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GREATER-THAN-CLASS-C
ENVIRONMENT IMPACT STATEMENT PROJECT

PUBLIC MEETING

Cities of Gold Conference Center

10-B Cities of Gold Road

Santa Fe, New Mexico 87506

Thursday, April 28, 2011

Argonne National Laboratory

Environmental Science Division

9700 South Cass Avenue, Building 240

Argonne, Illinois 60439

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

2 MR. BROWN: Okay. Again, if folks will take
3 their seats we'll get started with the public comment
4 session.

5 It's now time to receive your comments on the
6 draft environmental impact statement. This is your
7 opportunity to provide DOE with oral comments on the
8 draft EIS, including what you would like to see as a
9 preferred alternative or what factors DOE should
10 consider in developing its preferred alternative for
11 inclusion in the final EIS.

12 All of your comments will be transcribed for
13 the administrative record. Recording your comments
14 tonight is Gary Goldbloom.

15 As we begin the public comment period, please
16 step up to that microphone when your name is called,
17 introduce yourself providing an organizational
18 affiliation where appropriate. If you have a written
19 version of your statement, please provide a copy to
20 Gary after you completed your remarks.

21 Also, please leave with him any other
22 documents that you would like to see contained in the

1 final record. Those will be notified and again labeled
2 and made part of the final record.

3 I will call two names at a time, the first of
4 the speaker and the second of the person to follow. In
5 view of the number of folks who signed up to speak
6 tonight, please confine your public comments to five
7 minutes. This is necessary in order to allow everybody
8 who has indicated an interest in speaking to have an
9 opportunity to speak tonight. So please observe the
10 time limit as a courtesy to those who will follow.

11 If you think your prepared remarks will exceed
12 the time allotted tonight, please hit your key points.
13 Make those points that you would like DOE to hear in
14 person and also those that you'd like the audience to
15 hear, and tailor your remarks to be within the five-
16 minute mark.

17 Recall also that there are a variety of ways
18 of providing comments after tonight through the closing
19 date of July 27th. These can be either written
20 comments. They can be submitted by mail or
21 electronically, but all of these will count equally in
22 the consideration for development of the final

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1 environmental impact statement.

2 I will keep track of each presentation, and I
3 will let you know when you have a minute remaining. I
4 will hold up this highly visible sign. Most people
5 seem more interested in looking at the audience than at
6 me. So if you don't happen to notice the one minute
7 sign, I will also provide a verbal reminder if you
8 happen to miss that.

9 Arnie Edelman will be serving as the Hearing
10 Officer for the Department of Energy during this formal
11 comment period, but he will not be responding to any
12 questions or comments during this session.

13 So with that by way of introductory remarks,
14 let me call on our first speaker, and I'll let you know
15 who the second one is. Our first speaker is Rebecca
16 Procter, and she will be followed by is it Basia
17 Miller?

18 Okay. One thing I'll warn people about is you
19 pick up a little static as you walk up, and especially
20 if you're walking from way in the back, and have to
21 adjust the mic. You may get a big of a shock. So
22 ground yourselves.

1 MS. PROCTER: Thank you.

2 MR. BROWN: So please proceed.

3 MS. PROCTER: Hello. My name is Rebecca
4 Procter. I'm a resident of Santa Fe County.

5 In my professional life I've been involved
6 quite a lot with NEPA. So I wanted to start off with
7 just a couple of technical points, just kind of
8 reminders for you, and especially if this is new for
9 you, things you should keep in mind.

10 The NEPA process is only a consultation
11 process. It requires that federal agencies like DOE
12 consider the effects that their proposed actions have
13 on people in the environment. It does not -- and it's
14 important to remember this -- it does not mandate any
15 particular level of protection or consideration by an
16 agency. It only requires that those effects be
17 considered in some fashion.

18 So this means that you, the public, must
19 advocate for the appropriate level of evaluation and
20 protection for the action that's being considered.
21 This is no guaranteed outcome for the National
22 Environmental Policy Act process.

1 Secondly, I'd like to make the point that in
2 this case, it appears that the NEPA process has been
3 foreshortened in a way that is not defensible, to wit,
4 the failure of DOE to consider and evaluate all
5 reasonable alternatives.

6 There's an alternative that some of our
7 Nuclear Watch Groups with their special expertise are
8 advocating, and that is that this higher level and more
9 dangerous waste be stored on site at nuclear plants.
10 This is the hardened on-site storage that you were
11 hearing about in the presentation earlier, HOSS.
12 You'll probably hear that acronym again.

13 I would advocate that the HOSS method is, in
14 fact, within the boundaries of the mandate for the EIS
15 simply because it states clearly that DOE must develop
16 a facility or facilities, plural, for this kind of
17 waste.

18 Now, I want to get to the real heart of the
19 matter. Why is New Mexico an acceptable dumping ground
20 for higher level and commercial grade nuclear waste?
21 This more potent question underlies and actually
22 subverts the NEPA process. For decades New Mexico has

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1 been viewed as a poor, low population, fringe area that
2 serves as a politically and socially acceptable place
3 to hide toxic materials that richer, more densely
4 populated or more commercially profitable communities
5 would never consider housing in their own areas.

6 I suggest, therefore, that as New Mexicans,
7 you must become very angry, very vocal, and very
8 politically motivated to prevent this disaster in the
9 making.

10 Further, New Mexicans must recognize and be
11 willing to paint the elephant in the room a shocking
12 electric pink. Any technology that generates large
13 amounts of incredibly toxic material that never in the
14 foreseeable future of the human species really goes
15 away, any technology that does that is clearly
16 unmistakably maladaptive and harmful to the human
17 community and the planet as a whole.

18 We must, therefore, reject not just any
19 unacceptable waste disposal, but this technology as a
20 whole as it is being used to enrich a few while
21 endangering all. This is clearly not in line with the
22 values of the American democracy.

1 Now, I will just leave you with one final
2 thought, and that is it appears to me that the
3 reasoning that would lead this agency to choose to
4 dispose of higher level waste in facilities that are of
5 a less secure nature than the geologic containment at
6 WIPP -- you've seen some of the other alternatives here
7 -- is faulty reasoning and should not be followed.

8 Thank you.

9 MR. BROWN: Fine. Thanks very much.

10 Basia Miller. Thank you, and Dee Finney will
11 be next.

12 MS. MILLER: Hello. Can you hear me?

13 My name is Basia Miller. I work on the board
14 with Concerned Citizens for Nuclear Safety and
15 volunteer in the office as well.

16 Tonight I have brought a poem written by a
17 high school girl who lived very close to the Fukushima
18 Nuclear Power Plant. It was published on May 30th,
19 2011 and translated into French by VLN Mochizuki. I
20 translated it from French to English. She says:

21 "Help me. I am a student at Minami Soma in
22 Fukushima. I lost friends during the tsunami. My

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1 friends lost their parents. My best friend was stuck
2 at Minami Soma because they were so low on gas she
3 couldn't leave.

4 "All I have to help me boost her morale are
5 telephone calls and e-mails.

6 "My friends and I quarrel with each other now
7 over our fear of radioactivity, but we are discouraged.
8 At the age of 16, I am preparing for death. I can feel
9 it approaching. Even if I come through this, the fear
10 of radioactivity will always be at my side.

11 "The politicians, the state, the mass media,
12 the experts, the bosses at the nuclear power stations,
13 all of them are our enemies. All of them are liars.

14 "The television speaks less and less about the
15 nuclear power plants. It's always the same photos of
16 the tsunami and the routine interviews by the mass
17 media paying lip service to compassion, a politician
18 who claims that the nuclear accident was 'a natural
19 catastrophe.'

20 "Respected politicians, help us with your
21 salaries and your savings. Stop living in luxury and
22 help the victims survive. Stop using only commands.

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1 Stop observing us from your safe locations. Come here
2 yourselves and help us.

3 "They dropped us. Fukushima will probably be
4 sealed off. They have completely dropped us. The
5 state is killing us. We, the victims of the
6 catastrophe, we shall never pardon the state for
7 dropping us. We will hold it against the state
8 forever.

9 "Here is what I want to say to those who read
10 this letter. You never know when a person you cherish
11 will disappear. Imagine that the person you are
12 laughing with now may disappear just an instant later.
13 From now on, pay more attention to the people you
14 associate with.

15 "Now the school where we spent our youth has
16 been transformed into a morgue. People who will never
17 move again are stretched out in the room where we
18 played sports and worked on our club activities. How
19 can I make this reality known to the greatest possible
20 number of persons?

21 "I would be happy if at least one person read
22 this message. I took time to reflect before I let

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1 myself write this. Excuse me and thank you."

2 That's the end of her writing, and we have
3 copies available that we can pass out. Maybe if you
4 hold your hand up, we can let you know.

5 Thank you.

6 MR. BROWN: Thank you.

7 Dee Finney and Roz North will be after Dee.

8 MS. FINNEY: Hello. My name is Dee Finney.

9 I'm a resident of Dixon, New Mexico, a downwind
10 community, and I've lived there for 25 years.

11 I'm a registered nurse, and I work with people
12 with disabilities many of whom cannot speak for
13 themselves. Most of these people that I work with live
14 in Los Alamos and Rio Arriba County.

15 We have so much waste already here in New
16 Mexico we are imploring the DOE not to dispose any more
17 here. We all know that New Mexico is considered the
18 national sacrifice area, but haven't we sacrificed
19 enough?

20 I am a nurse and volunteer my time to help
21 people die in my northern village. Do I do this
22 voluntarily? No, I do not. Why do I do it? Because

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1 there's no one to take care of all the people that are
2 dying there. It's very appalling that we're not
3 hearing this on the nightly news.

4 Many people from LANL are dying there, and
5 there's a lot of non-LANL people as well, but believe
6 me they're dying from all kinds of cancer there, and
7 most of the cancer lately has been bone. It's a very
8 painful death, and it's so horrific to see and to take
9 of these people with one of the worst ways to die in my
10 opinion.

11 I feel we desperately need to find another
12 site besides New Mexico. We have enough, and we cannot
13 take one more Curie of waste.

14 There are so many issues related to the
15 defense industry here. We're already so stressed out
16 about dealing with all this radioactive industry.
17 Please don't dispose more of this poisonous waste. We
18 don't have the infrastructure here. This is one, in my
19 mind, the biggest issue that is so -- I mean, it's just
20 amazing to me that there's no emergency management
21 system.

22 If there's an earthquake here or a tornado or

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1 some other climatic event, there's no way to tell
2 people to leave. I myself have my car full of gas all
3 the time because we're just living on borrowed time
4 with no accident up here, and this is so basic there is
5 no emergency management system in place for this
6 horrific dump really up here, this radioactive waste
7 dump.

8 We don't have the infrastructure. We are
9 dealing with so many issues in these communities, drug
10 addiction, cancer, poverty, disabled people beyond
11 belief. You just don't hear about it. Please let us
12 focus on these deep issues that we're dealing with all
13 the time and no more dumping in New Mexico.

14 MR. BROWN: Thanks very much.

15 I wanted to note if folks in the back can't
16 hear that the acoustics are very good up here, but if
17 you can't hear, raise your hand and we can adjust the
18 mic a little bit.

19 Okay. Our next speaker is Roz North. How's
20 that? Oh, okay. Right, and Susan Gordon will follow
21 Roz.

22 MS. NORTH: Hi. I'm Roz North. I live in

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1 Dixon, New Mexico.

2 I moved from Santa Fe because I wanted to be
3 upstream from LANL. Then when they had the big Cerro
4 Grande fire up there, I found that I was downwind from
5 Los Alamos. So I felt like I couldn't win.

6 But I want to echo everything that Dee said
7 because she's seen it first hand, the people there in
8 our little village many of whom have worked at the lab
9 for years and year. I think that this waste from the
10 lab and everywhere else needs to go somewhere outside
11 of New Mexico, maybe Alaska which has a far smaller
12 population and a larger area. And if BP and Exxon can
13 drill up there, we can surely make holes in the ground
14 to safely contain all of this horrible waste that we've
15 created.

16 MR. BROWN: Thank you.

17 Susan Gordon, and Stuart Barger will be next.
18 Susan.

19 MS. GORDON: My name is Susan Gordon, and I'm
20 the Director of the Alliance for Nuclear
21 Accountability.

22 ANA is made up of 36 member organizations most

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1 of whom live directly downwind and downstream from the
2 Department of Energy's nuclear weapons production and
3 waste clean-up sites. We've been working
4 collaboratively since 1987 before there was a clean-up
5 program at DOE.

6 Visible on this map are the major aquifers and
7 rivers across the United States. You can see the
8 largest production facilities in the nuclear weapons
9 complex, all located near water supplies. The gray
10 dots and outlines indicate Native American tribes and
11 reservations.

12 At one point there were over 5,100 industrial
13 facilities involved in nuclear weapons production.
14 Approximately 3,900 of these facilities handled
15 radioactive materials and were contaminated.

16 The production of nuclear weapons has result
17 in creating the largest and most expensive
18 environmental clean-up program in history. DOE now
19 estimates clean-up costs between 274 billion and \$329
20 billion, and the clean-up time lines have stretched out
21 to 2062.

22 I brought along a couple of old pictures of

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1 past disposal practices at the Idaho National
2 Laboratory. So there's one just dumping, dumping the
3 barrels off the back of the truck, and here's the other
4 one that shows, oh, it rains in Idaho and the barrels
5 float.

6 What's missing is the third photo of the men
7 in the back of the pickups with their shotguns blasting
8 holes in the barrels so that they would sink down out
9 of sight.

