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03 MS. LOPEZ: Ruth Lopez, Needles, California,

04 Director of People Against Radioactive Dumping.

05 I don't have any formal comments written yet.

1 06 We recently found out about this just as the county  
07 claims they were informed late. But I have a really  
08 difficult time wondering -- believing -- that the county  
09 was only informed in the last couple of months.

2 10 If that is really true, then I say that we all  
11 owe a lot to the paper, to the "San Bernardino Sun." I  
12 owe a lot to the paper for their little map and showing  
13 that it's only going to be a railroad track through  
14 Needles and not a highway because that made me look real  
15 closely at the document and ask questions.

16 And I -- I now believe that this document, just  
17 based on that fact -- that there is no road proposed for  
18 use through Needles -- renders the document to be  
19 deficient. And it needs to be revised and recirculated  
20 again for the same review period that was circulated the  
21 first time.

3 22 If there is some kind of a breakdown in Needles  
23 on the railroad, there is no way to transport the  
24 shipment, except by highway, out of there. There's no  
25 other alternative. So you are going to have to use the

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01 roads as an alternative, at least, and it needs to be  
02 appraised in the environmental document.

4... 03 I appreciate, too, Senator Boxer asking for an  
04 extension of time in this public meeting here. However,  
05 I question -- I question our policy makers, our elected  
06 officials, our Congress people, like Congressman Baca  
07 and Senator Boxer wondering why -- you know, if they are  
08 in a position of that kind of power, and knowing that  
09 there's -- this environmental review of this magnitude,  
10 and this amount of significance, probably the most  
11 significant document being reviewed at this time, in  
12 their area, region, why would they only -- why would  
13 they -- being an elected official that makes -- that  
14 votes on our laws, why would they allow an agency to do

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15 this to their area, to their region?

16           You would think that they would pass a law  
17 against it, or call their -- get on the phone and call  
18 the president, or do something in Congress that would  
19 stop these agencies from leaving very important  
20 communities out of the loop. And finding that this is  
21 true, you would think that they would extend it long  
22 enough to allow more communities, more areas, to have a  
23 meeting than just San Bernardino.

24           We have to drive -- San Bernardino County is a  
25 huge county, the largest in the country. And larger

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01 than some states. And we have to drive 3-1/2, four  
02 hours to get here. So I would assume -- if I was the  
03 elected official, I would make a law, you know,  
04 something of this magnitude requires that you go and  
05 give the public an opportunity -- at least within a  
06 certain range as mileage. I am just saying, on the  
07 record, that these policies have to change for public --  
08 for the public being able to comment on something of  
09 this magnitude.

10           I don't have my written comments on the EIS  
11 formal comments. I'm going to address those issues in  
12 writing. But at this time, I believe it is so  
13 important for this public and the listening audience  
14 here, and a message to be sent to Congress that people  
15 like Jeff Wright and Marjorie Mikels and me, and  
16 others -- lots of others here, of what is turning out to  
17 be a fascist county -- we should not be put in jail for  
18 simply speaking over our time period. That's an  
19 outrage. And it goes against our fundamental  
20 constitutional rights and privileges.

21           You know, Jeff had a way of saying it, summing  
22 it all up, when he said the flag salute. Liberty and  
23 justice for all, not just for one. Not just for the  
24 people who are sitting up there, for Congressman Baca or  
25 Senator Boxer or Supervisor Jon Mikels. They have lots

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01 of opportunity to speak. But they are not here to hear  
02 us; they are gone. They said their peace and left.

...4 03           You know, so I would ask that we have a meeting  
04 in Needles, and at least if you have a meeting in  
05 Needles, you can also get the surrounding communities in  
06 Arizona that don't get to speak on that issue. How many  
07 minutes do I have? Because I have one other policy  
08 thing.

09           FACILITATOR HOLMES: One minute.

5 10           MS. LOPEZ: Well, this is as important as the policy  
11 issue surrounding the public's right to comment. And we  
12 needed more time for questions, by the way.

6 13           This issue of liability, that's what it all  
14 comes back to. Remember when I asked the question, if  
15 the casks are so safe, why don't we put them in there  
16 and leave it on site. I knew the answer when I asked,  
17 of course. You don't ask a question that you don't know  
18 the answer. The answer is liability. Liability.  
19 Liability. That is the big issue. What we are doing  
20 here, if this goes -- what this really does is it takes  
21 the liability off the backs of the nuclear industry, the  
22 private corporations that now have the liability,  
23 because they have their reactors on their site.

24           By shipping this waste to Federal land, the  
25 taxpayer then assumes the liability for that high-level  
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01 waste for thousands, millions of years. And we pay,  
02 and they don't.

7... 03           So when you write your comments from now on,  
04 you will have the answer, that is what it is. It's  
05 because the people who sit up here are really in these  
06 agencies, like the DOE and the Department of  
07 Transportation -- they are really to me -- and I think  
08 honestly they represent the nuclear industry only, and  
09 not the people. They are not elected officials. They  
10 are actually -- they merged, they co-mingle, sometimes  
11 these are contract people, the private companies that  
12 contract for the DOE, and they do their business for

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13 them. This is the nuclear industry that is proposing  
14 this to us.

15           It is not our elected officials, although, our  
16 elected officials could write a policy -- like I  
17 appreciate them sending an official down here telling  
18 us the EIS is deficient. I would like to see them  
19 sending a policy down here saying: No, we are not going  
20 to have these shipments through our state; and no, we  
21 are not going to accept the liability for private  
22 industry; and no, it's against our policy to allow  
23 this.

24           But no, we didn't get a policy from our  
25 governor, and I would like to see that.

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01           FACILITATOR HOLMES: Okay. Thanks very much.