.

18 (Applause.)

19 MR. CAMERON: Leona? Leona would you like  
20 to come up and talk? Leona Morgan.

21 MS. MORGAN: Good evening. (Native  
22 language spoken.) I grew up close to here. This is  
23 not really my community, but I went to high school  
24 here. And I just -- I actually want to thank the NRC  
25 for coming here because they only scheduled three

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1 scoping meetings in the vicinity of the proposed site.

2           And so I think a lot of you haven't really  
3 learned about this project, and I think this is the  
4 first time a lot of you are hearing about it.  
5 Unfortunately, we didn't get a presentation about the  
6 project as much as people would have liked. So I  
7 would say, first of all, go to more communities along  
8 the transport route -- as many as possible -- and make  
9 sure you include a proper presentation, something akin  
10 to what the Holtec folks presented at the Radioactive  
11 and Hazardous Materials Interim Committee last Friday.  
12 We need something like that -- with proper  
13 translation. So we have more Diné speakers here, not  
14 -- not as many Spanish speakers. So we need more --  
15 more translators. We need more of the materials  
16 translated. We need more announcements about the  
17 meetings.

18           And so there's -- there -- there's many  
19 communities along the transport routes. This is just  
20 one of them. And like Denise just said, this is a  
21 highly likely route that you all are going to allow  
22 Holtec to bring over 10,000 canisters across the  
23 nation. We don't know how many canisters are going to  
24 come through Gallup. And at one of the meetings in the  
25 south -- Southeast New Mexico, we are talking about

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1 the radiation that can come out of the transport  
2 casks. And what was said is, oh, it is just an x-ray.  
3 We don't -- we don't want additional x-rays. You  
4 know, we don't -- we didn't sign up for that. We  
5 didn't consent to that. Like Janine mentioned, free,  
6 informed and prior consent. We were not priorly  
7 informed properly of this project. In these  
8 communities across the nation, you all need to do  
9 proper outreach.

10 We are doing your job. We are doing all  
11 of the outreach to the communities that have not been  
12 included. And so I think, this is -- New Mexico --  
13 how many states is the waste going to go through? How  
14 many communities? And I mentioned several times at  
15 the previous meetings some of the impacts to  
16 indigenous peoples. If you go along this railroad,  
17 you are going to pass by two of our sacred mountains.

18 And like, in the DOE study that says if  
19 there is a leak or an accident it could contaminate a  
20 42-square-mile area, you need to study the impacts to  
21 all of the sacred places that indigenous peoples hold  
22 important to all of us. We are just one tribe. And  
23 so -- and Terracita mentioned the traditional plants.  
24 And I think that's something that needs to be included  
25 in your environmental impact study is not just the

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1 plants and the animals, but the traditional medicines  
2 that we all use, still today. And so, I know a lot of  
3 people spoke about uranium mining, and you're probably  
4 going to say, oh, this doesn't -- this doesn't fit  
5 within the -- the -- it is not germane to what we are  
6 here for. You know, but we have lived with this  
7 already. We already know the impacts from radiation  
8 exposure. And as you heard tonight -- I am sure you  
9 are going to hear many more of these types of comments  
10 the more and more you go out there because I know you  
11 have another meetings tomorrow and we are going to  
12 hear from people in Albuquerque. But this is really  
13 ground zero. This is where uranium came from. So  
14 they took it out and they made bombs and they made  
15 electricity. But then now you're trying to send the  
16 waste back to our communities. This is environmental  
17 racism and it needs to stop.

18 (Applause.)

19 MS. MORGAN: You all need to do -- you all  
20 need to abide by the Environmental Justice Executive  
21 Order. You all need to consider what Council Delegate  
22 Perry stated that we have a law against the transport  
23 of any radioactive materials through our traditional  
24 homelands. The Navajo Nation has the Radioactive  
25 Materials Transportation Act of 2012. And as I

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1 already stated at a previous meeting, this is -- this  
2 needs to be respected under the Organization of  
3 American States Declaration on the Rights of  
4 Indigenous People. Our laws are valid. And just  
5 because the United States doesn't legally have to  
6 notify us of any rail transport, that doesn't mean it  
7 is okay. And that doesn't mean that the people will  
8 stand up for this. We do not consent.