10 Approximately 3,750 square miles of land were
11 confiscated for the nuclear weapons production complex
12 site, leaving behind 75 million cubic meters of
13 contaminated soil and 1.8 billion cubic meters of
14 contaminate groundwater.

15 Please keep in mind that it is the ANA
16 communities that are most impacted by the environmental
17 and health legacy of nuclear weapons production. We
18 are living with these wastes today. Because of this
19 legacy, we believe that the 170 million Curies of
20 greater-than-Class-C waste should be managed at
21 commercial sites, not DOE sites.

22 It is especially problematic that the draft

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1 environmental impact statement does not include any
2 specific commercial sites as alternatives. The generic
3 sites included aren't sufficient. Disposing of more
4 waste at DOE sites will simply add to the burden these
5 communities already bear.

6 ANA believes that waste should be managed as
7 safely as possible, as close to the generation site as
8 possible.

9 How am I doing? Okay?

10 MR. BROWN: Just fine.

11 MS. GORDON: This should also be the DOE
12 position. DOE needs to go back and start over with a
13 new draft EIS that looks at real alternatives, like
14 hardened on-site storage, and doesn't simply target DOE
15 sites.

16 It is a bad idea to expand the mission of WIPP
17 to include commercial waste. New Mexico and the DOE
18 communities have been told for more than three decades
19 that WIPP is only for transuranic waste. People in the
20 shadows of DOE nuclear weapons sites don't want more
21 broken promises at any DOE site. Expanding the mission
22 at WIPP would make it harder for future repositories

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1 because people would rightly distrust legal protections
2 and promises.

3 I want to leave you with the basic principles
4 that ANA groups have developed. So we've developed
5 these over 24 years of working collaboratively together
6 on DOE nuclear weapons environmental clean-up.

7 First, nuclear waste should be stored as
8 safely as possible, as close to site of generation as
9 possible, in a manner that maximizes worker, public and
10 environmental protection.

11 Two, clean-up to the most protective standards
12 that prevent harm to the environment and the health and
13 safety of current and thousands of future generations
14 to the maximum extent possible.

15 Three, compliance with legally enforceable
16 agreements with regulators independent of DOE to insure
17 progress and accountability along with the necessary
18 regular and consistent enforcement.

19 Four, meaningful public participation
20 processes that require early, continuous and effective
21 public involvement for tribes, states and the public.

22 Number five, access to all historical and

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1 current data relating to possible health and
2 environment effects at nuclear weapons sites, health
3 services for those exposed to radioactive and toxic
4 contamination.

5 Thank you.

6 MR. BROWN: Thanks very much.

7 Susan, I wanted to ask you: do you have a
8 smaller version of that map that can be submitted for
9 the record? You can do that through the 27th. You've
10 got some time for that.

11 MS. GORDON: Right. I will.

12 MR. BROWN: Okay. Fine, thanks.

13 Okay. Stuart is next, and he will be followed
14 by Penny Truitt.

15 MR. BARGER: Good evening. My name is Stuart
16 Barger. I live in La Pueblo, New Mexico. I'm a
17 downwinder.

18 By the way, 12,000 cubic meters is a space the
19 size of this room, for those of you that are doing the
20 math.

21 First of all, I think we ought to just stand
22 up and say, "Stop producing radioactive waste." Yes, I

1 know that's not a part of this environmental impact
2 statement, but the emperor has no clothes.

3 One side effect of this is the medical
4 industry will scream that our health is being imperiled
5 because they cannot use radioactive isotopes for your
6 annual MRI. Good. Maybe that will speed the process
7 up. It's 26 years now that the federal government has
8 accepted responsibility for the disposal of radioactive
9 waste, and we're reviewing a draft environmental impact
10 statement. That's how far we've gotten in 26 years.

11 No one can guarantee that any known or
12 proposed disposal method will be effective for the next
13 10,000 to 50,000 years. The WIPP site will move 15
14 feet east during that time.

15 Step number two, let's clean up all the
16 existing sites first. How can we continue to produce
17 radioactive waste at these sites when we're not even
18 cleaning up what's there now?

19 Don't transport radioactive waste from one
20 site to another. You saw on the screen from DOE that
21 there's something like 11,000 vehicular trips or 33,000
22 vehicular trips. Excuse me. New Mexico has the

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1 highest DWI rate in the nation and you're expecting
2 three non-radioactive fatalities from those trips for
3 those state? I don't think so.

4 And for God's sake, don't allow commercial
5 companies to take care of their own radioactive waste.
6 Are we going to trust Halliburton? Are we going to
7 trust BP? I mean, it's hard enough to trust the
8 government, which I don't, but at least we can hold you
9 accountable.

10 (Laughter.)

11 MR. BARGER: Choose the method of containment
12 or disposal best suited then for each site, and perhaps
13 we ought to direct appropriate funds toward scientific
14 resources to investigate transmutation so that the fact
15 of trying to contain and dispose of this radioactive
16 stuff that we chemically or scientifically degrade it.
17 Why are we waiting ten to 50,000 years for it to self-
18 degrade?

19 Now, in direct contradiction to all of those
20 statements, I have a proposed alternative. I don't
21 think we can just say "Nimbi" or let you all figure it
22 out. This is my alternative: to build an above grade

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1 vault on the Mall in Washington, D.C.

2 (Applause.)

3 MR. GORDON: To mandate that all radioactive
4 waste be sent there in trucks during congressional
5 session, carefully labeled with each state of
6 origination, and I think you should allow the vault
7 exterior to be decorated by graffiti artists from the
8 Espanola Valley.

9 Thank you.

10 (Laughter and applause.)

11 MR. BROWN: Okay. Penny Truitt is at the
12 podium and Scott Kovac will follow.

13 MS. TRUITT: I'm Penny Truitt. I live in El
14 Dorado, immediately adjacent to the 285 WIPP route to
15 Carlsbad.

16 In light of the disaster 25 years ago at
17 Chernobyl and its continuing impact, a continuing
18 disaster with no solution, and in light of the present
19 and concurrent disaster at Fukushima, there should be
20 no further accommodation for transporting and
21 containing materials that are death sentences to life
22 on our planet, not just human beings, but all life.

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1 Only yesterday a near disaster occurred at
2 Brown's Ferry. None of the 442 working commercial
3 atomic reactors are safe.

4 Thank you.

5 MR. BROWN: Thank you.

6 Okay. Scott is next and Nathaniel Fuentes
7 will follow.

8 MR. KOVAC: Thank you.

9 Thanks, everyone, for coming out tonight.

10 This proposal for greater-than-Class-C waste
11 includes seven different sites, four different methods
12 which equals about somewhere over 25 different options,
13 and none of them are good. With all of these
14 alternatives, it is a problem that DOE does not have a
15 preferred alternative.

16 LANL currently buries its low level
17 radioactive waste in unlined trenches, pits and shafts
18 at Area G at Tech Area 54. The final determination by
19 DOE and the New Mexico Environment Department of what
20 happens to the hazardous and radioactive waste at Area
21 G has not yet been made.

22 The decision to bury greater than Class C

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1 waste could predetermine what other waste and could
2 predetermine the outcome of that condition.

3 I was looking. It's hard to find out exactly
4 how many Curies are in Area G, but it seems to be
5 around a million Curies only have been buried at Area G
6 at Los Alamos. I mean, I say "only," but have been
7 buried over the last 40 years or so. And DOE now plans
8 to or is considering adding 160 million Curies to that
9 site? This is outrageous.

10 The shipment of all greater-than-Class-C waste
11 to LANL by truck would result in approximately 12,600
12 shipments involving a total distance of 22 million
13 miles. The estimated peak doses from the contaminated
14 water within 10,000 years of the greater-than-Class-C
15 at LANL were calculated to occur between 500 and 1,100
16 years. That means that the peak dose to the
17 groundwater will occur between 500 and 1,100 years at
18 Los Alamos.

19 These times represent the time after the
20 failure of the cover and the engineered barrier. This
21 is assumed to begin at 500 years after the closure of
22 the disposal facility. This is out of the EIS. So

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1 they're planning. The plan is to have the disposal
2 barrier and cover fail after 500 years. They know that
3 that's going to happen. That's what they're planning
4 on.

5 It's also confusing about this. The
6 construction period is listed as 3.4 years, but yet
7 most of the waste will not be ready for disposal for 50
8 or 40 years. It's very confusing.

9 Los Alamos is located in a seismic fault zone
10 between a rift valley and a dormant volcano. It is not
11 the place for radioactive waste that is dangerous for
12 tens of thousands of years. Sending greater-than-
13 Class-C waste to LANL would go against the current
14 mission of clean-up and footprint reduction.

15 Do not send greater-than-Class-C waste to DOE
16 sites. Nationwide DOE sites are facing hundreds of
17 billions of dollars and decades' worth of clean-up from
18 the Cold War legacy.

19 DOE should develop a national waste management
20 strategy to address these waste types. Such a strategy
21 is needed to integrate the management of these wastes
22 as opposed to a piecemeal approach that is currently

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1 being used by the department.

2 Such a strategy, moreover, should be assessed
3 through a programmatic NEPA process that addresses
4 major federal actions that could significantly affect
5 the quality of the human environment. This is
6 particularly important when considering the disposal of
7 long-lived radioactive waste, which are not suitable
8 for shallow land burial.

9 MR. BROWN: About a minute left.

10 MR. KOVAC: The DOE rejection of hardened on-
11 site storage alternative is unacceptable, given that
12 this is the actual status of the greater-than-Class-C
13 low level waste at present and will not be outside the
14 scope of alternatives that should be considered for
15 this EIS.

16 DOE rejects the alternative that many New
17 Mexicans and others from around the country have been,
18 you know, proposing since 2007. Keeping the waste in
19 HOSS would reduce the risk of accidents or terrorist
20 attacks during transport. While HOSS is not a
21 permanent solution, it would be more protective of
22 human health and the environment than any of DOE's

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1 current dumping practices and the alternative presented
2 in this draft environmental impact statement.

3 MR. BROWN: Fine.

4 MR. KOVAC: Thank you.

5 MR. BROWN: Great. Thanks, Scott.

6 Nathaniel is next and Marian Naranjo will
7 follow Nathaniel. Thank you.

8 MR. FUENTES: Good evening, everyone. My name
9 is Nathaniel Fuentes. I am a tribal descendent of
10 Chapo Wingate, also known as Santa Clara.

11 I don't have anything in hand, written before
12 me. So please excuse me. I want to address this
13 particular situation about transporting new waste to
14 Area G in Los Alamos or anywhere here in the state.

15 As I said in the beginning, I am a tribal
16 descendent for Chapo Wingate, and my people, the Pueblo
17 people, have been here for millenniums, and as this
18 waste builds and continue to accumulate and if it is
19 transported to our state and to Los Alamos, as these
20 safeguards begin to fail and radioactive material is
21 then exposed to our environment, it is more than likely
22 that my people will end up having to deal with this

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1 situation in ten to 20 generations at the very least,
2 if not even sooner.

3 I remember when I was a child and being able
4 to smell and taste the air of New Mexico for the first
5 time, and I remember -- some people don't have this far
6 back memory of being like two years old, but I'm able
7 to remember -- and the air and the taste was something
8 that was more unique than anything, and I knew for some
9 reason in my heart and in my spirit that this was a
10 part of me.

11 And to have nuclear waste come and be added
12 into my back yard, it kind of -- it kind of disheartens
13 what I've gotten to know, and it only says that we are
14 expendable and that what we know and what we've done
15 and how we live is also expendable.

16 I believe that we shouldn't have any more
17 nuclear waste come into our state, to come to Area G
18 because in 500 years and in 20 generations my great-
19 great-great grandchildren may be walking a pilgrimage
20 and going on a ceremony or some type of spiritual walk
21 only to then be exposed by an abandoned city that had
22 spelled safeguards that were only going to last for 500

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1 years. To have them exposed during some type of
2 initiation or some type of story telling down the line,
3 it really disheartens me to think about that.

4 And I would really urge the people of this
5 community as you become more naturalized, if you're not
6 already, and you see down in the future 20 generations
7 of your children and their children, think about that.

8 Another thing to think about is as if these
9 type of materials are stored in such an area and the
10 fight for water increases here in this area and our
11 rainwaters and our snow caps begin to become less and
12 less and our river becomes more and more dry and
13 Cochiti Dam becomes lower and lower and our winds
14 become stronger and stronger, I think we might have a
15 problem more sooner than 500 years; maybe in ten years.
16 Really don't know, and that's exactly what this all is.

17 We should really take in account the lessons
18 that the Japanese have had to face and deal with not
19 once but twice, and think about those types of
20 situations here in our area. We do live in a rift.
21 Los Alamos is on fault lines, and Area G is in a sacred
22 site to my people.

1 So I don't understand really what the issue
2 is. I don't think it should be an issue.

3 Thank you.

4 MR. BROWN: Thank you.

5 (Applause.)

6 MR. BROWN: Marian Naranjo is our next speaker
7 and I think Beata Tsosie will follow you.

8 MS. NARANJO: Thank you.

9 My name is Marian Naranjo. I am the founder
10 and director of Honor our Pueblo Existence or Hope.

11 Our organization is a community-based
12 organization located at Khapo O'Wingate, or Santa Clara
13 Pueblo.

14 One of our missions is to address
15 environmental issues of concern because of our
16 relationship to our ancestral homelands within the
17 Pajarito Plateau or the Haemus Mountains, a place that
18 has sustained our life ways since time immemorial, the
19 place where DOE, NNSA, LANL now claims landlordship.

20 Because of time restraints for this hearing
21 and for the record, I would like to state the HOPE will
22 be sending in depth written comments. These comments

1 will oppose GTCC waste being transported to a place
2 that has seismic issues, a place that the landlords
3 have not made a decision on what to do with its current
4 nuclear waste problem, and a place that is sacred to
5 Pueblo people.

