

MS. ESTEVES: I'm Pauline Esteves. I'm from the Timbisha Shoshone Tribe of Death Valley, California.

1 I think yesterday I brought up a thing about politics up there in Washington, D.C., how do they commute with the different tribes, on such as NCAI. They sit up there, no communication to the tribes. We get some through mail and that's about it after decisions have been made without our input at all.

They don't seem to know what Nevada is all about. I tried in my own small way to commute with them. I failed. Because, you know, they have their own agenda. And no way are they going to change that.

What I was saying yesterday was that the resources that tribes have isn't adequate enough to work or to communicate with these people in Washington, D.C. We need to have some other source person up there that can act as a watchdog as to what the DOE is doing up there. Robert Holton, he does not seem to do this with tribes. He is not even known by some of the tribes. So that was one of my things that I had, that somehow I want to put it into our comments when we do our own separate tribal comment by that deadline we will submit to DOE. That will be one of the issues that I will cover, is the politics of the whole program itself and who are these people and also to try -- that we do need funding to do some research with these people that have -- they're heavy in clout up there. And I do know that it's international. This is not just right here within our own ways. We believe that it's a worldly thing. We don't just think Nevada. We have a -- we look way out there. And through our own messages, we know that there is something going on. And I had done my little research in my younger days and found out that it is international, starting from the mining of the uranium to the production of plutonium, and then finally the testing and then the aftermath. And then where does it wind up again? In Nevada.

2 So I would like you people to know that that is going to be a portion of what my tribe will be putting into their comment, their final comment to DOE. And also about the issue of land status, the Western Shoshone Nation is not a federally recognized tribe. And, again, we go back into the politics of the United States where they say they will only act in consultation with federally recognized tribes, organizations that are made up of federal recognized tribes. They still want some tribal person to sign off on this. And even if that organization is nonprofit organization, they will not recognize it. But they will recognize, I believe, federally funded tribes and will not recognize tribes or organizations that are not federally funded.

3 And I do belong to Western Shoshone Nation. And I do believe in the work of the Chief, Raymond Yowell. Right here today I heard we should bring in more traditional people here. And who are the traditional people? Who are my teachers, my elders, are the Western Shoshone people and the Southern Paiute people whom I am related in a way. And so we put all this together, and I am going to put this issue into my formal statement that I will present to DOE, is the status of the land. Because what they have said is, "No. This is not Western Shoshone land." However, it is land that is in dispute with the Western Shoshone Nation and the United States Government. And that is what I want to put in addition to my tribal solution.

I think that's about it.

MR. ARNOLD: Anybody else want to speak?

MS. ESTEVES: Well, I'd like to say however, you know, with what Richard has presented, we talked this out and we had a consensus of all the issues that we reached.