9 MR. CAMERON: Thank you. Thank you,  
10 Leona.

11 (Applause.)

12 MR. CAMERON: Now we have Geneva -- Geneva  
13 Peter?

14 MS. PETER: Good evening, my name is  
15 Geneva Peter and I am with the Dineh Chamber of  
16 Commerce. I am one of the board members. And also I  
17 represent some of the -- the business organizations on  
18 the reservation. Just hearing my community here --  
19 and earlier I had the -- the pleasure to meet and talk  
20 with every one of you with the NRC, Holtec and giving  
21 me the brief information of what I was looking for --  
22 not knowing that it was so much impact by the -- my  
23 community here. I think you really need to take this  
24 into consideration -- more in detail, just be  
25 emphasizing -- looking from my point of view, there

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1 needs to be a lot of workshops that needs to be done.  
2 I mean, you are looking at the whole community from I-  
3 40, there's a reservation going to wherever the  
4 transportation is going to be. And you have to  
5 emphasize those things. I mean, it's -- it's got to  
6 take at least one day to do all this, you know,  
7 training and letting people know what -- more detail  
8 of what, you know, this whole project is about.

9 But then I look at the other point where,  
10 you know, transportation-wise, you know, I've dealt  
11 with trucking for so long. I was -- I grew up in  
12 trucking. There's a lot of similar issues. You know,  
13 you've got to be able to deal with the federal water  
14 carrier, US DOT. You know, these things are impacted  
15 by what we have to go by -- our guidelines. But more  
16 or less, to say, having -- hauling these hazardous  
17 wastes is very, very unsafe. You know, you look at  
18 the structure where transportation has to come from  
19 one side to the destination. We can't really say one  
20 -- you know, it's going to be a safe issue for these  
21 transportation to be following. You know, you look at  
22 -- you have to look at these scenarios. You may be --  
23 it may be impacted by the commercial carrier or people  
24 that are just along the roadway. You know, these are  
25 things that you guys have to take into consideration.

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1 I dealt a lot with federal motor carrier  
2 with hazardous. You know, a lot of impact issues that  
3 had occurred on the roadways in the 9-40. You know,  
4 these are the things that you really have to look --  
5 into consideration as well. The railroad -- rail --  
6 you know, not too long ago we had a derailment on the  
7 east side of Gallup here. You know, we say that it is  
8 going to be a safe issue for carrying these  
9 radioactive wastes on the rail, but you have to really  
10 take into consideration of what all the communities  
11 are talking about. I was born and raised here in  
12 Gallup. And I have all my relatives in Church Rock  
13 and not knowing -- having to hear them -- come up  
14 here, you know, I kind of had -- shed tears when one  
15 of the ladies spoke. When you guys are all sitting  
16 here as a committee at the NRC and Holtec, think about  
17 the community of our part. You know, you look at the  
18 impact of what we did with Standing Rock. That was a  
19 huge, huge amount of concerns that we had. Same with  
20 the King Gold Mine here. You know there is so many  
21 impact that you have to take into consideration.

22 And moving this forward, you have to let  
23 the community understand, you know, they may be  
24 opposed to it. You know, I am kind of opposing to it  
25 as well now because hearing all my community here. I

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1 wasn't really familiar with the nuclear waste -- how  
2 much it was really impacting. But now I know. So  
3 having -- don't just say, you know, there are so many  
4 -- my- a lot of my native people here. If they decide  
5 to oppose this, you have to be ready. You know, if  
6 you're going to take up a lot of -- take upon a lot of  
7 my indigenous people. You know, we're all sisters  
8 across the United States. There's brothers that we're  
9 all in clan, you know. And we're going to stand as  
10 one against it if they decided not to -- you guys  
11 would do it.

