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3 MR. KNUTSEN: Thank you. My name is Reinard
4 Knutsen. I'm from Las Vegas, Nevada. I am a volunteer with
5 the Shoshone high network waste environmental justice
6 organization founded by Corbin Harney, western Shoshone,
7 elder and a spiritual leader of western Shoshone nation.

1 8 [Western Shoshone is one of the indigenous people of Nevada
9 that lived in the great basin's area for thousands and
10 thousands of years. Yucca Mountain is a sacred place to the
11 western Shoshone people located within their territory -- the
12 boundaries of their land outlined, signed by the United
13 States government and ratified by Congress in 1864.]

14 I'd like to begin by reading a short quote
15 by Corbin that we read at a press conference outside. Corbin
2 16 Harney says, [My people have suffered from the Nuclear Energy
17 Department. Radiation is something that we are all concerned
18 about. We have already begin to see most of the life on this
19 mother of ours disappear. So many human lives ended. So
20 many of my people coming down with cancer. This is something
21 that we the people have witnessed throughout the world. We
22 have already witnessed our ground water becoming contaminated

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1 with radiation and chemicals. Our families are sickly. All
2 caused by radiation that the DOE has brought to us. The DOE
3 has always told us lies to the people, telling us that this
4 radiation is not dangerous. If this is so, why do they not
5 hold the waste where it is rather than have it travel around
6 the world to Nevada? We are all going to be affected by it.

3

7 [Yucca Mountain is not the place for this waste. Yucca
8 Mountain is not even a mountain. It's a rolling hill. It
9 will not hold the waste. Our way of looking at Yucca
10 Mountain is that it is a rolling hill on the move. It is
11 always moved from generation to generation, and it will
12 continue to move. Let us think about the future -- our
13 future generations, what kind of water and air and land are
14 they going to have."] I'd like to begin my own statements. I
15 wish to comment on the Draft Environment Impact Statement for
16 Yucca Mountain, and I wish my comments to go on record.

4

17 [I'd like to begin by saying that the DEIS
18 prepared for and submitted by the DOE is vitally and
19 fundamentally flawed and is not suitable for any intelligent
20 decision of this magnitude to be based on. And I demand that
21 this DEIS be thrown into the recycling bin and the process be
22 started once more in a more intelligent, moral and generally

1 sane manner.]

5 2 [History shows us that DOE is biased in
3 favor of the nuclear energy industry and nuclear weapons
4 industrial complex. History from just the past 50 years
5 alone shows us the enormous consequences these activities
6 have had not only on our own country but on the entire world.
7 We have raised global background radiation through our
8 routine and continued radioactive contamination of our air,
9 earth and water. Anyway you look at it, this past 50 years
10 has had a devastating impact on the earth and will continue
11 to impact for the next 250,000 years.

12 The development of nuclear weapons and
13 energy has always been accompanied publicly by the scientific
14 community proclaiming how safe and efficient this technology
15 is. We have been lied to from the very beginning, and DOE is
16 at the center of this web of deceit. Time and time again the
17 science has proven to be wrong, tragically so. By this
18 history and complicity, DOE has shown it cannot be trusted,
19 and I want to say right now that DEIS is basically 12 pounds
20 of lies backed by bad science.]

21 My favorite analogy for the nuclear dilemma
22 that we're involved in right now is that of a bathtub with the

1 faucets turned on full blast, spewing nuclear waste in this
2 bathtub and it overflowing down in the floor below. In this
3 picture, the DOE and the Yucca Mountain nuclear waste dump is
4 like someone dancing around with a mop trying to not get
5 their feet wet and mopping up the water as fast as he can,
6 but they can't keep up with the overflowing nuclear waste,
7 when all they have to do is reach over and turn off the
8 faucets and stop that flow. And not only then can they
9 really begin to clean up the mess that was made by this
10 nuclear waste.

6

11 [On Page 4 of the DEIS summary, it states DOE
12 is responsible for implementing a permanent solution for the
13 management of spent nuclear fuel and high-level nuclear
14 waste. Yucca Mountain is not a permanent solution. Since it
15 is not even taking care of even close to all of our nuclear
16 waste, Yucca Mountain is only built for 70,000 metric tons,
17 when according to the DOE inventory, EIS, there's over 130
18 metric tons, 1,000 metric tons of nuclear waste. It only
19 adds to the problem, because Yucca Mountain will give the
20 nuclear industry the political and physical room to create
21 more nuclear waste, six metric tons everyday is my
22 understanding. If DOE is responsible for a permanent

1 solution, then you are also responsible for stopping the
2 production of this nuclear waste.]

3 MR. LAWSON: 30 seconds please.

7... 4 MR. KNUTSEN: [So long as Yucca Mountain is
5 using up a majority of the financial resources of our nuclear
6 waste program, no sound solution can be developed. Anyway
7 you look at it, Yucca Mountain is a bad decision. Spending
8 lots of money on a hole in the ground invites the political
9 pressure to build a repository no matter how environmentally
10 insane it is to do so. This has been exemplified by opening
11 the waste isolation project earlier this year. This nuclear
12 waste approach or management approach is out of sight, out of
13 mind.] I don't have the time to adequately address all the
14 problems with this DEIS. I will submit those in my written
15 comments.

8 16 [I will say that this DEIS is subverting
17 environmental goals rather than promoting them for a decision
18 of this magnitude as essential that there be a widespread
19 public debate on detailed alternatives. This DEIS does not
20 even come close to providing any reasonable alternatives to
21 Yucca Mountain. This current process does not come close at
22 all to providing that opportunity.]

...7
1 [The U.S. government has to take a step back
2 and take a deep breath and initiate a much more broader
3 effort to deal with our nuclear waste problems. All of the
4 major states, cities, county and reservations that are
5 impacted have to be included in this process for it to have
9 any meaning at all.] [And I really sympathize with our friend
7 at Prarie Island to have had to deal with this nuclear waste
8 for over 30 years, and I understand that they want to get it
9 out of their home, but sending it to Yucca Mountain is not
10 the right answer. It cannot leave Minnesota. The nuclear
11 waste has to remain where it is until we do have a sane
12 solution to the problem.]

10
13 [Last thing I want to say to you today is not
14 a threat, but it is a promise that there are people out here,
15 thousands of us like me, who are willing and committed to
16 take any nonviolent direct action, and I want to repeat
17 nonviolent direct action, available in our power to stop
18 Yucca Mountain and to keep these mobile Chernobyl casks from
19 rolling in our cities. This is a situation that's not dealt
20 with or analyzed at all by this DEIS.] Thank you.

21 MR. LAWSON: Thank you. Susi Snyder and
22 then Bonnie Kendrick.