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14 MS. WILLIAMS: It's kind of interesting
15 obviously I'm not Dario. But I am Myrna Williams, and
16 I'm the Vice-Chair of the Clark County Commission. I'm
17 also a member of the Nevada Nuclear Projects
18 Commission, and when I served in the legislature, I
19 chaired the high-level Nuclear Waste Committee. The
20 Preliminary Site Suitability Evaluation itself is the
21 most recent in a parade of DOE documents, and my
22 comments will not address the substance of the PSSE,
23 because its conclusions are readily predicted.
24 What is more significant is what the conduct
25 of these hearings tells us about the DOE's contempt for

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1 the American people and about the scientific content of
2 the Yucca Mountain program. During the entire Yucca
3 Mountain program, the DOE has consistently failed to
4 conduct public meetings in a manner that enables the
5 public to participate in a meaningful way. And we see
6 that here again tonight. The public comments on the
7 Yucca Mountain environmental assessment in 1985 were
8 never addressed. The public hearings were structured
9 to prevent the public from even providing verbal

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10 comment on the document. The Nevada initiative
11 undertaken by DOE in 1987 to subvert local resistance
12 to the Yucca Mountain Project was a public relations
13 disaster, because it relied on misinformation. It was
14 designed to communicate the DOE message to Nevadans,
15 not receive the thoughts on the issue, just like
16 tonight. And you see half the time being taken by
17 people through our, who are in some way connected with
18 DOE. In 1999 --
19 (APPLAUSE)
20 The public hearings on the draft
21 environmental impact assessment were constructed to
22 exclude the most important public comment. The public
23 comments that were recorded took place late in the
24 evening. Literally hundreds of people were unable to
25 voice their opinion on the draft EIS. And I see faces

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1 out there, many people that were there. Not once in
2 the literally hundreds of public comments that were,
3 were made, were they made a part of the official record
4 on DOE documents in this period. There is no evidence
5 that the DOE made any effort to respond to the public
6 in a meaningful way.

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7 Now in 2001, the hearings on the document
8 that says the site is suitable are being conducted with
9 only two weeks notice in an obscure barricaded facility
10 that is normally off limits to the public. Once again,
11 the meeting has been designed to make things easy for
12 the Department of Energy, not the public. Once again,
13 hundreds of people will not be able to comment.
14 The DOE constantly tells Nevadans that
15 science will decide about Yucca Mountain. Did science
16 demand that the hearings be held this way? Did science
17 demand that only 15 days notice be provided for these
18 hearings? The answer is unequivocally no. It is clear
19 that the narrow agenda of some industry lobbyist sets
20 the course for the Yucca Mountain program. Once again,
21 we in Nevada are being sacrificed for the expedient
22 politics. The only conclusion that is reasonable is
23 based on the history of the Department and its
24 indifference to the public, and public comment. The
25 consequences of this indifference will be felt and will

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1 corrode faith in the Democratic process. The DOE is
2 harming the nation, and I've got to tell you, that
3 includes the EPA, who thinks that we can tolerate more

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4 radiation than 49 other states in the United States and
5 our territories.
6 (APPLAUSE)
7 It establishes a painful precedent that will
8 be taken up by other industries that need similar help.
9 It shows that purchasing political power is more
10 important than science, and more important than public
11 opinion. The DOE has made Yucca Mountain program more
12 dangerous tonight. The message that will be sent to
13 this nation is that the federal government does not
14 care what its citizens think or what they care about.
15 People in other states are going to find out they can
16 become targets too. I want to just close by saying, I
17 hope those people who are up here talking about
18 Congress and what Congress wanted understand that our
19 Nevada congressional delegation never supported this,
20 ever.
21 (APPLAUSE)
22 That's starting in 1982. Our congressional
23 delegation and our good Senator Richard Brian nicknamed
24 this the screw Nevada bill. Now you know, we're not
25 going to let that happen.