12 So you have to really take that into  
13 consideration, as tribes we stand as one nation. We  
14 support one another from different tribes. So, you  
15 know -- do -- you have to really do your research and  
16 take -- and take it into consideration. Communicate  
17 here for a lot of the native people. So that's what  
18 I just kind of wanted to brief out to you. Thank you.

19 (Applause.)

20 MR. CAMERON: Thank you. Thank you,  
21 Geneva. I just wanted to make sure. I think I called  
22 Kathryn Morse. Did Kathryn come up? Oh, come on up.  
23 This is Kathryn Morse.

24 MS. MORSEA: (Native language spoken.) I  
25 was born and raised and educated in California, but my

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1 traditional homeland is an hour north of here in  
2 Crystal, New Mexico. I was born with the homing  
3 pigeon gene. So after I got educated to become a  
4 physician, I decided to come here and serve my people.  
5 So I work at Gallup Indian Medical Center in Family  
6 Medicine, in Palliative Care, in pain. And I am  
7 extremely concerned about this proposal -- as a  
8 physician. Now, I do not represent Gallup Indian  
9 Medical Center. I am representing myself, who is an  
10 employee there, and what I have seen.

11 We have seen a number of nasopharyngeal  
12 cancers -- cancers that are usually pretty rare, but  
13 they are a known consequence of uranium exposure. And  
14 they are in people -- we have seen them in people too  
15 young to have worked in the mines. Not only that, we  
16 see very high rates of lung diseases -- COPD,  
17 pulmonary fibrosis, asthma, et cetera. And almost  
18 nobody smokes, okay? And we also see a lot of  
19 inflammatory diseases -- things like rheumatoid  
20 arthritis, lupus -- and I could go on and on and on.  
21 Also, kidney disease. These are things that reflect  
22 a higher level of inflammation in the body something  
23 that uranium can cause. But the problem is, we are  
24 working really hard to take care of patients. We are  
25 -- we are -- they are very complicated. We are not

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1 investigators. What we don't have is the link. We  
2 have suspicions, but we don't have a link. So what I  
3 am saying is that we do not have enough health data  
4 regarding what's already been done here.

5 My understanding from visiting with the  
6 folks from the Red Water Pond community north of  
7 Church Rock, it is there -- sitting with their homes  
8 -- they've lived there for hundreds if not thousands  
9 of years. There's mine tailings there. The wind is  
10 blowing. It -- there still has not been adequate  
11 clean up. There has been higher than usual levels of  
12 uranium found in the urine of babies through the  
13 Navajo health study. And also from what I understand  
14 is that when the Church Rock spill happened, there was  
15 a lot of debris that landed in the Puerco River -- the  
16 wash. And that was dredged up and placed in  
17 children's playgrounds here in the community. These  
18 are the things that I have heard -- in addition to  
19 what I have experienced. And -- and to ask that this  
20 community take on additional risks, to me is untenable  
21 when we don't even really have the data that shows  
22 what actually happened. We just know that we have a  
23 lot of health problems here that are pretty  
24 suspicious.

25 As safe as Holtec wants -- and the Nuclear

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1 Regulatory Commission -- wants to picture and paint --  
2 paint a picture of how safe this can be, there is  
3 always something that can happen. There's always  
4 risks. And that's where I am concerned about. And --  
5 and I -- and as Janine Yazzie had pointed out, what I  
6 am noticing is that these types of risks are often  
7 falling on communities of color. People at economic  
8 and racial disadvantages. And that as well is  
9 untenable to me. I am for the health of my people and  
10 what I am -- what I am hearing and seeing is extremely  
11 concerning.

12 MR. CAMERON: Thank you. Thank you,  
13 Kathryn.

14 (Applause.)

