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10 MS. JOHNSON: My name is Abby Johnson. I'm
11 the Nuclear Waste Adviser for Eureka County, Nevada.
12 I'm speaking on behalf of Eureka County tonight, and
13 tonight we're going to focus on some process issues.
14 The first process issue is, it would be very helpful
15 when you call somebody's name, to also say what their
16 number is.
17 MODERATOR LAWSON: 19.
18 MS. JOHNSON: I know that now. But that
19 would help so people can anticipate when they should be
20 in the room to speak.
21 MODERATOR LAWSON: Good.
22 MS. JOHNSON: You've already heard rather
23 articulately from Crescent Valley, Eureka County
24 resident Joseph Caruthers who was at the Elko site
25 about the impacts of building a nuclear waste rail line

0121

1 through our county. So I'm not going to talk about
2 that. I have wanted all night to have a point of order
3 concerning Section 114 A 1, of the Nuclear Waste Policy
4 Act, which says the Secretary shall hold public
5 hearings in the vicinity of the Yucca Mountain Site,

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6 for the purpose of informing the residents of the area
7 of such consideration and receiving their comments
8 regarding the possible recommendation of such site. I
9 think that the Facilitator and the Board should take
10 comments from people in the vicinity of the site, that
11 is Nevada, California, rather than people who are from
12 other parts of the country. I talked to a woman who
13 had to go to work on the swing shift, and so she was
14 unable to stay. I've talked to parents who have had to
15 leave and put their children to bed, which is the right
16 thing to do. But, they should not be sitting here
17 waiting to talk when people who are not in the vicinity
18 of the site get to talk. I think it's wrong.
19 (APPLAUSE)
20 It is appalling that DOE would choose to do
21 such a bad job of conducting these
22 congressionally-mandated hearings. You have had 14
23 years to prepare for these hearings. And this is the
24 best you can do?
25 (APPLAUSE)
0122
1 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Amen.
2 MS. JOHNSON: Now when you want to tell

3 Nevadans that you're ready to make Yucca Mountain a
4 permanent nuclear waste repository, and ask them what
5 they think, you don't have the courage to do the job
6 right. It takes courage to tell the Secretary of
7 Energy, the President, and the nation that Yucca
8 Mountain is a bad site.
9 (APPLAUSE)
10 It takes courage -- it takes courage for the
11 Secretary of Energy to personally face the people of
12 Nevada. And hear and read their comments. I
13 understand that he'll be reading compiled comments with
14 staff rebuttals, those yeah-buts. He won't actually be
15 reading the transcript of these meetings. I may be
16 wrong, but that's what I was told by DOE. And it takes
17 real courage, real, real courage to rewrite your own
18 siting guidelines so that the repository will not be
19 disqualified, which it would be under your existing
20 guidelines. Your handling of this hearing process is
21 an analogy to the entire project. You've bungled these
22 hearings, and yet you want us to trust that you can
23 dispose of nuclear waste safely.
24 (APPLAUSE)
25 The truth is, the truth is that Yucca

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Mountain will not contain the deadly radiation for its hazardous life. As I tell my son, end of discussion.

DOE, you are the weakest link. Good-bye.