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LOIS WHITNEY: Good evening. Yes, my name

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1 is Lois Whitney. I was born here in Elko, as were
2 my children and grandchildren, my mother, my
3 brothers and sisters. All of them, they were born
4 right here.

5 Yes, we live in the northern part of the
6 state, and just because we do doesn't me that we're
7 not affected. I've also had an opportunity to work
8 with the nuclear risk management program in Ely,
9 and it was comprised of native people who wanted to
10 study the effects of the nuclear testing in our
11 territory.

12 When we studied and we compiled the
13 research, it was a horrendous experience for me. I
14 had no idea what my people had gone through. And
15 just because we live in northeast Nevada doesn't
16 mean that we will not be affected as adversely as
17 the people were affected in central Nevada.

18 Western Shoshone is my territory, that
19 means all of it. The Nevada Test Site, Yucca
20 Mountain sits in the middle of home land, my
21 heritage. I speak for my voiceless relatives, not
22 only for my family, but I speak for the voiceless
23 relatives who will be affected by the dangers of
24 Yucca Mountain. What affects one affects all. All
25 life is a continuous circle.

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1 Nuclear waste, transportation, storage is
2 not safe. It will never be. What I've not heard
3 them say tonight is how about the half lives of
4 these nuclear products. They haven't told you
5 about the half lives. Well, to date we haven't
6 even exhausted the half life of nuclear matter, and
7 it's very dangerous.

8 I was reading in the paper tonight, and I
9 just -- I don't read the Elko Free Press very
10 often, but what I do read I touch upon and think

550600

11 through. But the mission statement of Elko,
12 because I know I have read counts where Elko, the
13 city fathers of Elko want to bring nuclear
14 transport through here because it will be
15 economically feasible for us. Well, I think they
16 need to think this through because their mission
17 statement says to provide for its citizens a clean,
18 safe community that offers economic opportunities
19 through economic diversification, positive and
20 proactive planning. That's just a part of it.
21 There is no planning if you decide to support Yucca
22 Mountain. It is not safe.

23 I think we have to consider that we may
24 not be here in a few years, but we will have a
25 future. Those are our children if we think

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1 carefully, if we are serious about promoting a
2 clean, safe, healthful place to live.

3 What I don't understand is why is it
4 necessary for us as citizens and humans to exhaust
5 immediately all the resources of our poor Mother
6 Earth. She is the one that nurtures us. We leave
7 nothing for tomorrow, but what is for certain is
8 that nuclear waste will be here long after you and
9 I are gone. And isn't that a horrific legacy to
10 leave for our future? Thank you.

11 MS. TICE: Thank you, Lois.