6 I believe this act would further desecrate our
7 sustainable life ways both environmentally and
8 spiritually. Before the government agencies and for-
9 profit corporate entities continue the nuclear power
10 cycle, it would be wise to go back to the drawing
11 boards and establish a complete plan that would include
12 a safe, forever disposal of the waste that has been
13 created and really think and consider and invest in
14 alternative energy for the future.

15 This shell game of moving nuclear waste,
16 whether it is ABC or GTCC, from place to place has been
17 a practice in this country since day one of the nuclear
18 age, and it's old school. It's time actually to be
19 frank. This situation, as United States citizen, is
20 quite embarrassing. If you have no place for it, then
21 why make it?

22 If a state chooses nuclear power, then that

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1 state should deal with the whole cycle, which includes
2 the waste. We have no nuclear power plants here in New
3 Mexico. So why is this now our problem?

4 MR. BROWN: Thank you.

5 (Applause.)

6 MR. BROWN: Okay. Is it Beata Tsosie? Do I
7 have that right? Okay. Robert Chavez will follow.

8 MS. TSOSIE: My daughter was at a meeting we
9 were at, and she heard. We were talking and I asked
10 her if she wanted to make a drawing, and this is the
11 drawing she made and the title she gave it was "The
12 Rainbow of Life and Hope," and that's the image I'd
13 like to put out there.

14 I think all our children are born with this
15 image in their heads of what the world should be for
16 them, and they get to a certain age when they're
17 teenagers, when they realize it's a whole different
18 picture than what they're given when they're born. And
19 the truth is revealed to them, and we wonder why our
20 young people have so many problems as they get older.

21 I don't have the answer or the solutions for
22 this problem, but I think that if the DOE works with

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1 the communities in a meaningful way, that we can help
2 with it.

3 GTCC is not wanted here. It cannot safely be
4 contained here where mountains have borne witness to
5 desecration equal to only the volcano and fault lines
6 that sleep beneath the labs. I pray the detonations,
7 construction and disrespect do not awaken them.

8 GTCC is not wanted here where generations of
9 our people have already suffered and died, who are sick
10 from illness that did not exist before uranium was
11 taken out of the ground. Area G once held the prayers
12 of my relatives since the beginning of circular time
13 and now holds waste that borders our groundwater
14 beneath the ground in unlined pits.

15 Area G, whose now toxic breath cannot be
16 cleansed even by the 70 mile per hour winds that sweep
17 over barrels of mixed waste on top of the Pajarito
18 Plateau, barrels of waste handled by brown brothers
19 wearing only work gloves whose providing hands will go
20 home and caress their families.

21 GTCC waste cannot be handled by workers
22 wearing only gloves. It cannot be carried over roads

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1 that pass our schools, cross our river, and where
2 Pueblo emergency response does not have the training or
3 capacity to handle an accident. It cannot be stored in
4 an area where the people still live off the land, and
5 this life style was not considered when producing more
6 waste, where the trees' roots are strong and will
7 penetrate anything over time, where fire threatens
8 disaster, and no one can predict where lightning will
9 strike.

10 Why is production of this nuclear waste
11 continuing when there is no plan in place for the
12 storage of its abomination offspring, where war made
13 love to greed in pristine landscapes?

14 Why has there been no true dialogue happening
15 with the people, no health studies, no clean-up? We
16 know much. We have our own experts. We deserve
17 equality. We can help with solutions to help heal our
18 cultural homelands.

19 I ask for consideration for life, the life of
20 the environment, my people, my children who have
21 already endured so much, and who dream of rainbows and
22 life and hope and the land of her birth.

1 Desecration has been put in motion, has
2 already begun before our generations coming and can
3 still change. With wisdom and listening and when
4 wellness and health for all are the priority for
5 industry.

6 Thank you.

7 (Applause.)

8 MR. BROWN: Robert Chavez is our next
9 presenter. He will be followed by Lisa Putkey and
10 Elizabeth Chavez.

11 MR. CHAVEZ: Hello, everybody. Usually when I
12 come up to, you know, speak to an audience or something
13 I like to prepare beforehand, but I thought it would be
14 a little bit different today, you know, being the fact
15 that something like this, there shouldn't even be a
16 question for something like this.

17 There's a barrier between the EIS, the
18 supplemental EIS, and my people. I'm here to shatter
19 that barrier today. I'm not going to do a technical
20 presentation. I'm not going to speak of what I learned
21 from the EIS, but I'm going to sing you guys a song
22 from my heart.

1 (Singing) RO DOE (phonetic), what are you
2 planning to do to me. You see the trees have grown.
3 You see the rivers have flowed. You see my people
4 they're sacrificed. We've got no place to run and
5 hide, but a better day can be found. DOE, look at my
6 family sitting before me. My brothers, my sisters,
7 everybody they will see. The promise is broken, loss
8 of time unspoken. Won't you be like a tree? Won't you
9 climb to see? Instead of a battle that will bring me
10 peril, I can stand here all day and speak to you about
11 facts and what they say, but in reality, it's our
12 children's dreams that are being taken, taken, taken
13 away.

14 Thank you.

15 (Applause.)

16 MR. BROWN: Okay. Lisa and Elizabeth are
17 next.

18 MS. PUTKEY: Hi. My name is Lisa Putkey. I
19 live in Chimayo surrounding the Espanola Valley. We
20 are downwind from Los Alamos, and this is?

21 MS. CHAVEZ: Elizabeth Chavez from San Juan,
22 Pueblo.

1 MS. PUTKEY: And we are both active in groups
2 around here, including Think Outside the Bomb, the
3 Environmental Justice Group at Tewa Women United, Honor
4 Pueblo's Existence. We work with a lot of the other
5 groups coming together to analyze this EIS.

6 And I've been working with youth in the
7 Espanola Valley. I can't help but notice that you --
8 when I say "you," I mean DOE -- you've been not doing a
9 very good job of letting anyone in this community, the
10 Espanola Valley, that lives downwind of Los Alamos,
11 which is one of the sites where you want to put 160
12 million Curies of radioactive waste, that you haven't
13 really got the word out.

14 I've been looking in the *Rio Grande Sun*. Take
15 note. The *Rio Grande Sun*, it's the valley newspaper.
16 It comes out every Wednesday. Try to get an article or
17 an ad or something in there.

18 We've been doing outreach in the community and
19 talking to people and youth. We went to Espanola
20 Valley High School and talked to a lot of classes. Not
21 one person that we have come across has heard about
22 this proposal to bring waste here to New Mexico. So I

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1 think it's kind of preposterous to even have a
2 community hearing without doing the proper, adequate
3 outreach to the community.

4 That being said, when we were at Espanola High
5 School, we worked with youth. Maybe you come to our
6 table afterwards. You can check out the artwork that
7 the youth from the Espanola High School made in regards
8 to this, and we made it as a way for them to have their
9 comments and have their voices here even though it's
10 very, very hard to get around in the area, lack of
11 public transportation and such.

12 So I'm going to have Elizabeth read one and
13 I'm going to read another one from two different
14 students from the Espanola High School that they wrote
15 on Tuesday.

16 MS. CHAVEZ: This letter is written to the
17 Department of Energy. It says, "New Mexico is a
18 beautiful, peaceful and friendly environment. Please
19 do not take that away from us. This state is not a
20 waste for the government to be destroying. We are all
21 humans, and we all deserve to live in a free, healthy,
22 and clean environment.

1 "Please consider another source or idea to put
2 this waste. We care about our community. We want it
3 to be the best for our economy, and we do care for a
4 clean, healthy environment. Please reconsider.
5 Students of Espanola Valley High School."

6 Ms. Putkey: "We don't support this idea
7 because we don't want anything to harm our community.
8 We want our children and grandchildren to live healthy
9 lives and not have to live through devastation if
10 something goes wrong.

11 "This idea is frightening. This idea isn't
12 going to allow us to live long, healthy lives."

13 Thank you.

14 (Applause.)

15 MR. BROWN: Michelle is next. I think it was
16 just a last initial, and Mateo, also last initial P.
17 Are either of you here? Oh, they aren't. Okay.

18 Marilyn Hoff then. Sorry to give you such
19 short notice. Jeanne Green will follow Marilyn.

20 MS. HOFF: This is not a prepared statement.
21 So if I fumble around it's because I'm trying to
22 respond to what I found out from reading --

1 MR. BROWN: Sure.

2 MS. HOFF: -- the posters and things.

3 I once sold Fuller Brushes door to door, and I
4 learned the principle of good selling is that you never
5 ask a question that can be answered yes or no. You say
6 you take this alternative or you take that alternative,
7 and which would you like to buy?

8 Well, this is what's happening here, too, is
9 that we're not given a question that can be answered
10 with yes or no. So we can't say no to having nuclear
11 waste transported across country. We can only say I
12 would rather buy this alternative or that alternative,
13 and all the alternatives suck.

14 (Laughter.)

15 MS. HOFF: It's really outrageous that they're
16 not even considering HOSS. It seems like the only
17 viable, sensible alternative, given that what we really
18 need to say is no more nukes, no more nuclear power,
19 and no more nuclear weapons, and we should stop right
20 away.

21 (Applause.)

22 MS. HOFF: It is way too dangerous in this

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1 world to be having nuclear weapons and nuclear power,
2 and we only need to witness Fukushima for confirmation
3 of that. There are now quite large areas of Japan that
4 are uninhabitable, and this could happen to our
5 beautiful area here.

6 The argument used in favor of not even
7 considering HOSS is that we're afraid of terrorists.
8 But please tell me when is dangerous material the most
9 vulnerable to terrorist attack? It is most vulnerable
10 while it is on the road tootling 20 million miles from
11 place to place in order to be put out of sight, out of
12 mind.

13 As far as LANL is concerned, it's a ridiculous
14 place to even consider putting this. We're so polluted
15 already. We're in danger of earthquakes. We're in
16 danger of forest fire. It's up river and upwind of
17 lots of people, and people have been living in this
18 beautiful valley for time immemorial. People will
19 continue to live there. It almost seems like the
20 assumption is with these poorly stored, dangerous
21 substances that are only supposed to be enclosed for
22 500 years that what the people involved in the nuclear

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1 industry are assuming is that in 500 years we won't be
2 here anymore.

3 And in fact, of course, thanks to the nuclear
4 age, it has often been a very close call that we're
5 still here and we're lucky to be here so far, that we
6 need to have an alternative that simply says no.

7 (Applause.)

8 MR. BROWN: Okay. Jeanne Green is next and
9 she'll be followed by Mary. I'm afraid I didn't read
10 my reading glasses. So I'm not doing the last name
11 very well, but Mary who is with the Santa Clara
12 Comanche. If you know who you are, you -- good.
13 You're next. Oka.

14 MS. JEANNE GREEN: Okay. I'm Jeanne Green
15 actually--

16 MR. BROWN: Okay.

17 MS. JEANNE GREEN: From Taos. I just have
18 some comments.

19 Okay. Of the sites mentioned, WIPP's mission
20 is limited by law to 175,000 cubic meters of
21 transuranic waste from nuclear weapons. That's less
22 than five million Curies of radioactivity. GTCC waste

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1 would be 30 times more radioactivity than planned for
2 WIPP and would eliminate the ban on commercial waste.

3 So you're planning to send all of this this
4 nuclear waste from all of these nuclear plants and
5 other places to either WIPP, which is illegal. That's
6 not what it was planned for, and it's a salt bed that
7 could be melted. Salt dissolves in water. This is
8 simple.

9 The other plan you're planning on is LANL.
10 LANL has millions of gallons of radioactive crap all
11 over that place sitting there. Water is washing over
12 it. Wind is washing over it. It's washing into the
13 Rio Grande. They found it all the way -- they found
14 radioactivity all the way down, and is it Cochiti? In
15 our river, in our Rio Grande River, they're finding it,
16 you know.

17 When they did this study about the Buckman
18 Diversion Project, they did not test the sediment.
19 That's where the radioactivity is. It's there. It's
20 washing over all of those barrels going into our water,
21 going into our groundwater. It's contaminating all of
22 us.

1 They found plutonium on refrigerator coils.
2 They found Strontium-90 and Cesium-137 and Americium up
3 in the hills on top of the mountain peaks everywhere.
4 We're getting poisoned.

5 People have cancer. We don't want more waste,
6 and LANL cannot take more waste. LANL is not dealing
7 with the waste that it has. There's radioactivity in a
8 public park. In Acid Canyon there is radioactivity.
9 There's 13 or 14 times the level that they've set
10 that's supposedly safe and no radiation is safe.

11 You know, we don't have any evacuation plans
12 around here for this stuff because we're not going to
13 get evacuated. There's no way to evacuate us if
14 something happens. They're going to contain us and
15 keep us here so we don't contaminate somebody else.

16 It's insane. It's insane, and the fact that
17 you did not look at the hardened on-site storage or --
18 I don't know -- I've heard about glassification or
19 something like that, some other way to deal with these
20 wastes on site where they're safer until there can be a
21 place, if there is a place, where they can be safe.

22 I don't really think there is. That's the

1 problem, but to keep them on site instead of
2 transporting what was it, 20 million, how many miles?
3 Twenty-two million miles of this high level, of this
4 greater-than-Class-C, high level radioactive waste on
5 our highways every day, totally exposed.

6 If people are worried about terrorists, come
7 on. This is the perfect scenario for terrorists,
8 perfect. I mean, you guys, I don't know what you're
9 thinking. I just think it's a profit. It's a
10 profitable venture for a few people, and the rest of us
11 are being exposed to it. Our lives are being exposed.
12 A lot of us are getting cancer.

