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7 MS. SNYDER: Thank you. Again, my name is  
8 Susi Snyder. I live here in Pahrump. I'm not too far  
9 away, about three miles away, and it's with great  
10 sadness that I follow our last speaker. You know, we  
11 really, we know the horror and have met others from  
12 your reservation, and we know the horror that you've  
13 gone through with this power plant there. And it's a  
14 terrible thing. And I think Northern States Power and  
15 now Excel Energy, they owe you a lot, and there is  
16 nothing that can ever make up for what that impact has  
17 had on your community. And we -- I apologize for that.  
18 I mean, I wasn't there when they built it, but I wish I  
19 was, I would have done whatever I could to stop it.

20 We know that also that Minnesota is working  
21 to, through the state legislature to shut down that  
22 reactor, and all the reactors in Minnesota. And within  
23 their licensing period. We know folks with Clean Water  
24 Action and the North American Water Office and  
25 Indigenous Environmental Network, who I'm sure would be

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1 very honored to hear from you and work with you to  
2 figure out how we can make that safe, because that is

3 not safe. I agree with you 100 percent, that is not  
4 safe and should not have been allowed to be built there  
5 in the first place.

6 None of the reactors that exist in this  
7 continent, in this world, are safe and should have been  
8 built in the first place. And that is the thrust of my  
9 comment, is that we don't need this nuclear power.

10 I object to Yucca Mountain, I oppose Yucca  
11 Mountain. I've gone through and said that a lot of  
12 times. But it's -- you know, it's -- this waste  
13 shouldn't be stored anywhere. It shouldn't have been  
14 made in the first place. Unfortunately, it does exist  
15 right now. And there's some sites where it cannot be  
16 stored on site, and Prairie Island is one of them.

17 And however, there are other sites where it  
18 is generated, where it can be stored. And dry cask  
19 technology is not the best technology. I'm not going  
20 to lie and say dry cask is, you know, the greatest  
21 thing since sliced bread, because it's not. There are  
22 problems with dry cask technology, but when you look at  
23 \$8 billion that was spent to study a hole in the ground  
24 in Yucca Mountain, that \$8 billion could have gone to  
25 clean up Prairie Island. That \$8 billion could have

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1 gone to improve dry cask storage. That \$8 billion  
2 could have gone a different way. And we have the  
3 opportunity now, at this time, to make sure that this  
4 money does not continue to get poured into a hole in  
5 the ground in Yucca Mountain, but instead, goes to  
6 solve the problem.

7       Because filling up Yucca Mountain with  
8 nuclear waste does not solve the nation's nuclear waste  
9 problem. It just puts it out of sight, and out of  
10 mind. That's not safe for our community. It's not  
11 safe for any other community. If they moved all that  
12 waste from Prairie Island from Vermont Yankee, Maine  
13 Yankee, from all these other reactors to Yucca  
14 Mountain, those reactors would not shut down. Those  
15 reactors would not be cleaned up. Those reactors would  
16 still have waste on site and still be a danger to the  
17 communities that they're located in.

18       Yucca Mountain does not solve the nuclear  
19 waste problem. I can't say that enough. It just does  
20 not do it. It's -- you know, it's been an \$8 billion  
21 hole in the ground, and that money again could have  
22 been spent and can be spent in the future to find a

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23 realistic solution to this problem.

24       And the number one thing we need to do is to  
25 phase out nuclear power. I'm not saying that tomorrow  
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1 we can shut all those reactors down, because that's not  
2 really going to work, but we can implement through  
3 energy conservation, energy efficiency, renewable  
4 resource technology, we can implement a phase-out of  
5 nuclear power. And that is a possibility. That is  
6 something we can start doing right now, today. Which  
7 our community would benefit from.

8       Think about the jobs that would come here if  
9 we had a solar power plant here in Pahrump. You know,  
10 it's such a sunny place. You know. Or the test site,  
11 or anywhere. Think about what kind of impact that  
12 would have. That would be a more healthy workplace  
13 than a nuclear waste dump. Or any nuclear facility,  
14 because this nuclear material, folks, this nuclear  
15 material, it not only has an impact on us, on this  
16 generation that experiences it, but for generations to  
17 come.

18       I've -- I'm lucky enough, I have friends in  
19 Russia who are near the Chernobyl site who have

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20 explained to me what they are seeing in their  
21 communities. Women who work in hospitals where 8 out  
22 of 10 children are being born with some sort of birth  
23 defect. This is because of this nuclear material. It  
24 not only affects this current generation, but it  
25 mutates our genetic code so it affects our children,

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1 our grandchildren and the generations to come.

2 Now we have a responsibility to those future  
3 generations to provide them to have, you know, to give  
4 them a safe and clean and healthy world. We have a  
5 responsibility to give that to our children. This is  
6 what I feel. And we can do that, we can, you know,  
7 through working together, through phasing out this  
8 nuclear power, this mutagenic thing, we can get there.  
9 And I urge you all, you know, we have lots of  
10 information back here about how we can do that, because  
11 it's possible. And it's not just some diamond in the  
12 sky. This is real technology that exists right now  
13 today, that can phase out this nuclear power, and make,  
14 you know, and hopefully we can take some of these funds  
15 being spent on Yucca Mountain and help the community of  
16 Prairie Island. Because that is a tragedy, what has

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17 happened there.