15 MR. CAMERON: We are going to go to Ace  
16 Hoffman right now, and then to Sharon Hoffman. This  
17 is Ace Hoffman.

18 MR. HOFFMAN: Hello, I am from Carlsbad --  
19 Carlsbad, California, which is about 15 miles from San  
20 Onofre. And in the 1990s I started -- we moved there.  
21 I immediately -- almost immediately began opposing  
22 that plant. And every time I tried to bring up the  
23 waste problem I was told it's solved. Yucca Mountain  
24 is going to take the waste. Now, here we are, Yucca  
25 Mountain is not moving forward really at all. And if

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1 it were to move forward this -- over 300 problems that  
2 have been identified, and some of them are absolutely  
3 unsolvable, like volcanoes in the area and earthquakes  
4 in the area and underground water moving in the area.  
5 When -- we spent the night here, hearing the problems  
6 with uranium mining in the Navajo Nation. And I -- I  
7 understand how -- how bad that is. When they use the  
8 uranium in a reactor, it makes plutonium. Plutonium  
9 has a half-life of 24,000 years. Uranium-235 has a  
10 half-life of 700 million years and uranium-238 of 4.5  
11 billion years. Most of the waste is 238.

12 But that plutonium -- and there's dozens  
13 of pounds of it in each of these containers -- is  
14 about 30,000 times more radioactive than uranium-235  
15 because you just simply do the math -- 24,000 years  
16 versus 700,000 years. Multiply it by I guess about  
17 30,000. Also there's all these fission products. And  
18 they're 1,000 -- 10,000 times more radioactive than  
19 plutonium and they can be bone seekers and thyroid  
20 seekers. I had bladder cancer. Never smoked  
21 cigarettes in my life. My wife had breast cancer.  
22 She never smoked anything in her life, either. Cancer  
23 is a terrible thing.

24 We were listening to the -- a book about  
25 what they discovered after the Hiroshima and Nagasaki

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1 bombs were dropped. And they assured the soldiers  
2 that went -- that went in to study it that there was  
3 absolutely no danger from the radiation. And they  
4 said -- and this was written, you know, in 1946 --  
5 what we were listening to in audio books on the way  
6 over here through the Painted Forest -- or, the  
7 Painted Desert and the Petrified Forest -- that there  
8 was no indication that any of the radiation damaged.  
9 Everyone that was killed was killed by the blast or  
10 the -- or the pressure or the -- the glass flying, and  
11 so forth.

12 But we know now that thousands and  
13 thousands of Japanese people were killed by the  
14 radiation. So if you -- if you're going to let this  
15 stuff come, don't think that it's just the uranium  
16 coming back to you. It is literally 10 million times  
17 worse than the radiation. You do not want this stuff  
18 here. And yes, you're just going to give a green  
19 light to the industry, which doesn't need to -- we  
20 don't need this industry anymore. There's plenty of  
21 wind and solar and every other kind of energy that we  
22 -- we need.

23 (Applause.)

24 MR. HOFFMAN: But don't -- don't green-  
25 light this. Now, I am very briefly going to mention

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1 this book that you can get. I have a bunch of copies  
2 and you're welcome to take one. I have been studying  
3 this issue -- in 1979 I had a comedy routine about  
4 Three Mile Island, so -- it's been a long time. Some  
5 of the people I have worked with already know or --  
6 were on my newsletter list. Helen Kalvicod, John  
7 Gottman, Ernest Sternglass. These are all people that  
8 I've -- I've known. When I got bladder cancer, I  
9 decided I had better dump everything I know into a  
10 book -- just in case. So that's how this book came  
11 about. Just take a copy.

12           And by the way -- if I have just a little  
13 bit more time -- there's another solution. I was at  
14 the Atomic Testing Museum in Nevada a couple years  
15 ago. And one of the guys that had been working on the  
16 test -- they were testifying about their experiences  
17 with the test -- and he had studied carefully all the  
18 -- the electro-magnetic pulse and all that other stuff  
19 that comes up. And he has a solution that requires  
20 lasers to reduce the radioactivity of this waste. And  
21 that has to happen before it ever gets here.

22           And the last point is -- actually, the  
23 last point is we have all heard 10,000 containers,  
24 which of course is 20,000 transferred, here and back  
25 -- will probably -- while it's here, they are going to

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1 want to reprocess it and use it in more -- more  
2 reactors. And so --

3 MR. CAMERON: Okay. Thank you, Ace.

4 (Applause.)