13 We're sick of it. We don't want it here. You
14 need to look at some other alternatives.

15 Your graphs in your PowerPoint, you didn't
16 look at earthquakes when you looked at those graphs.
17 That's totally a rigged graph that shows WIPP is the
18 best facility, that shows LANL. It's a rigged graph.

19 MR. BROWN: You've got just about a minute
20 left, please.

21 MS. JEANNE GREEN: Okay. So the groundwater
22 contamination of our surface water, none of this was

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1 considered in your graphs. You're not looking at what
2 is. You're looking at what you want to do.

3 So we don't want it here. We don't want
4 another Fukushima. We don't want to be forced to be
5 kept here after an accident. We've already seen the
6 Cerro Grande fire. We've already seen fire come up to
7 half a mile of all of these barrels sitting over there,
8 getting washed over. It's ridiculous. It's
9 ridiculous, and you just can't do this. You can't do
10 it. You have to look at some more options and figure
11 this out. We need some science here, not a bunch of
12 bullshit propaganda.

13 (Applause.)

14 MR. BROWN: Okay. Mary will be followed by
15 Doug Doran.

16 MS. WEAKKEE: Good evening. My name is Mary
17 Weakkee, and I'm with the Santa Clara Pueblo, Arkhopo
18 Wingate (phonetic), and I'm also half Comanche.

19 I work for the Museum of New Mexico, Office of
20 Archeological Studies. I really didn't expect to
21 speak. However, if I saw there not speaking, I
22 couldn't sleep tonight.

1 My feelings are for my grandchildren. I know
2 these sites, and my job is to record them and preserve
3 them and study them and carry on that knowledge to my
4 children, and it would devastate me to know that
5 they're just going to punch holes and lay trenches and
6 destroy something that's been there for thousands of
7 years.

8 I've seen it done. I've seen sites. I see
9 after we finish digging, destroy days, destroy, you
10 know, archeological sites, and to have them pour this
11 poison into my mother. My children bathe to purify
12 themselves. I bathe to purify myself before I dance

13 I pray for this place all the time even though
14 I do archeology for the state. I open the sites. I
15 pray for the safety of the archeologists spiritually.
16 I close the sites. I pray for them after the closing
17 of the sites so that none of us go home and be harmed.

18 How can I stand here and listen to how much
19 harm is going to be done by DOE and be ignorant and
20 close my eyes and sleep and hear my children, my
21 grandchildren running back and forth?

22 And to think that their children are going to

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1 be affected. The old people already suffer now. I've
2 seen it, and how can I tell stories about my people
3 when the alternative for burial is cremation?

4 I study human remains. I do burials. That's
5 my position with the Office of Archeological studies,
6 and, yes, I get criticized by my people. But I know
7 that these histories and these words and these views
8 have to be retained, and these sensitive sites that
9 these people consider as nothing? Well, I don't
10 consider that.

11 And I hope that everybody looks to another
12 alternative, please. WE still use all the minerals.
13 I've seen minerals used. I've seen what pains they
14 use, what ceremonial purposes. I've seen so many, many
15 things, and I can live these spiritual happenings.

16 I dance so that we can have rain. I go and do
17 water ceremonies so we can drink and have safe waters.
18 I just hope that we can all think about what's going to
19 happen, and there has to be a voice, maybe from
20 Creator, but right now my concern is with our
21 generations to come.

22 And I will continue to dig and record and

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1 respect and honor my people until I can't anymore. And
2 thank you very much.

3 (Applause.)

4 MR. BROWN: Doug will be followed by Vann
5 Bynum.

6 MR. DORAN: Wow. Mr. Edelman, welcome to the
7 Land of Enchantment.

8 When I speak publicly about what has all the
9 signs of being a runaway train called nuclear
10 technology, the destination of that train is a
11 forbidden planet. I have to speak like I know what I'm
12 talking about. Please don't be fooled because I'm very
13 honored and at the same time I'm humbled to be in this
14 assembly of such powerful hearts and mind, all of us.

15 Thank you for the opportunity to voice my
16 concerns and advocate for on-site containment of
17 nuclear waste.

18 Joni gave me a fact sheet. So it could be
19 said that I appear before you here armed and dangerous
20 with the facts. I'm going to aim at pertinent. See
21 how close I come.

22 About 12 years ago at the final hearing on the

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1 WIPP before it opened, permission was given by the
2 Hearing Officer for the New Mexico Environmental
3 Evaluation Group to show us a video they had recently
4 made. Though pertinent to the issue, it was determined
5 not to fall into the category of the hearing's focus
6 and, therefore, was not allowed onto the hearing's
7 record.

8 The images we all watched were of a stream of
9 water coming out of the wall with a smooth surface and
10 running down. WE were told the camera had been lowered
11 into the main air shaft at the WIPP, and what we were
12 watching was a stream of water entering into and
13 flowing down the airshaft. It was described as a
14 problem and remedy was suggested.

15 No one disputed the authenticity of the video
16 and the integrity of the NMEEG is widely respected.

17 I don't know the outcome on this, but the
18 point is if a problem such as this one happened when
19 the airshaft was built, is it possible the same thing
20 happens somewhere else in the facility? Rhetorical
21 question.

22 But how many people here this evening believe

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1 the WIPP is dry?

2 May the record reflect no one in the space has
3 indicated to me that they believe WIPP is dry, and it's
4 true. WIPP is no more dry than my hand. My hand is
5 pretty sweaty right now.

6 And if the WIPP is not dry, Mr. Edelman, it is
7 not permanent. Let me repeat myself. If the WIPP is
8 not dry, then it is not a permanent solution, and
9 moisture is not the only problem.

10 Time doesn't permit me to go too far into
11 this, but I would refer you to the findings of
12 researchers and workers like Charles Loftus, Army Corps
13 of Engineers, among others. I know Don Hancock is here
14 tonight. I think he's a great resource, as an example
15 of what I'm talking about as far as errors.

16 Got it. Thank you.

17 And to make the mistake that the WIPP is a so-
18 called permanent solution when, in fact, it is not a
19 permanent solution does nothing but improve the chances
20 of a big time miscalculation, and that's a "big time"
21 with a capital B. As far as I can see, the only thing
22 about what to do with our nuclear waste that's

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1 permanent is the search to the answer for that
2 question.

3 The ultimate problem is its permanence.
4 Again, I advocate as strongly as possible for on-site
5 containment of nuclear waste and an Intuits production
6 because a permanent solution is yet to exist.

7 If I may borrow a few words from the Jefferson
8 Airplane, we are proud. We are very proud of who we
9 are.

10 (Applause.)

11 MR. BROWN: Okay. Vann Bynum, and he will be
12 followed by Charlo.

13 MR. BYNUM: Thank you for the opportunity to
14 speak to you tonight. I'm a resident of Wachi Valley
15 (phonetic). I'm also affiliated with one of the
16 companies that's building a facility to build
17 Molybdenum-99.

18 Opening of a GTCC disposal facility will be a
19 significant benefit to the companies that are looking
20 to do this and will benefit our ability to provide this
21 essential medical isotope for our neighbors and our
22 country.

1 As noted earlier in some of the remarks, these
2 medical isotopes are used in over 55,000 procedures a
3 day for all of us. Today the U.S. imports all of those
4 medical isotopes from foreign countries, and over the
5 past few years we've seen some significant impacts to
6 our medical community's ability to take care of all of
7 us by shortages raised by the reliability of some of
8 these other facilities.

9 In fact, the major producer for medical
10 isotopes in the United States is a foreign country, and
11 they are going to be shutting down that facility in the
12 next few years, leaving the medical community with no
13 other alternatives.

14 Having been personally impacted by this in my
15 family, that's a significant concern to me.

16 Opening a disposal site for GTCC waste will be
17 of tremendous benefit to the companies, not just the
18 one that I'm working with but for a number of the
19 companies to address this pressing medical requirement
20 and will facilitate the continuation of the outstanding
21 medical system that we have and the care that we all
22 receive.

1 And I encourage DOE to expeditiously open
2 reliable GTCC disposal site consistent with all the
3 laws and requirements as quickly as possible.

4 Thank you.

5 MR. BROWN: Thank you.

6 Okay. Charlo is our next speaker, and he will
7 be followed by Erich Kuerschner.

8 MR. CHARLO: Is your name Holmes?

9 MR. BROWN: Holmes Brown.

10 MR. CHARLO: Say, Holmes. How's it going?

11 MR. BROWN: Fine.

12 MR. CHARLO: All Right, everybody. A couple
13 of words I want to throw out there: environmental
14 racism, water pollution, birth defects, cancers on the
15 rise, abandoned salt mine. Really? It's in
16 containment?

17 What are you guys doing, man? You guys are on
18 -- might be tripping or something.

19 The bottom line is, yes, it is a problem, and
20 I think that everybody that puts out should have a
21 place in their backyard for it, not just my yard, but
22 your backyard. Like Fort Sheridan, and you guys are

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1 all from Chicago, right? Or some of you are. I know
2 that lovely lady is and her buddy. Hey, how are you
3 doing there? Nice toenails.

4 Anyway, I just wanted to say that that's the
5 way it should be. Don't bring it to my backyard.
6 There's enough here. They were mining it here. So
7 it's here now naturally, and now it's stockpiled in Los
8 Alamos and they want to put it in Carlsbad.

9 Now, W. Bush said -- that's right, W., your
10 friend probably -- he said -- they were going to put
11 one of these things in Texas, and he said, "By gum it,
12 if it ain't safe, we're not going to put it there."
13 That's the truth, and you know what? It didn't go
14 down. So W., hey, he might be what he is, but he
15 didn't go for it.

16 So I think that if there's radioactive waste
17 in your neighborhood, it should stay there, and if it's
18 in your neighborhood and yours and yours and yours,
19 well, you know what? We're all victims the bottom line
20 is, and I don't know. Don't shoot me when I leave.

21 (Laughter.)

22 MR. CHARLO: The bottom line is it's a mess,

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1 and we could stop this. We could come up with new ways
2 of solar.

3 I know one of the guys said, "Oh, well, the
4 windmills are unsightly, people say, and solar panels,
5 they take up too much space."

6 But you know what? It's a lot safer. Okay.
7 The windmill is going to go, "Whhh, whhh, whhh." All
8 right. Going to blow your hair, but it's not going to,
9 Your Honor -- look at Ms. Chernobyl. Do you look at
10 girl pin-up pictures? Look at Ms. Chernobyl. She's
11 got a real ass on her. Okay? Two ass cracks, by the
12 way. She's, you know, a 25 year old kid who's trying
13 to pursue her modeling career.

14 Anyway, it's not safe, and we could do
15 something else, and you guys are in it for the money.
16 Political contributions? Talk to your Congressman.

17 Thank you.

18 (Applause.)

19 MR. BROWN: Okay. Erich will be followed by
20 Joni Arends.

21 MR. KUERSCHNER: Yeah, hi. My name is Erich
22 Kuerschner. I live in Taos. I'm just going to give my

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1 three main points first. They're also mainly addressed
2 to the audience. So hopefully they'll be of some
3 assistance in submitting comments.

4 And, Mr. Edelman, thank you so much for the
5 opportunity, and I'll have something that's more than
6 just crib notes when I submit it to you.

7 So the first point is I agree with what
8 Marilyn and I thought she nailed it. This is a fall
9 EIS, and the example of do you want this bad product or
10 that faulty product, you know. These are your choices.

11 And if you do an EIS in that way, it's
12 meaningless and I'll explain later what I mean.

13 The second one is I want to follow on what
14 Rebecca said when she said that EIS was shortened, and
15 indeed, it has. I worked for Skidmore, Owings &
16 Merrill in 1972. I think they were the first major
17 environmental team ever put together. They're the
18 largest architectural firm in the world.

19 I was one of three staff economists paired
20 with a lawyer, and I mean, I know how these things
21 should be done, and I know what a good EIS looks like.
22 And it was really attended -- this bears very little

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1 resemblance to the EIS that was done then.

2 And third, if I have time I want to touch on
3 the broader issues, which is really the whole problem
4 of nuclear weapons, how this whole thing got started
5 and how we've constantly put ourselves in the position
6 of trying to cover up and justify, and as we know from
7 many cases, the cover-up is usually worse than the
8 crime.

9 So let me start with what -- what an EIS
10 should be. Section 1502 under Alternatives, this is
11 from the Council of Economic Quality. They say it's
12 called alternatives, and they say this is the heart,
13 the EIS Section 1502. 2. It says an EIS shall serve as
14 the means of assessing the environmental impact of the
15 proposed agency action rather than justifying the
16 decision made.

17 And as Marilyn pointed out, I mean, I see this
18 as basically a salesmanship. I mean, they want to do
19 it in WIPP. If not at WIPP, they want to do it at
20 another DOE site, and it's my understanding that 99
21 percent of this is commercial products. I mean, I
22 don't see that that point was really brought out

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1 clearly, that this is really a subsidy for a private
2 commercial industry.

3 (Applause.)

4 MR. KUERSCHNER: Section 1514, and I had the
5 whole EIS here, and I've been involved. I'm involved
6 in three court cases against DOE, and it seems like
7 that's what it takes. Unfortunately, it wastes our
8 time. It wastes their time.

9 I wish we could go back to 1972 when we sat
10 across the table as professionals and really did the
11 thing right. I mean, I've been complaining for the
12 last EIS. I've helped with as a consultant. You don't
13 even have an economist on the staff anymore.

