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1 MS. BULLCREEK: From the testimonies that I've heard from citizens, people who are politicians or just plain simple, faithful folks, I could understand what you're saying because I -- I'm from the Squaw Valley Indian Reservation in Utah; and our council is proposing to facilitate an independent spent fuel installation on our homeland, native land in Squaw Valley Reservation in Idaho County, and this facility would be constructed on 820 acres of our reservation land, and the high-level spent fuel rods are coming from seven power plants across the Eastern states, and there -- and we are to store 4,000 casks containing 40,000 metric tons, and that's half of what Yucca Mountain's going to be storing from what I hear. This facility is supposed to be temporary until Yucca Mountain becomes possible, but we feel that it's going to be a permanent situation. I am a chairperson for -- of an organization opposing the nuclear waste to come on to our reservation because of the reasons that I have heard today.

2 There are -- another issue that I want to bring up, too, is the MRS. I heard a gentleman mention MRS. MRS
3 was first -- monitored retrievable storage was first introduced to our tribe in '92. DOE had brought out the possibility of studying MRS and our tribe was accepted, and we went to the first, second and third stages of this. We've been to Switzerland, France, Great Britain and our council came back saying how safe it was, and I don't believe that. It took the third -- a third of the people of our members to pass a resolution to facilitate this facility on 840 acres of our homeland land, as I mentioned it has taken a third of us to oppose it. So if that's going to make that much of a difference to put it on our reservation, hopefully it will make a third of us to make it possible that it won't come.

2 Briefly, I would like to add, too, that our members have been bribed from the council with a lot of money,
3 that they'll be getting a lot of money. Just like the gentleman's saying. Yucca Mountain. I'm sure there are a lot of people that are working there. But where does wisdom come in on situations like this? This high-level waste, nuclear waste is causing cancer and sickness, and so who's being sacrificed here? People that are getting sick from cancer or people that are working and getting the security that they -- that they have now with a good job?

4 The other one I want to mention, too, is that on this Environmental Impact Study, has DOE come down to the native community and asked for their opinions? Have they asked how they feel about the transportation come across -- coming across the reservation land? And when they do, will they -- will they be speaking to the people or will they be speaking to the leaders?

This is how in the past that it had been possible that we're on the reservations now, that the Federal Government is -- is targeting their waste disposals on. We have the same similarities, our reservation and Yucca Mountain and we're going to be temporary to storing the nuclear waste and there's no difference there; only that Yucca Mountain's in question, but Squaw Valley Reservation is there temporarily.

And -- and our organization is a traditional government -- traditional organization. We have our own culture and we have a sacredness on our reservation, just as the Shoshone -- the Western Shoshone does on their reservation, and as Corbin has stated before, that the treaty has never been -- on the treaty as it states is still their native land, and the government, after they put us on the reservation, our reservation is the only land that they haven't touched.

And -- so those are the main issues that I want -- that I want to say.

5... And also I would like to put in that on 42 USC Section 1983 violation of the constitution rights of indigenous groups, it would be so if -- if their opinions are not put into the Environmental Impact Statement. And also the -- the external exposure will cause harm to the traditional culture, diet and lifestyle of Native Americans. Furthermore, it will increase the risk of higher levels of exposure to ingestion of native

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vegetables, fish and game, and the exploitation of our ancestral land and resources is a violation of our people's spiritual and physical health. The area can become contaminated and never be reclaimed.

And I also want to add on real fast the GDA, which is our organization, also believes that the traditional and cultural standards will be affected not only spiritually, but our land and future resources will be lost to agriculture that can lead to tribalization after our land becomes contaminated and relocation comes to mind. No amount of money can buy back what we've lost, what we will lose. |

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The governor of Utah is also against the nuclear wastes coming into Utah and I just want to read this real briefly: "As expected, Utah Governor Mike Levitt signed the bill which required anyone wanting to build a spent nuclear storage facility in the state to put up a two million cash bond and a three million permit application." In addition, he signed two other measures, a resolution opposing the building of spent fuel facilities by Northern State Powers. Private fuel storage and a bill granting state control to the road leading to the location of the site on the Squaw Valley Tribal Reservation.

In signing this measure, Levitt declared, "We just don't want spent nuclear fuel here. I think the problems and impacts from the waste outweighs the benefits," and I feel that if other states could hold the same -- the same position that he's holding that somehow we will stop the nuclear waste from crossing the states and leave it where it's at. From what I understand, too, is that other power -- power plants are running out of spaces and they need to shift -- shift -- transport their waste to other facilities, and if it's possible, we should just leave it where it's at and let it shut down. |