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TERRI WILLIAMS

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MS. WILLIAMS: My name is Terri, T-e-r-r-i, Williams. Good evening. I served as the mayor of Webster Groves from 1994 until 1998. I am currently the executive director of the Webster Groves Area Chamber of Commerce serving the cities of Webster Groves, Shrewsbury, Rock Hill and Marlborough. Tonight I speak as a citizen. February 6th, 1996 the Webster Groves City Council passed a resolution that called for, among other things, "A written description with citations of federal regulations which would authorize and justify the routing of high-level radioactive waste shipments through highly populated metropolitan areas."

Residents and businesses recognized then, as they do now, the folly of such a dangerous undertaking.

1... The concept of shipping high-level nuclear waste across the country through heavily populated communities filled with businesses, schools, hospitals, houses of worship and homes begs the question, are you people really serious?

2 To realize that our federal agencies have been working on this since the Nuclear Waste Policy Act was passed in 1982 is a shameful and sad state of affairs. For the federal government to accept responsibility for the messes of a private industry is ludicrous. To endanger mass numbers of people is unjust. One would think that something during the last 18 years -- one would like that sometime during the last 18 years someone at the DOE would have had the courage to stand up to the electrical utility industry and explain that a plan to ship deadly waste to bury underneath a mountain in Nevada is not only stupid, but very dangerous.

Have not the congress and our own Senator Kit Bond and the DOE ever heard of train crashes, highway accidents, explosions, terrorism and sabotage? You can reassure us all you want that everything will be okay, but as someone who has worked in local government, I know mistakes can and most certainly do happen.

1 cont. Yucca Mountain is not the answer to the nightmare that the electric utilities and the nuclear research and weapons industry have created. Burying waste in a "permanent repository" that may well be geologically problematic is stupid and dangerous. The only answer is obvious. The waste must be kept on site. These sites should be turned into fortresses surrounded by a no-man's land. The second and most important step that must taken is that the electric utility industry should cease and desist manufacturing electric power utilizing nuclear components. These two steps are reasonable and doable.

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1 cont. If the repository is allowed to be built and routes permanently established to allow unending shipments of high-level deadly waste, what incentive does the electrical industry have to use alternative energy? Our communities and our country is filled with intelligent, bright people. Why have the DOE or the electric utilities been unable to find anybody who can assist them with research and development of alternative, safe and sustainable forms of energy? Of course this is a rhetorical question. A spokesperson for AmerenUE answered this best when she told me in 1993 when I asked her why UE was not looking at solar power as an option, she simply said if they did that, then just anyone could harness the sun.

4 You have a responsibility to the citizens of this country, not to nuclear and electrical utility lobbies who buy the elections of our congress people, who are waiting to act upon your recommendation. You must tell them three simple things; one, shipping the waste is wrong; two, storing the waste on site is the only logical conclusion, and three, you are changing your name to the DOAE, the Department of Alternative Energy. Thank you.