14 I mean, economics is the study of
15 alternatives, and by refusing to have an economist on
16 the staff, you're also negating the purpose because it
17 said explicitly in the act this shall be an
18 interdisciplinary study. So 1514 -- I hope that's the
19 right one. I'm just going from memory -- not only does
20 it include a no action, but one of the other ones is it
21 says there has to be one alternative outside of the
22 jurisdiction of the lead agency.

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1 Why is that? Because you can't feather your
2 own nest. If you're trying to promote nuclear weapons
3 or nuclear weapons or nuclear power, you can't just
4 look at solutions that fall within the domain of the
5 nuclear industry. It was really explicit. I mean you
6 can't do like what Marilyn said, say, "I want to give
7 you this Fuller Brush or that Fuller Brush," and
8 somebody says, "How about, you know, just shaving your
9 head or getting curls? I mean, there are other
10 solutions to this."

11 So I mean, the other thing that I find really
12 awful along this line is the mission creep. It's if
13 you look very carefully at the solutions they offer --
14 oh, and I need to go -- I had a better statement of
15 this.

16 The other thing that's real important in an
17 EIS is you have to make the purpose clear. If you
18 define the purpose narrow enough, like Marilyn pointed
19 out, then you get lousy alternatives.

20 So how do they define it? They define the
21 problem as how to dispose of greater than Grade C
22 nuclear waste. That's a preposterous way of phrasing

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1 the problem. I say the problem is how to reduce the
2 risk from radionuclides to human beings. I mean,
3 that's what we' really talking about.

4 Oh, way short. I didn't realize. Thank you
5 very much.

6 MR. BROWN: Sure, sure.

7 MR. KUERSCHNER: So I'll shorten it really
8 quick, but it's like you've got to look at the demand
9 side. Somebody else, I think Stuart said that, and
10 when I worked on Mount Hood they wanted us to build a
11 12-lane freeway. They said this freeway through
12 Division or this freeway through Portland, and we said,
13 "Nonsense. How about we solve it with a non-
14 transportation solution? We just change the trip
15 pattern so that people don't have to drive from one end
16 of town to the other. We put the jobs where the houses
17 are and reduce the need for transportation."

18 You look at Portland. No 12-lane freeway
19 through I-80, a much better solution. Not one demand
20 reduction, and that's the real solution to this. Why
21 the hell are we creating these nuclear wastes to begin
22 with? If we're honest about that and don't subsidize

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1 those, those things will disappear, no HOSS, all in New
2 Mexico.

3 And just one last thing. This is very similar
4 to what happened with cigarettes. Remember when all
5 the experts sat around the table and they said
6 cigarette smoking is not bad for you? This is what's
7 happening with nuclear.

8 In Chernobyl they're saying 2,000 deaths. The
9 real experts like John Hoffmann and Carl Morgan and
10 Helen Medaclock (phonetic), and even the New York
11 Academy of Science says nonsense. One millions.

12 Just because you put a cigarette in your mouth
13 and you don't fall over, it doesn't mean that there's
14 not a relationship. The same with nuclear. I mean, we
15 have gotten so far from science in this thing. We need
16 to find our way back.

17 (Applause.)

18 MR. BROWN: Okay. Joni Arends is next and I
19 think it's Tom Gallegos is next.

20 Joni.

21 MS. ARENDS: Good evening. My name is Joni
22 Arends, and I am with Concerned Citizens for Nuclear

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1 Safety, based in Santa Fe.

2 First of all, I'm going to have four main
3 points. The first one is that CCNS supports the legal
4 analysis that was presented last evening by Don Hancock
5 and Southwest Research and Information Center, as well
6 as Dave McCoy with Citizen Action New Mexico, with
7 regard to the problems with this draft environmental
8 impact statement.

9 We're very concerned about the 26 year delay
10 in bringing this project forward, and we're concerned
11 about the length of time that this EIS will go on, for
12 the next 70 years, and believe that there should be an
13 alternative, which would be to create a Manhattan II
14 type project where the Department of Energy would use
15 its expertise with these contaminants, with these
16 radionuclides to figure out another way to do this
17 rather than scoop and move or hide and hope.

18 And we really support a Manhattan II type of
19 project to figure out how to solve this problem to
20 protect human health and the environment.

21 Secondly, CCNS will be submitting our comments
22 with regard to the corrective measures evaluation

1 report that was submitted by many different groups to
2 the New Mexico Environment Department recently about
3 our concerns about the inadequate knowledge of Area G.
4 In particular, we're concerned about the fact that
5 during the hazardous waste permit hearing last year,
6 one of the exhibits was a schematic that showed either
7 a cone, a volcanic cone, or a volcanic dike directly
8 under Area G.

9 And I want to make sure that the record
10 reflects that there's 21 million cubic feet of waste
11 already buried in unlined pits, trenches and shafts at
12 Los Alamos National Laboratory, and every time it rains
13 or snows those contaminants are moving towards our
14 drinking water supply in Santa Fe, in Albuquerque and
15 communities along with the biota and the plants and
16 animals.

17 So now I'm going to shift gears. I'm going to
18 thank you, Holmes, for this open and fair process and
19 to acknowledge that when the environmental impact
20 statement processes take place or originate with DOE
21 Headquarters, it's a much different process than when
22 it's run by Los Alamos National Laboratory, the

1 Department of Energy, Los Alamos site office, or the
2 National Nuclear Security Administration based in Los
3 Alamos.

4 And so I want to contrast tonight that we have
5 a court reporter. He's recording these events.
6 There's an audio recording.

7 At the recent Chemistry and Metallurgy
8 Research Replacement Project scoping meeting, we had no
9 court reporter. We had no opportunity to hear one
10 another speak. We were -- if you wanted to make a
11 comment, you were shuffled off to a table on the side
12 of the room with a microphone that may or may not work,
13 or you could type the comments in.

14 At the first scoping meeting in White Rock we
15 asked specifically for changes to be made at the
16 Puwaukee scoping hearing, and changes were made.
17 However, we had to rely on Cultural Energy to record
18 the comments because there was no audio recording of
19 what people said.

20 And in fact, unless you submitted a written
21 comment, there was no one -- there was no transcription
22 of what we created that day.

1 So with regard to the upcoming public hearings
2 on the draft environmental impact statement for the
3 Chemistry and Metallurgy Research Replacement Nuclear
4 Facility, we demand that the Department of Energy tell
5 us how many minutes do we have to make comments two
6 weeks prior to the hearings. We have to understand if
7 we're going to have three minutes or we're going to
8 have five minutes because we can go back to the
9 testimony that was provided to the Blue Ribbon
10 Commission in Albuquerque where we were told that we
11 would have five minutes, and when we got there, we had
12 three minutes.

13 I spent a lot of time preparing comments for
14 Concerned Citizens for Nuclear Safety, and when I got
15 there I was told that my argument had to be limited to
16 three minutes. Well, a lot of the meat of the argument
17 was eliminated because I didn't have time because the
18 rules changed.

19 So again --

20 MR. BROWN: I really hesitate to hold up the--

21 (Laughter.)

22 MS. ARENDS: Right, right.

1 MR. BROWN: -- the minute sign.

2 MS. ARENDS: Thank you.

3 MR. BROWN: But let me add that because some
4 people spoke less than five minutes and some people
5 canceled, I think we're going to have some time at the
6 end --

7 MS. ARENDS: Okay.

8 MR. BROWN: -- for those who wanted to
9 supplement their original statement. So please
10 proceed.

11 MS. ARENDS: And I'm making these comments
12 about the CMRR process to make sure that DOE
13 Headquarters hears what we need in order to make
14 informed comments about our concerns.

15 Now, I'm going to take Rebecca's advice and
16 become very angry. At the March 10th, 2011, CMRR semi-
17 annual meeting, I specifically asked the Department of
18 Energy, the National Nuclear Security Administration,
19 and Los Alamos National Laboratory to not release the
20 draft environmental impact statement during Holy Week,
21 and I want to ask the National Nuclear Security
22 Administration, the Department of Energy, and Los

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1 Alamos National Laboratory about what part of "do not
2 release the draft environmental impact statement during
3 Holy Week" does DOE not understand.

4 The amount of disrespect by releasing that
5 document at 6:00 p.m., Eastern Standard Time, on the
6 Internet is beyond the scope of disrespect. It goes to
7 the heart of the relationship between DOE and these
8 communities surrounding Los Alamos National Laboratory.

9 And this EIS process provides an opportunity
10 to heal some of those wounds, and these agencies need
11 to take that opportunity.

12 And I did talk to Roger Schneider ahead of
13 this comment, and he said that we're going to talk
14 about it. So I welcome that conversation.

15 Thank you.

16 MR. BROWN: Okay. Thank you.

17 (Applause.)

18 MR. SMITH: Okay. Tom is next. Again I'm
19 having a little trouble with the last name. The next
20 person is Bonnie whose last name ends with or starts
21 with B. So you know who you are.

22 Okay, Tom.

1 MR. GALLEGOS: Right, right. Thank you very
2 much. Thank you all for coming.

3 My name is Tom Gallegos. I'm a citizen of
4 Santa Fe County. I'm here as an interested citizen.

5 I'm also a tour guide in northern New Mexico
6 for the last three years, and had the opportunity to
7 bring visitors from all over the world on a regular
8 basis throughout the year to visit all of our northern
9 New Mexico communities that are affected by this
10 particular proposal. So that's also why I'm here.

11 I'm opposed to this consideration of LANL as a
12 disposal location for the greater than C type of waste,
13 and the reasons are, number one, because of our
14 extremely fragile physical environment, as we all know.
15 This reminds me a little bit of Tech Time Energy two
16 years ago that was planning to, you know, threatening,
17 if you will, to drill for oil and natural gas just
18 south of Santa Fe. Some of you may remember that, and
19 as it turned out, it was all for profit, and it was a
20 sat effort by some folks to just make money in a sad
21 way.

22 And I think this has that same feel a little

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1 bit. It was also dangerous environmentally to all of
2 us, and thank God for Governor Richardson coming back
3 and for all the local people in Santa Fe County and
4 around the state who stood up against that, and that
5 practice has been stopped, and our environmental
6 regulations were enhanced a lot.

7 So we have an extremely physical or extremely
8 fragile physical environment that can be affected by
9 this potential action.

10 Also, number two would be our mixed cultural
11 resources, as we all know that we live here. Our
12 public environment, our public communities, our regular
13 communities, farms, et cetera, in this area, it's
14 unique in all the United States, maybe in all the
15 world, but it's certainly unique in a great part of the
16 United States, our cultural environment that we have
17 here that could be greatly affected.

18 And also, number three would be our tourism-
19 based economy for northern New Mexico. A great part of
20 it, besides LANL, does bring a lot of money here,
21 although a lot of it doesn't really reach many of us
22 here. The tourism-based economy in northern New Mexico

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1 is essential that we not expose our fragile environment
2 to the potential risks that could benefit from this,
3 which could be a possible incident, an accident, a
4 seismic event, or maybe some unforeseen circumstance
5 that could affect us all if this waste is somehow
6 brought here and exposed.

7 Many here are already concerned about the
8 legacy waste from the early Los Alamos years. So 60
9 years later we're still having to deal with the legacy
10 waste that is still here with us unfortunately, and
11 that now we have a new CMRR facility that will just add
12 to that legacy waste, and we've not done a good job
13 unfortunately. You know, we're just not able locally
14 very much to get a handle on that, but the new CMRR
15 will just add to the problem, as I see it.

16 So maybe the preferred option for now would be
17 the on-site disposal might be the best until we all
18 understand or know and change our own habits and get a
19 greater solution.

20 So I'm strongly opposed to LANL being as a
21 site, but the bottom line is the health of our people
22 and the health of our environment, as people have said

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1 so eloquently tonight. It's too important to allow
2 this kind of activity in this area.

3 Thank you.

4 MR. BROWN: All right. Thanks, Tom.

5 (Applause.)

6 MR. BROWN: Is Bonnie here?

7 Okay. There were two sign-up sheets. So
8 okay. We'll make sure your name is on the other sheet
9 to receive printed materials. Okay.

10 Penelope McMullen, and then Teresa Schreck is
11 after Penelope.

12 MS. McMULLEN: I'm Penelope McMullen with the
13 Loretto community, and my comments will be brief
14 because I will be submitting longer written, extensive
15 comments.

16 The State of New Mexico agreed to allow the
17 opening of WIPP for weapons related waste on the
18 condition that waste from commercial power plants would
19 never be allowed in the waste isolation pilot plant.
20 Allowing greater-than-Class-C waste in WIPP would open
21 the door for commercial waste, and the promise DOE made
22 will be broken.

1 The State of New Mexico and New Mexico
2 citizens would never again trust federal government
3 promises and will resist any future agreements with the
4 Department of Energy. And if DOE breaks its promise,
5 then the State of New Mexico would no longer be bound
6 by its agreement to accept any waste at WIPP.

7 The Loretto community's position is that DOE
8 should develop a new environmental impact statement
9 that includes hardened on-site storage which is safer
10 than trucking the waste through our neighborhoods and
11 safer than putting the waste in WIPP, which is not
12 really as safe as DOE would like us to believe.

13 The salt beds in WIPP are not dry, and wet
14 salt corrodes containers and harsh conditions would
15 eventually cause radioactive leaks into the Pecos
16 River.

17 Also, most GTCC waste is from nuclear power
18 plants, and it is time to retire those plants and put
19 government subsidy into renewable energy sources.

20 (Applause.)

21 MS. McMULLEN: Which some European nations are
22 now doing precisely because the waste is too big a

1 problem. It's time we wake up.

2 Thank you.

3 MR. BROWN: Okay.

4 (Applause.)

