

OCT 21 1999

2 MS. LYTLE: I'm Leigh Lytle. I'm a director
3 of Earth Challenge, that I started with my friend
4 Susan Alzner, who spoke earlier. And as Jen, who
5 also was a member of our bicycling team across the
6 country, mentioned, [we did ride our bikes from
7 Atlanta, Georgia to Yucca Mountain this summer.
8 And the reason we did this was to raise awareness
9 about what we consider to be the single greatest
10 threat to our environment and the health of our
11 communities, not only that but the single greatest
12 threat to our future generations. And this threat
13 is the nuclear fuel cycle from uranium mining and
14 the disease and contamination it causes within a
15 community to the lethal waste produced by nuclear
16 power plants to the transportation of that waste
17 and ultimately its proposed storage in a
18 geologically unstable repository, that being Yucca
19 Mountain.]

20 1... [We are all affected by the transportation of
21 the nuclear waste. It poses more than a serious
22 threat to the communities through which it will
23 travel, and it will travel continuously for 30
24 years across 45 states. And according to the DOE,
25 50 million people live within a half a mile of the

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1 cont. 1 projected routes. They will be moving more high-
2 level radioactive waste each year than in the last
3 30 years combined. Talking about statistics,
2 4 that's a staggering statistic. [] [] The DOE also
5 predicts at least six accidents per year. The
6 statistics that they have come up with involving
7 the impact that such accidents will have on the
8 communities in which they happen involve assessing
9 the impact the accident will have on the nation as
10 a whole and not the actual community in which the
11 accident occurs. This is a disgusting disregard
12 to the inevitable dangers that this poses to the
13 unsuspecting communities on the route and is
14 completely unacceptable. There are no emergency
15 response plans in place, and we do not have the
16 resources to deal with this deadly material. How
17 many lives are the DOE willing to put at risk so
18 that their promise to a deadly and dangerous
19 industry holds true? [] What about the American
20 people? What about liberty and justice for all?
21 For all, not just those with the most money and
22 the most influence.

3... 23 [] Besides the deadly threat of transportation
24 of this high-level radioactive waste, the storage
25 of the waste in Yucca Mountain also poses a threat

3 cont. 1 to us all. Yucca Mountain is volcanic, it is
2 seismically active, and it will leak. Studies
3 have been done that indicate Yucca Mountain has
4 been flooded with hot water in the past.]
4 5 [Yucca Mountain repository project violates a
6 treaty with the Western Shoshone nation, and there
7 still exists an unsettled land dispute which the
8 DOE ignores. The Western Shoshone have a name for
9 their sacred mountain. That name is Serpent
10 Swimming West. Swimming: I wonder why they chose
11 the word "swimming" and not "moving" or
12 "traveling." Swimming not only indicates movement
13 but also the presence of water. These are two
14 characteristics clearly associated with Yucca
5 15 Mountain.] [In no way does Yucca Mountain provide a
16 stable environment to isolate this deadly material
17 for the 250,000 years that it remains hazardous.
18 It will leak into our water table, and radioactive
19 water will affect us all. We will turn our
20 environment, which allows us to exist, into a
21 wasteland which supports no life at all. We will
22 be killing ourselves and sacrificing future
23 generations in the name of progress and present-
24 day entitlement.]

25 And now I'd like to share with you something

1 written by a native American named Oren Lyons, and
7 2 he's known as the Onondaga faith keeper. ["In our
3 way of life and our government, with every
4 decision we make we always keep in mind the
5 seventh generation to come. It is our job to see
6 that people coming ahead in the generations still
7 unborn have a world no worse than ours and
8 hopefully better. When we walk upon Mother Earth,
9 we always plant our feet carefully because we know
10 the faces of our future generations are looking up
11 at us from beneath the ground, and we never forget
12 that."] I want to thank you for this opportunity
13 to share with you tonight.

14 MR. LAWSON: Thank you. Our next speaker is
15 Bob Halstead, followed by Kevin Collins and Mary
16 Olsen.