5 MR. CAMERON: And this is -- this is  
6 Sharon Hoffman. And next we can go to Edith Hood.

7 MS. HOFFMAN: Good evening. This is  
8 really an awesome hearing in the sense that the people  
9 who have spoken tonight know a lot about the issues.  
10 The bad news is, you know about them for the worst  
11 possible reasons. You've experienced them yourselves.  
12 As physicians, you've seen them. The average  
13 community does not have this level of knowledge. And  
14 I want to emphasize to the NRC that the community that  
15 has this personal knowledge is very much against  
16 anything nuclear in their community.

17 (Applause.)

18 MS. HOFFMAN: It has been said at least  
19 once tonight -- I think practically everything I  
20 thought of has been said at least once tonight -- but  
21 I think this is actually the most important thing. We  
22 have to stop making the waste. As long as we're  
23 making more, this is going to impact some community  
24 somewhere. And it is very fair to say this is not our  
25 problem, we do not want it -- but nobody wants it.

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1 And we all have to stop. And then, maybe then, we can  
2 look at solutions.

3 The other thing I wanted to talk about is  
4 I noticed in the NRC presentation that there's a  
5 distinction between environmental and safety concerns.  
6 And I truly do not understand that because the  
7 environmental impacts impact the safety of the people  
8 and the wildlife and the plants that live here. So  
9 we're asking, are there endangered species? Yes,  
10 humans.

11 (Laughter.)

12 MS. HOFFMAN: There are a lot of humans.  
13 And they are being endangered by this project. And  
14 there is no way this is environmentally responsible.  
15 Moving the waste is irresponsible, making more waste  
16 is more -- is irresponsible. Putting it in the  
17 location that Holtec is proposing is irresponsible.  
18 None of this makes any sense and it is just going to  
19 facilitate more nuclear waste. We have to stop this.  
20 And I want to end with -- there's something else that  
21 we heard in the audio books today. We heard about the  
22 trinity tests. And before the trinity tests, nobody  
23 knew what would happen. And the scientists had a  
24 betting pool about what was going to happen -- what  
25 was going to be the yield of that -- of that bomb.

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1 And Enrico Fermi, you know, who knows something -- was  
2 willing to bet anybody that it would end life on the  
3 planet as we know it. And to some degree, he was  
4 correct, right? Because we all have radioactivity in  
5 us and there's a lot of health effects from that. But  
6 more importantly, they were gambling on -- in multiple  
7 senses on something that they did not know what the  
8 result would be. And the nuclear industry is still  
9 doing that. And we do not have to put up with this.  
10 They have to stop it. Thank you.

11 (Applause.)

12 MR. CAMERON: Thank you. Thank you,  
13 Sharon. Now, Edith? Edith Hood? And then we're  
14 going to go to Susan Schuurman.

15 MS. HOOD: Good evening everyone. My name  
16 is Edith Hood, and I am from the Red Water Pond  
17 community. And when I listen to all of this, there  
18 are a lot of you that are very informed. And I think  
19 some of our are going to have advocate friends, your  
20 family -- the people. And my question here is where  
21 is the human rights aspect of all of what we're  
22 talking about? Where is it? All of us have a right  
23 to live in a safe and supportive environment in  
24 America. Sometimes I feel like we are living in the  
25 third world here -- especially with all the

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1       contamination that we live in back home -- in my  
2       backyard.

3                   The next one I am going to ask is, where  
4       and what is your back-up plan in case of an emergency?  
5       Is it going to be sitting under some dust somewhere?  
6       Where is it?   And -- so we, the people of the  
7       community here need our very informed and -- and we  
8       need to educate everyone else. All I ask is not in my  
9       backyard.   Again, thank you.

10                   (Applause.)