5 MR. BROWN: Gary here. Okay. Thanks.

6 Teresa. Okay, and Miguel Moreno will follow.

7 MS. SCHRECK: I know everybody has been trying
8 to wrap their mind around this one, you know. I think
9 I've been --

10 MR. BROWN: I'm sorry. Speak into the
11 microphone a little, a little more.

12 MS. SCHRECK: Oh, can you hear me?

13 MR. BROWN: Okay. Good. Thanks.

14 MS. SCHRECK: I said I know people have been
15 trying to wrap their minds around this one. I think we
16 have for a long time.

17 It's always, you know -- it's a saddening
18 situation, you know, that we have to, you know, kind of
19 waste our time coming here because in some ways you
20 want to keep and protect what you have. You know, the
21 promises which they make which are always broken, and
22 you look and you say, "Where is the real issue for New

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1 Mexico and what is it that we're really looking at?"

2 I think that, you know, part of their
3 continuous efforts to create a place to store high
4 level waste or Class C waste or whatever it is anymore,
5 I don't even -- I can't even follow what class the
6 waste is anymore.

7 But I do know one thing. I know the impacts
8 that it's having on our community and especially the
9 indigenous and traditional communities of New Mexico
10 and the cultural impacts that it has to our communities
11 and, you know, the lack of DOE's and the lack of
12 respect that it has had for our communities, and never
13 putting forth our communities and the needs that we
14 need.

15 It's a shame when we, people that have been
16 here long before anybody else was, that --

17 (Applause.)

18 MS. SCHRECK: -- you know, we have to come
19 here and feel like we're sitting in the welfare line
20 once again, you know, asking for, you know, for
21 participation. And, you know, it's heartening because,
22 you know, as New Mexico is changing because New Mexico

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1 is changing, and you know, the people that are getting
2 left behind are our communities. It's our communities.
3 It's the indigenous and traditional communities and the
4 people that have lived here forever, you know, that are
5 -- that are getting impacted, and Los Alamos doesn't
6 care. It never has cared.

7 Because it all comes down to money. There's
8 where it all goes down to. It goes down to, you know,
9 where is the money. It has nothing to do with
10 alternative.

11 Look what happened in Japan, and those people
12 were promised, I mean, literally promised that they
13 were safe. And then they want us to believe that we're
14 safe. There ain't no safety in this kind of stuff.
15 And we know that if anything ever happens at WIPP,
16 that's "caliche" (phonetic). They'll never trace the
17 contamination. They can't contain the contamination,
18 and yet they want us to believe, want us to believe
19 that it's safe.

20 Safe for who? Safe for the hundreds of
21 thousands of cancers that we deal with every day in our
22 communities, things that we've never seen, cancers in

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1 our children?

2 When in the world did you ever imagine that
3 you would have to face seeing your child or your
4 grandchild or your niece or your nephew or your cousin
5 with cancer?

6 How many people were compensated after the
7 Cerro fires? They send us away to hunt, and yet people
8 have to grow because what? It's not a green economy
9 for us. It's a way of life. It's what we call
10 sustainable. It's the new word, "green." This is the
11 way we've lived all our life. We've planted, hunted,
12 fished and did all the rest.

13 And then I look at here, that if they can't
14 send it and give it to us, now they're going to send it
15 to people like Hanford? Well, those are our brothers
16 and sisters. They live along the Columbia River. They
17 hunt and fish for their substance and their survival.

18 They're talking about sending it to Savannah
19 where our African brothers and sisters are trying to
20 survive. You know, I mean, yeah, don't put it in our
21 backyard, but don't give to anybody else. If you've
22 got the world's best scientists in the world, why don't

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1 you create something else? Why do you have to come and
2 dump your trash in our yards? Why do you have to come
3 and give us the trash that you try to convince us that
4 that is the best way that we and the best and safe and
5 creates no foot -- carbon footprint or anything,
6 nuclear energy? Why?

7 Come on. Let's get real. I mean, this is --
8 you know, it has not only gotten old, but I think as,
9 you know, indigenous and traditional communities and
10 rural communities, we need to stand up and start saying
11 no more. You know, this is already pathetic. It's
12 gotten old, you know.

13 And the only thing is, is that we see the
14 cancer rates growing in our community, and we see the
15 contaminations of our water, land, food, and everything
16 else, and our traditional ways of life. So I think
17 that it's, you know, a part of DOE that not only should
18 they have these kind of meetings, but they ought to
19 consider having strictly meetings with community
20 representatives. Don't always just look to the
21 officials, you know. It's the communities that are
22 being impacted. It's us that are planting the gardens.

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1 It's us that have to go out there and water, you know.
2 It's us, the people that actually live in the
3 community, that aren't always in your offices. We are
4 the people that you've got to talk to. We are the
5 people you should be meeting with, and we shouldn't
6 have to always meet in this kind of situation, but I
7 know it's the only one, the only way that was created
8 because, believe me, I've been struggling in this
9 struggle for years and fighting for them to bring this
10 kind of hearings to our community.

11 Thank you.

12 MR. BROWN: Thank you.

13 (Applause.)

14 MR. BROWN: Okay. Miguel is next and Mary
15 Green will follow.

16 MR. MORENO: Where to start, where to start,
17 where to start. Thanks, everybody. (Speaking in
18 foreign language.)

19 And you know, them talking about bringing in
20 -- them talking about bringing any kind of a -- any
21 more of this nuclear waste into our community is just
22 -- you know, it's insane. Just for me to grasp, you

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1 know, the thought of it, you know, the fact that we
2 have Los Alamos up there in the CMRR building and now
3 them trying to propose to, you know, to put \$180
4 billion into, you know, refurbishing the new CMRR
5 building is just -- you know, it's -- it's insane, you
6 know.

7 I get really overwhelmed whenever I think
8 about, you know, my son and the future generations and
9 our community, especially with them wanting to bring
10 170 billion Curies of greater-than-Class-C nuclear
11 waste to our communities, you know, with the fact that
12 Los Alamos is at the top of our -- you know, at the top
13 of our mountain and, you know, gravity flows downhill,
14 and for the simple fact in Espanola they have already
15 shut down four of nine wells because of uranium
16 contamination. It is just outrageous.

17 You know, the Manhattan Project, they invested
18 \$20 billion into the Manhattan Project, and we're
19 already looking -- we're already looking at tripling
20 that just with the -- just with the redevelopment of
21 the new CMRR FN building, and you know, it's outrageous
22 for us to even think about bringing these kind of

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1 devastations into our community.

2 Let's talk about WIPP, the waste isolation
3 pilot plant. It only has the capacity to hold what, 50
4 billion Curies of radioactive material? And they're
5 talking about bringing three times that amount into our
6 communities, and it's just, you know, it's outrageous,
7 and I would like, you know, my voice to be heard and,
8 you know, my community's voices to be heard because
9 we're sick of the death and destruction of our
10 communities, our children dying, our elders, you know,
11 coming up with rare cancers and, you know, them just
12 looking at us and saying, "Well, what is it that you
13 want us to do?"

14 We want you guys to come into our communities
15 and develop systems in order to -- in order to protect
16 us. We need health surveys developed so that we're
17 able to really find statistics and develop statistics
18 around these -- around these health issues that are
19 going on here in the community, especially here in
20 northern New Mexico.

21 And, yeah, it's just -- it's chaos, death,
22 destruction and profiteering.

1 MR. BROWN: Okay.

2 MR. MORENO: Thank you.

3 MR. BROWN:

4 Thank you.

5 (Applause.)

6 MR. BROWN: Okay. Hi. Mary Green and
7 Clarissa Duran will be after Mary.

8 MS. MARY GREEN: I'm Mary Green. I'm the
9 daughter of Colonel Robert Beauregard Green, former
10 field commander, U.S. -- 5th U.S. Air Force, Vietnam,
11 who was a squadron commander in Kansas for a missile
12 silo squadron.

13 That's when I first, before I was 16, started
14 learning about nuclear, and so drove all the way down
15 tonight from Taos because I'm very passionate about
16 this, and I'd like you to know that I have a swollen
17 thyroid, and we will never know if it was from my
18 childhood, being around the missile silos, being able
19 to go as a guest into them and see them or if it was
20 the fire from Los Alamos because it came after that.

21 And that's one of the things that as you look
22 at anything nuclear, nuclear weapons or nuclear power,

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1 we all know you will have a multitude of cancers
2 following it, and you will never really know.

3 At this point in time, we do -- we cannot
4 track it. Now, 500 years from now the casings that
5 they want to put in, put the nuclear waste in, are
6 supposed to deteriorate. Maybe by then we'll have a
7 better understanding.

8 There have been many things that have been
9 suggested tonight. The DOE has been called out on a
10 number of things. I really commend everyone who spoke
11 tonight with their great factual knowledge. I can
12 listen to it and retain it, but I don't have it written
13 down and I can't give it back to you. I can just tell
14 you that it seems very clear to me that transportation
15 of nuclear waste is not sensible. It's not financially
16 sensible, and it's not going to be a humane thing to
17 truck nuclear waste here and there.

18 It also seems very clear to me that the WIPP
19 containment, Area G -- I believe that's the name of it
20 -- at Los Alamos is questionable, and no one -- well,
21 there may have been one person tonight who wanted this
22 horror brought into our community -- but in general, we

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1 do not want it, and I'm here having lived in the
2 military as a child with a great understanding that the
3 military and the government, with good intentions, are
4 simply not equipped to live up to the sensitivity and
5 the strictness necessary for taking care of or
6 containing these wastes.

7 I completely believe the photograph of the
8 barrels that didn't sink that were shot with shotguns
9 and put into the water table here. I know also that
10 nuclear is one of the most expensive situations mankind
11 has ever faced: Chernobyl, Fukushima.

12 But even here, my son who was born with a
13 birth defect, and we can't say that that goes back to
14 the military or being around the missiles, is a river
15 guide. He's quite a heroic person who has overcome his
16 handicap, and he takes the LANL scientists down every
17 summer on the river, and the amount of money for that
18 trip alone for the scientists to take water samples,
19 and it's done every year, and there's all kinds of
20 groundwater that has to be tested all the time, we're
21 not being sensible here.

22 I have one last question. Can I make

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1 photocopies, Xerox copies of these or do I have to have
2 your official one?

3 PARTICIPANT: She can use that.

4 MS. MARY GREEN: I can use this?

5 MR. BROWN: That's the comment form?

6 MS. MARY GREEN: We'll give you as many as I
7 possibly can.

8 MR. BROWN: Okay. All right. It's like
9 voting in Chicago, right?

10 (Applause.)

11 MR. BROWN: Okay. Clarissa Duran and Kathleen
12 Sanchez will be next.

13 MS. DURAN: Hi, everybody. Sorry to say that
14 we're seeing each other under these circumstances, but
15 it is good to see all of you.

16 For those of you who don't know me, I have
17 been working with community organizations on these
18 issues for -- since I was a student at Northern back in
19 1997.

20 Tonight I'd like to do three things. That is
21 to pay my respects, to create some imagination, and
22 some magic. And so the first thing I'd like to do is

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1 ask this audience to take one moment of silence for
2 every person -- to show our respect to every person
3 from our communities that we know who has cancer or who
4 has died from cancer.

5 For those of you who aren't from these
6 communities, respect for the fact that so many workers
7 have fallen, have given their lives. They are truly
8 Cold War patriots. So I'd like to start with that.

9 (Pause in proceedings.)

10 MS. DURAN: The next thing I'd like to do is
11 use my imagination and rather than following your
12 process of what an EIS is, is -- well, for me coming
13 here is you telling me what you want to do or what
14 you're going to do, and as far as we, the communities,
15 will allow you to do. And when I say "we," I mean
16 those who are in charge both in Congress and at the
17 DOE.

18 And so I would like to tell you what I want
19 tonight, and these are things that I just came up with
20 while I was listening to everybody else, which thank
21 you so much for your incredible comments.

22 The first thing is that I would like the labs'

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1 mission to change from threatening life to supporting
2 life, including new energy solutions which would help
3 the world to become nuclear free and carbon free.

4 Two, I would like for LANL to clean up all of
5 the waste that it has created, especially those from
6 nuclear materials and beryllium.

7 Three, I would like for LANL, the DOE, our
8 Congress, our people to guarantee the safety of all
9 LANL workers so that we have no more who are either
10 affected or dying.

11 Number four, I would like for the DOE, our
12 country to pay all the outstanding claims from the sick
13 and dying workers at all of our national labs.

14 Five, I would like for LANL to begin a true
15 dialogue and the DOE with surrounding communities in
16 northern New Mexico, and one of the things I would like
17 for you to do in creating that true dialogue is to pay
18 -- I don't know -- 20 people a salary of 80, 90,
19 \$100,000 a year to organize our communities, to help
20 bring them the education about what is really going on
21 up at LANL and why our way of life before the 1930s has
22 been destroyed.

1 I'd like for the DOE, for this country to pay
2 for the education of all northern New Mexico residents
3 at Northern New Mexico College, which is a smaller
4 college, but really supports our communities.

5 I would like for the DOE and this country to
6 pay for the health care, including alternative and
7 traditional medicines of all northern New Mexicans.

8 I would like for the DOE and our country to
9 become aware of local traditions and respect them.

10 And lastly, for now, in this meeting -- maybe
11 in the next EIS I'll come up with some new things I
12 want you to do -- to become an entity that serves
13 humanity rather than the interests of corporations who
14 would rape and destroy for money, for power all of us
15 and this entire earth.

16 And so the last thing I'd like to do while I'm
17 up here for as much time as I have is to create some
18 magic, and to do that I would like each one of you to
19 take about 30 to 60 seconds, close your eyes, and think
20 about what would happen if tomorrow you woke up and
21 LANL was no longer -- had anything to do with creating
22 bombs or anything that had to do with the war industry

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1 and instead was doing things to help all of humanity.

2 So will you do that with me? Just think about
3 what it would be like to wake up tomorrow knowing that
4 those workers would be going to jobs they really wanted
5 to go to and that our community would be well and how
6 beautiful it would be without LANL and its terrible
7 waste.

8 (Pause in proceedings.)

9 MS. DURAN: When you have finished thinking
10 about what it would be like without LANL and its
11 terrible waste, I'd like for you to turn to your
12 neighbor and tell them one or two things that you --
13 are really important to you that you saw when you
14 closed your eyes because this way we can make what's in
15 our hearts real when we speak that truth.

16 MR. BROWN: Okay. Thanks very much.

17 We've got seven -- talk to your neighbors. I
18 just wanted to say --

19 MS. DURAN: Have I used all of my minutes?

20 MR. BROWN: They --

21 MS. DURAN: Have I used all of my minutes?

22 MR. BROWN: Yes. In fact, you're over by two,

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1 and we've got seven more speakers. So --

2 MS. DURAN: Okay. I apologize.

3 MR. BROWN: I want to make sure everybody has
4 a chance to speak.

5 MS. DURAN: All right. You still can talk to
6 each other --

7 MR. BROWN: Okay. That's fine.

8 MS. DURAN: -- regardless of what they say up
9 here. Thank you, everybody, for creating that magic.

10 (Applause.)

11 MR. BROWN: Okay. Kathleen Sanchez is next
12 and David Bacon will follow.

13 MS. SANCHEZ: (Speaking foreign language.)
14 This is an art piece at the Environmental Health and
15 Justice People, our environmental group at Tewa Women
16 United made, and it says you can't bury the truth, and
17 I think it's a very visual way that we have of showing
18 our trust in our Creator that truth can't be buried.
19 You have to speak the truth. You have to live truth,
20 and by being that, you're not able to be cocooned into
21 not doing anything about what's harming your people.

22 And I'm also up here representing, well, Tewa

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1 Women United, our women's organization, and our mission
2 is to stop violence against -- all forms of violence
3 against Native women and Mother Earth and to promote
4 peace. We're a 501(c)(3), a women's organization, a
5 women's organization that took up the task of
6 educating, protecting our young mothers and our
7 families from what is seen as the monster or the
8 monster on the hill, and that it's consuming our
9 children.

10 And statistics went out saying that San
11 Idelfonso where I'm from -- that's right where Los
12 Alamos has flopped into our sacred lands -- is now --
13 has an increase of deaths and decrease in births. So
14 something is happening to our ability to promote our
15 way of being and to be present here, and the lab only
16 came up being here less than 65 years, and yet we're
17 already dying because of their business.

18 And talking about the draft EIS, being born
19 here in San Idelfonso, we got to see the beginnings of
20 the Manhattan Project and all through its lifetime what
21 they considered doing, environmental impact statements,
22 and knowing that the people that had worked on draft

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1 environmental impact statements or impact statements,
2 being told they cannot talk to the people, that their
3 findings are supposed to be based on papers that were
4 already published or that were in -- that were allowed
5 to be there, so meaning that they're not true EIS
6 statements, and things have happened.

7 And so the draft that we are looking at now is
8 based upon a draft or EIS statements that were false
9 and don't cover present truths. So there are some
10 hidings that are happening about the truth.

11 And sad to say, but the United States has been
12 the last country in 2007 to recognize indigenous
13 peoples as human beings. So up until 2007, we were
14 natural resources, just like our Mother Earth's
15 elements that they use to create the war weapons. And
16 so they disregarded us as disposable people and now
17 signs of that are showing up.

18 And as women and mothers, we know that a lot
19 of the disposal sites, Area G, the plume is spreading
20 and our children are getting sick. Mother Earth is
21 getting sick. The waters are getting contaminated.
22 Our aquifers whose ability to give life started

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1 millions of years ago, billions of years ago. Yet
2 within that short business of producing weapons, war
3 weaponry and the affiliated chain of that industry is
4 sickening our way of life, our life in general, our
5 life all around on everybody.

6 And Mother Earth, whom we regard as our mother
7 for promoting all life, is sick, sick and dying, and
8 we're also sick and dying because of the nuclear
9 contamination using a natural resources, considered
10 resource, I guess, but a life giver for us in a
11 negative way. So the culture of violence uses our
12 energy, the energy to give life to create a burden on
13 us so that in our dying they can reach out and use the
14 same technology to say they're healing us, which is
15 going round and round, catching your tail in a crazy,
16 crazy way.

17 I don't know. How many minutes?

18 MR. BROWN: You're just about out of time. So
19 if you have one point to make.

20 MS. SANCHEZ: Oh. So I guess what Clarissa
21 asked us to do was think up solutions for energies and
22 how we're going to use it in a positive way instead of

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1 a negative way, and so using radioactivity that is
2 natural in an unhealthy way is sickening, and we're
3 dying from it. So let's stop that madness now.

4 So "gooda" (phonetic).

5 MR. BROWN: Fine. Thank you.

6 (Applause.)

7 MR. BROWN: David Bacon and Thea Spaeth, I
8 believe, is after you. Fine.

9 MR. BACON: I'm David Bacon.

10 Part of me has to admit I always think of
11 Homer Simpson at these things, you know, just the total
12 duffus aspect of what we're doing because we throw away
13 in this country 60 percent of our energy. We just
14 waste it. It's thrown away.

15 The Four Corners Coal Plant only produces 33
16 percent of the energy that they burn. The other 70
17 percent is just thrown away.

18 With nuclear we don't really know what that
19 figure is. We don't know how inefficient nuclear is,
20 but it's inefficient at every level of its existence,
21 from the mining, from the processing.

22 The original nuclear plant in Hanford still --

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1 which was built to supply the Manhattan Project to make
2 the bomb -- when you put a scintillometer on coyote
3 scat in Hanford it just goes off the charts. It's that
4 bad still.

5 We're at a process where nuclear has poisoned
6 so much of the earth, the air, the water and our bodies
7 that this is an addition that is so outrageous that DOE
8 is coming and saying, "Well, we've got a little more
9 waste. We need to put it somewhere. So can we just
10 dump it there?"

11 The alternatives, well, I was at Jeff
12 Bingaman's Committee on Global Warming in the Colorado
13 River Basin and the Rio Grande River basin yesterday,
14 and it was clear from that testimony that we're
15 crashing and burning, and we're crashing and burning
16 hard. It's clear that we're facing serious, serious
17 problems now in our river basins with climate change.

18 I think that Bingaman, if he just took the six
19 billion that's going to go into CMRR and put it into a
20 ten-year plan to create restorative solutions, we could
21 do it with that much money. That would be \$600 million
22 a year to create clean energy, to restore grasslands,

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1 to restore our waters, to restore everything that we
2 need to restore, our farmlands, to survive.

3 It's very little money, but that's going into
4 a giant chunk of concrete and a completely needless
5 bomb production facility. The waste that we're talking
6 about just to have DOE hold these hearings and just to
7 have DOE be looking at shipping this much waste to our
8 communities, what does that add to the cost of the
9 kilowatt hour with nuclear power plants?

10 We've never known how expensive nuclear power
11 plants are because they're all designed to run to
12 failure. There's no other way they can run. We've
13 already seen it in Fukushima which, granted, had some
14 outside influences. All our nuclear plants are going
15 to run to failure.

16 Los Alamos has run to failure for years now.
17 It has just hidden that fact with massive amounts of
18 money, massive amounts of PR, massive amounts of
19 meetings like this, massive amount of, as Kathy said,
20 trying to bury the truth.

21 When we look at clean solutions which are
22 sustainable, there's no need to lie about them.

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1 There's no need to lie about solar panels, solar
2 thermal. There's no need to lie about the biomass
3 resources that we have in the forests in northern New
4 Mexico. The jobs that could be created putting people
5 to work creating sustainable solutions in energy,
6 grassland restoration, sustainable farming are off the
7 charts basically, but we're not putting our money
8 there.

9 We're still wrapped up in these kinds of
10 situations where we're talking about an energy
11 generation situation that was doomed from the get-go,
12 and it has just been 65 years of massive PR and money
13 thrown into trying to claim that it's all okay.

14 MR. BROWN: Okay. One minute left.

15 MR. BACON: We have to, I think, I feel, and I
16 know we all feel this way, take the money that we've
17 thrown into this nuclear rat hole and put it now into a
18 different situation. We have to put it into restoring
19 the planet.

20 We're going to be facing drought situations
21 that are beyond anyone's comprehension. If we don't
22 start getting ready for that situation right now and if

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1 we don't start putting money right on the ground in our
2 communities with people that know about their own local
3 watersheds, their own local needs, then we're going to
4 fail as a species, and it's going to be a bad failure.

5 I feel like all of us should be insisting now
6 that not one more nickel be put into anything new in
7 nuclear power, that it all be put into stopping this
8 process, cleaning up what we have, and then creating
9 the solutions that we all know. As you said, Clarissa,
10 it's not something that hasn't been known for hundreds
11 and hundreds of years.

12 We have to insist now though that this become
13 the new way the Department of Energy spends our tax
14 dollars, for legitimate reclamation and life giving
15 solutions.

16 Thank you.

17 MR. BROWN: Okay. Thank you.

18 (Applause.)

19 MR. BROWN: Okay. Teresa is next and Maria
20 Chilton will follow.

21 MS. SPAETH: Hello. Thank you.

22 My name is Thea.

1 MR. BROWN: Okay. Thea?

2 MS. SPAETH: Yes.

3 MR. BROWN: Okay.

4 MS. SPAETH: Thea Spaeth, and I represent
5 several organizations: womanhood, motherhood, animal
6 and plant life because -- and the earth itself because
7 all of that is part of my body. I represent oceanic
8 creatures and insects, too, whether we like them or
9 not.

10 I'd like to talk about, first of all, what the
11 DOE has come here specifically on. I agree with many
12 of the speakers here that the waste should be kept on
13 site where it's created. If the large populations are
14 wanting nuclear energy to supply them, the areas around
15 Chicago I know have several nuclear power plants. They
16 should keep their own waste.

17 I also think that your choices of bore holes
18 and trenches are not only unacceptable. They're
19 ridiculous because all of the other sites that you've
20 located in here, Hanford, Los Alamos, Savannah, they
21 already have trenches, and they're already polluting
22 our environment, and many people have already discussed

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1 that. So I don't think that they are acceptable.

2 Next, I want to talk about the issue of the
3 gentleman who was supporting the facility based on the
4 medical radioactive waste. I choose to work for
5 myself, my family, my neighbors, my state, my country
6 to live and work towards eating and living in a health
7 manner so as to live a healthy life and, with God's
8 blessing, to come to a healthy death. Our modern way
9 of life is unhealthy, which leads to the need for such
10 medical testing. Our fear-based way of life
11 contributes as well.

12 The Hippocratic Oath is to first do no harm.
13 If the trash from medical testing is nuclear
14 radioactive waste, then doctors are choosing poorly. I
15 choose to live and die as God intends, over getting an
16 MRI or whatever such test produces this waste.

17 Next, to the points of the discussion in
18 general. The Department of Energy, what is that? Most
19 of what we have in our society is defined on where the
20 money goes. If you look at the budget for the
21 Department of Energy, most of it goes to testing for
22 nuclear energy and for weapons research and for a

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1 handful of other things, but very little money actually
2 goes to alternative energy resource investments.

3 So I agree with many of the other people that
4 with our brain capacities and with our financial
5 investments, we can make a great dent on other
6 possibilities.

7 But also the Department of Energy focused on
8 how to create more. Now, I know this intimately
9 because my mother is a nuclear physicist and she works
10 on the NIF Project, and I believe that NIF has some
11 unique possibilities, but it is so young and so in the
12 research and development stages that this is not the
13 waste that the Department of Energy is actually
14 discussing, and NIF supposedly will burn waste and not
15 create it.

16 But you're talking about waste that is a
17 future waste. On page 1 you talk about less than ten
18 percent of the total volume is currently in storage.
19 Most of the waste will be generated for several --
20 won't be generated for several decades. So let's talk
21 about generating that next waste.

22 The Department of Energy is unbalanced. It's

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1 focusing on creating energy for the world, for the
2 future, for global warming, for water drought, for how
3 will be provide for our refrigerators and for our
4 commercial load. Nobody is talking, and not even the
5 Department of Energy about conservation. Not even the
6 conservative political party is talking about
7 conserving.

8 During the California energy crisis I heard
9 that through voluntary turning off of power and through
10 smart usage of power that they reduced their use load
11 enough that if sustained, they could have shut down
12 seven power plants.

13 So if we can conserve, we don't have to have
14 such a conversation. Now, if we're talking about
15 India's growing energy needs, let's talk about it
16 without the pollutants and toxic variabilities of
17 nuclear.

18 Thank you.

19 MR. BROWN: Thank you.

20 (Applause.)

21 MR. BROWN: Okay. That doesn't seem to --

22 PARTICIPANT: It's only one more speaker. I

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1 think the duct tape will last.

2 MR. BROWN: Okay. All right. Very good.

3 Okay. This is Maria Chilton, and Rebecca Ortega will
4 be after you.

5 MS. CHILTON: Hi. I'm Maria Chilton, and I
6 was born and raised in Dixon, and I recently moved back
7 to Dixon to raise my son, and I want to feel like it's
8 a good place to raise him, and I am oftentimes afraid
9 that it's not.

10 I'm totally unprepared to speak. I have a
11 huge fear of speaking in front of people, but it's not
12 near the fear that I feel with nuclear industry.