11                   MR. CAMERON:   Thank you very much.   And  
12       now, Susan?

13                   MS. SCHUURMAN:   Thank you.   What an honor  
14       to follow Edith Hood.   I am still shaking from  
15       Terracita Keyanna's comments -- that made a lot of us  
16       cry.   The impact to her family has been -- I don't  
17       know how anyone can consider approving a project after  
18       hearing her testimony.   My name is Sue Schuurman.   I  
19       have lived in New Mexico for 25 years and I am a  
20       cancer survivor.   You know, when you get cancer, they  
21       don't tell you how you got it.   You ask, and they  
22       say, well, we don't know.   So -- you wonder, but you  
23       don't know.

24                   I want to talk about cumulative impacts  
25       because that is one of the categories.   I know you're

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1 scoping for environmental impact statement, and I  
2 think cumulative impacts could shut this proposal down  
3 on itself -- just by itself. Uranium mines, cancer,  
4 abandoned uranium mines, tailings piles, tailings  
5 spill at Church Rock, Los Alamos National Labs,  
6 plutonium in the Rio Grande, the Canyons, the kick-  
7 and-roll disposal method, right? There's a lot of  
8 contamination in the canyons at L'Antelope. The  
9 Trinity site, the test without consent of the local  
10 population. They had no idea what that explosion was  
11 that morning. Generations of down-winders with health  
12 impacts. The stockpile of over 2,000 nuclear warheads  
13 at Kirtland Air Force Base in Albuquerque. The mixed-  
14 waste landfill -- they don't know what's in there.  
15 They know there radioactive waste from the Cold War  
16 era in barrels that were dumped into unlined trenches.  
17 That's right above our aquifer. I live in  
18 Albuquerque. The website, waste isolation pilot plant  
19 near Carlsbad with transuranic waste from atomic bomb  
20 making, which after only 15 years had an underground  
21 fire and a radioactive release.

22 This is cumulative impacts. If you add up  
23 all the environmental impacts that New Mexico has  
24 already experienced, I find it baffling that New  
25 Mexico could be considered for additional impacts. No

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1 matter how safe you and Holtec make this project  
2 appear to be, there will be environmental impacts to  
3 New Mexico and to New Mexicans. And the CIS facility  
4 would impact the people of Gallup because of the  
5 deadly waste traveling through here on the trains. We  
6 -- we heard trains while we've been sitting here  
7 tonight. They're so often through Gallup. And trains  
8 have accidents. A few weeks ago we saw 10 train cars  
9 derailed in Odessa, Texas alone. It was the day of  
10 the NRC hearing in Hobbs. If the NRC considers the  
11 cumulative impacts of this project on New Mexico, you  
12 will deny this licensed application. We don't want  
13 it, and we do not consent. Thank you.

14 MR. CAMERON: Okay, thank you.

15 (Applause.)

16 MR. CAMERON: Now that's the last speaker  
17 that we had for tonight. And usually what we do is  
18 have the NRC senior official, who is Brian Smith,  
19 close the meeting. I just wanted to thank you from  
20 the facilitator's point of view for all of your  
21 courtesy and your patience and your -- your comments  
22 tonight. And I have to thank Knifewing and his  
23 colleagues. Thank you, thank you, thank you.

24 (Applause.)

25 MR. CAMERON: I think this is the best

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1 place that we have done a meeting, okay? And so,  
2 thank you to you, Knifewing. And I will give you  
3 Brian.

4 MR. SMITH: All right, first of all, I  
5 want to thank everyone for coming out tonight. And  
6 again, we -- at least the microphones work tonight.  
7 All of our previous meetings, we've had microphone  
8 issues. Luckily, they worked well tonight. Thank you  
9 again for coming out tonight. We appreciate all of  
10 the comments that we heard. We have not made a  
11 decision on this project. This is just the very  
12 beginning of our review -- both the safety review,  
13 security review and environmental review. They're all  
14 taken into consideration together and ultimately a  
15 decision will be made at the end of the overall  
16 project review. We are doing one more meeting. It is  
17 tomorrow night in Albuquerque. So you can look  
18 forward -- I am sure we will probably see some of you  
19 again. So, appreciate your comments. Have a good  
20 evening. Thank you very much.

21 (Whereupon, the above-entitled matter went  
22 off the record at 8:47 p.m.)

23  
24  
25