13 I just want to say I feel like all these
14 beautiful, brave people who came tonight have spoken
15 what I've had in my heart, and I just came up in case
16 my voice means anything. I also fear that it doesn't.
17 I fear that the big machine, the power, the money
18 industry goes ahead and does what they want to do.
19 Those are my fears.

20 My hopes encourage me to come up and just add
21 my voice, and just I am another mother like many
22 mothers, and I just want to -- I just want to live life

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1 and I want to see a healthy planet, healthy waters,
2 healthy air, and this stuff doesn't need to be in our
3 backyard or anyone's backyard.

4 Thank you.

5 MR. BROWN: Thank you.

6 (Applause.)

7 MR. BROWN: Okay. Rebecca and David Garcia
8 will be after you.

9 MS. ORTEGA: My name is Rebecca Ortega, and I
10 am a tribal member from --

11 MR. BROWN: Can you move the mic down just a
12 little?

13 MS. ORTEGA: Oh.

14 MR. BROWN: That's good. Thank you.

15 MS. ORTEGA: I'll start again. (Speaking in
16 foreign language.) Can you hear me? (Speaking in
17 foreign language.)

18 My name is Rebecca Ortega, and I am from Santa
19 Clara Pueblo. I'm a tribal member from Santa Clara
20 Pueblo, and I come today here to speak with all of you
21 out of respect for our Mother Earth and for all of us
22 here because here in New Mexico we as Native Americans

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1 and as Spanish people and all the people that are here,
2 we are indigenous people to our country here in the
3 United States of America and particularly here in New
4 Mexico.

5 Let's see. Where am I?

6 My -- my -- my question is: did we not learn
7 from what we've been watching on TV what happened in
8 Japan? Did we not learn; did we not see all these
9 people destroyed, torn away from their homes, from
10 their homeland? Because to me northern New Mexico,
11 this is our homeland. Where else are we going to go?
12 Are we all going to move to Connecticut if New Mexico
13 is condemned? Do you think we can all move to Texas or
14 maybe to -- I don't know -- Montana or I don't know.
15 Where would we go, you know?

16 If we do not stand up for ourselves, if we do
17 not protect our homeland, then who do we have to blame?
18 What are we going to say when our children and our
19 grandchildren are born in the coming generations, in
20 the decades that we're talking about, when, oh, well,
21 none of this stuff will show up for decades?

22 Okay. Well, who's going to be here then?

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1 Probably we're going to be in our 80s and 90s maybe.
2 Our grandchildren will be here, and what are they going
3 to say to us? "Mom, Dad, Grandma, Grandpa, how come
4 you didn't take care of our -- our -- our land? Why
5 are we sick? Why is it that we have no money to go for
6 medical care? How come the government cut back all
7 Indian Health Service? How come the government cut
8 back Medicare and all the health programs?"

9 And what are we going to say? What's going to
10 happen? The government people, do you know where
11 they've all gone with their big money? They've all
12 moved to Dubai. They're all living in heaven over
13 there. And what about us?

14 You know, I really think that this just not --
15 no common sense to this whole thing. It's so
16 ridiculous, and for myself, I say absolutely no. We do
17 not accept anybody else's waste from another state. We
18 shouldn't even be having to deal with the waste from
19 Los Alamos. Why should we?

20 (Applause.)

21 MS. ORTEGA: You know, you talk about
22 promises. You talk about the government will take care

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1 of it. Guess what. They haven't. We have so many
2 broken promises.

3 On top of that, have you guys been watching
4 World News with Diane Sawyer? What's happening? We're
5 all suffering, oh, \$3.56, maybe some parts of New
6 Mexico \$4.00 per gallon, but guess what. A small two
7 second blurb on World News. Oh, the oil companies are
8 making a \$2.5 billion profit, up to \$5 billion profit.
9 What about the rest of us? We're suffering.

10 How many people are afraid right now. We
11 can't go anywhere; we can't do anything. They can
12 barely make it to work, maybe on fumes, but guess what.
13 The oil companies are making good money. They have a
14 \$2.5 billion profit. If you don't believe me, go to
15 World News. Check out Diane Sawyer. I think it was
16 just this past week.

17 So tell me how much can we really trust the
18 government when they say, "Oh, we're bringing in this,
19 this waste and don't worry. We've taken care of it.
20 It's not going to affect you." I don't have that trust
21 in them, and I'm saying absolutely not. We do not
22 accept anybody else's waste. Let them take care of it

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1 in their own state or wherever they processed it,
2 wherever they made their money. Let them deal with it.
3 I don't want any part of it.

4 I don't want it for myself. I don't want it
5 for my tribe. I don't want it for my kids. I don't
6 want it for my grandchildren, my great grandchildren or
7 even future generations.

8 The other --

9 MR. BROWN: You've got a little less than a
10 minute.

11 MS. ORTEGA: The other most important thing
12 that I want to talk about is being that I am from Santa
13 Clara Pueblo, we live together and we speak our
14 language and we sing our songs and we have our dances.
15 We have our traditions. We have our culture.

16 Now, if Los Alamos says, "Okay. You know
17 what? All you people from Santa Clara, sorry to tell
18 you but your land is condemned, and for your own safety
19 you're going to have to move on to other places," who
20 is going to accept two to 3,000 of us to come together
21 so that we can continue our traditions, our culture,
22 our dances and our language? Where are we going to go?

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1 So I think there's a lot at stake for all of
2 us here, and what I would like to say is respect for
3 life is above and beyond. Respect for each other,
4 absolutely necessary. Respect for our children, we are
5 the mothers. We are the fathers. We are the
6 caretakers. Absolutely respect for our children, and
7 respect for our Mother Earth because she sustains us,
8 and above and beyond everything, respect for what our
9 Lord has given us. He has given us this to cherish, to
10 use, and to respect.

11 So you know what? We all need to think about
12 that. Is it the almighty dollar or is it respect for
13 our families, our future generations, and respect for
14 what our beautiful Lord has given us and blessed us
15 with?

16 MR. BROWN: Okay.

17 MS. ORTEGA: Thank you.

18 MR. BROWN: Thank you.

19 (Applause.)

20 MR. BROWN: Okay. David Garcia and then
21 Patricia Trujillo.

22 MR. GARCIA: Good evening, everyone. My name

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1 is David Garcia. I'm from the community of San Antonio
2 Del Guache, and I just have a couple of comments that I
3 would like to speak with your permission.

4 And I think that's a very key thing, is asking
5 a sense that we all come to hear, and we have a sense
6 that we respect everybody else that's in the room. And
7 so I invoke a very important question that a feminist
8 anthropologist by the name of Gayatri Spivak brought
9 up, and she asked, "Can the subalterns speak?"

10 And what this mean is can marginalized,
11 disenfranchises people be heard? And so I ask you
12 that.

13 And so in many ways when I in many times
14 reading, I ask people here, how many of you have read
15 EIS reports and read the comments and read the
16 community responses. Are those community responses
17 being heard?

18 I come here tonight representing an idea. In
19 many Indo-Hispano communities we have an idea which is
20 called "resolana." "Resolana" is a space where people
21 dialogue. It's meaningful dialogue. Many times it's
22 the traditional space where people learn. What it is

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1 is in the morning time when the sun comes up over the
2 mountains, people gather outside of their houses on the
3 southern facing wall, and they have meaningful
4 conversations of what's going to happen in that day.

5 In many ways I feel what's going on here is
6 not meaningful dialogue. I think it's many times
7 monologue when we look at many of these EIS reports
8 which are volume upon volume, and many times our
9 comments that we offer up for a lot of these management
10 companies, bureaucratic institutions to kind of take
11 our public comment, and they just add it to an
12 appendix. They add it to the last volume of a ten or
13 15 volume document.

14 And I think is that a sense dialogue? And so
15 we have to question that. Many times do we need to
16 change the forum? Does it have to be -- in many ways a
17 lot of times the forum that we encounter is a forum
18 that doesn't allow our communities enough time to
19 respond. It doesn't allow the institutions, the
20 laboratories enough time to respond to us because I
21 think that's more important, I think, because they take
22 a very short time to respond to our responses when, in

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1 fact, there needs to be ample amount of time for these
2 institutions to respond to our comments.

3 And many times I come to think about are these
4 EIS reports dialogues or do they represent monologues,
5 and finally, in terms of thinking about what many
6 people have brought up tonight is meaningful dialogue.
7 Is this what we really want?

8 And I think the answer is yes. And I think
9 what has to happen within this is that we have a
10 community that is highly formally educated, and I think
11 it's time for these communities that are highly
12 formally educated to come into our community and start
13 taking classes.

14 It's time --

15 (Applause.)

16 MR. GARCIA: -- for them to start taking
17 classes from us in terms of being able to respond in an
18 adequate, culturally relevant way to our comments.

19 And so that's all I had to say. Thank you
20 very much, and God bless you.

21 MR. BROWN: Okay.

22 (Applause.)

1 MR. BROWN: Okay, and Patricia Trujillo.

2 MS. TRUJILLO: (Speaking in foreign language.)

3 Good evening. My name is Dr. Patricia Trujillo. I am
4 a professor of literature, Chicano and Chicana
5 literature and Native American literature.

6 And I actually missed the beginning of this
7 meeting because I was teaching a class at Northern New
8 Mexico College, and so I come to speak to you all from
9 the perspective not of hearing the discourse, but being
10 familiar with it, but also as a community educator.

11 It's really difficult to live and work in this
12 area and to work with students in terms of creating
13 opportunity and envisioning and empowering them to be
14 stewards of their community, to want to work for the
15 community, and to want to have healthy lives for
16 themselves and for their families in this community
17 when we're inheriting the pollution from the years of
18 Los Alamos National Lab that's already been in
19 existence, but also this whole new proposition of
20 inheriting basically the nation's nuclear garbage.

21 (Speaking in foreign language.) I was born
22 and raised in the Espanola Valley. My mom is from Del

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1 Guache. My dad is from Taos, and one of the things I
2 know in terms of going away to earn my Ph.D. and to
3 come back to want to serve my community is that we live
4 in an area of great contradiction.

5 Los Alamos County is one of the wealthiest
6 counties in the nation, while Rio Arriba County is one
7 of the poorest. We live in one of the most culturally
8 diverse and culturally rich areas. We have multiple
9 land-based cultures that have lived with mutuality and
10 interdependence for centuries, but the nuclear industry
11 seeks to destroy that which we hold sacred: our
12 mountains, our water, our air, our bodies.

13 We are told that Los Alamos must be protected
14 for our economic viability, but our communities have
15 always traditionally been sustainable, and we have
16 survived for centuries like that.

17 Ironically we were never at economic risk
18 until LANL made us dependent on the cash economy that
19 it superimposed on us.

20 (Applause.)

21 MS. TRUJILLO: So when I left here ten years
22 ago and recently returned last summer, I came back with

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1 a knowledge that was infused with me not only by my
2 parents and my family and my community, but now with
3 the support of having read for many, many years and
4 many, many theorists and working with many wonderful
5 thinkers, and I fundamentally believe that education is
6 a pathway to liberation.

7 But my consciousness is consistently
8 challenged by the obstacles that we are asked to face
9 as community members who are being challenged by this
10 giant, right? It's the David and Goliath situation.

11 As a young indigenous educator, committed to
12 helping students be stewards of their community, I am
13 burdened by the contradictions that DOE and the U.S.
14 government impose on us. In my Chicano studies classes
15 and in my Native studies classes I ask my students four
16 essential questions:

17 How do we learn to be human?

18 How do we behave as good relatives?

19 How do we become good ancestors?

20 And how do we learn to live again?

21 If I may be bold enough to impose myself as a
22 warrior educator on the Department of Education, I

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1 would like to ask you to reflect on these same
2 questions and think if the GTCC is the way that we
3 learn to become more human, if it's the way that the
4 U.S. government acts as good relatives, if it's the way
5 that the U.S. government becomes good ancestors to
6 Chicano and indigenous populations, and if it is truly
7 the way that we learn to live again.

8 And in connecting to what David was saying in
9 terms of how do we start to have a meaningful dialogue
10 rather than monologue is that I would like to volunteer
11 myself and hopefully other people in the audience, is
12 as an expert in cultural studies I would be more than
13 willing to go and do trainings with the Department of
14 Energy so we can start having more meaningful
15 conversations.

16 (Applause.)

17 MR. BROWN: Thanks. Thanks very much.

18 That concludes the list of speakers who had
19 signed up, and also we have passed the deadline of
20 9:30. So again, I would like to thank everybody who
21 attended for your comments.

22 I want to remind you that the comment period

1 closes on June 27th. So if you have further comments
2 you'd like to submit in any number of forms, you may do
3 that.

4 MR. EDELMAN: Thank you very much.

5 MR. BROWN: Yes.

6 MR. EDELMAN: (Speaking from an unmiked
7 location.)

8 MR. BROWN: Okay. Did everybody hear that?

9 PARTICIPANTS: (Speaking from unmiked
10 locations.)

11 MR. BROWN: Sure. Okay. They're selling tee
12 shirts.

13 Okay, okay. Thanks again for your
14 participation, and we are officially adjourned.

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CERTIFICATE OF NOTARY PUBLIC

I, GARY GOLDBLUM, the officer before whom the foregoing meeting was taken, do hereby certify that the statements was taken by me in audio recording and thereafter reduced to typewriting under my direction; that said transcript is a true record of the recording taken by me; that I am neither counsel for, related to, nor employed by any of the parties to the action in which this transcript was taken; and, further, that I am not a relative or employee of any counsel or attorney employed by the parties hereto, nor financially or otherwise interested in the outcome of this action.

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