18 MODERATOR BROWN: If you can wrap your  
19 remarks up fairly soon.

20 MS. SNYDER: I just want to also say that  
21 it's a shame Ms. Hagen had to come all the way to  
22 Pahrump to speak and she didn't have an opportunity to  
23 speak on this project in her own community. That these  
24 different reactor sites did not have the opportunity to  
25 speak in their own communities. Because these people  
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1 are as much affected by the Yucca Mountain Project as  
2 we are here. The transportation communities are as  
3 much affected as we are here, and these people need the  
4 opportunity to speak. And I know my time is up. I  
5 just have 37 seconds more. I just wanted to say that  
6 the idea, I know folks have talked about transmutation  
7 and accelerated transmutation of this waste, and we can  
8 recycle it or reprocess it. I just want to let you  
9 know, that does not eliminate the need for a  
10 repository.

11 That only gets rid of 2 percent of the waste.  
12 That does not -- transmutation does not eliminate the  
13 need for repository. So recognize that research is

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14 going into it, and they're studying how they can do  
15 this and maybe make it effective at some time, but  
16 again, that's billions of dollars down the road. We  
17 have the technology right here, today, to do something  
18 to help these reactor communities and to keep, to phase  
19 out nuclear power, because we have to shut that faucet  
20 off before we can clean up the spill on the floor. And  
21 I thank you for your time very much. I appreciate it.  
22 And thank you very much.

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21 MS. SNYDER: I want to make a comment.

22 MODERATOR BROWN: You want to make a comment.

23 MS. SNYDER: And I have another one too.

24 MODERATOR BROWN: On the question, there's  
25 people over here who can answer your question.

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1 MS. SNYDER: Make sure somebody answers the  
2 question. Make sure somebody answers the question,  
3 just don't ever do it on the public record. Don't ever  
4 do it from up here. But, you know, answer them out in  
5 the back over there. Come on, you guys, that's --  
6 we've been, I have been -- I'm sorry, I will restart.  
7 Want me to restart.

8 MODERATOR BROWN: One of the reasons that we  
9 do that, if you get in an exchange of interrogation and  
10 answers, you end up not having time for public  
11 comments, so --

12 MS. SNYDER: And I totally respect that,  
13 Holmes, and again my name is Susi Snyder. And I  
14 totally respect that. It is very hard to do a  
15 back-and-forth, and especially when you're taking  
16 people's comments. However, why doesn't the Department

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17 of Energy come here, with their scientists, on the  
18 record, to give us an information session? So that I  
19 can hear the questions of the other members of my  
20 community. Because I got to tell you folks, you're a  
21 heck of a lot smarter than I am, and I'm sure you've  
22 got many more, many brilliant questions that I'd like  
23 to hear the answers to. And if you go into the Science  
24 Center, and you talk to John, and John's great, and go  
25 in there and check stuff out, but you go into Science  
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1 Center, again it's one on one. And we don't get to  
2 hear the answers to each other's questions. We don't  
3 even get to hear those questions.

4 If you have access to the internet, yeah, you  
5 can look at some of the comments that are posted  
6 online, and you can pick through questions on there,  
7 but you don't see an answer to those questions. The  
8 answers never seem to go on the record. Why don't the  
9 answers ever go on the record? Is it because they're  
10 afraid if they answer the question publicly here and  
11 now, they'll find out in two weeks they were completely  
12 off and, oh my gosh, there is water in Yucca Mountain.  
13 We better change the guidelines again. Oh my gosh, the

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14 earthquakes are happening out there regularly. We

15 better change the guidelines again. Because that's

16 what seems to be happening over and over again.

17 And I have been out to Yucca Mountain. I

18 have been out there a number of times. I've been out

19 both on DOE tours and I have gone out there by myself,

20 and just gone hiking around, and it's not a secure

21 place, let me tell you, because if I can hike up to the

22 crest and get up there, and I'm like, I'm not the most

23 in shape person in the world, right, but if I can hike

24 up there and get into the crest, open up the map boxes,

25 take a look and see anything I want, anybody can do it.

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1 It's not a safe place. It's not safe from, you know,

2 from stupid me, to get up there. And that's a serious

3 concern.

4 But see, I have something that DOE doesn't

5 have when it comes to Yucca Mountain. I have

6 permission from the land owners. And I'm going to show

7 you all what that looks like. Because I carry it in my

8 wallet. Because it's very important to me to have

9 this. And it's something that I've asked over and over

10 again, hey, you guys got permission? Hey, you guys got

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11 something that shows title to that land? You got  
12 something? But they don't. Not that I've ever seen.  
13 But what I have right here is a permit. And this is a  
14 permit that's issued by the Western Shoshone National  
15 Council, and it's a permit to gather, go, and come.  
16 And it's an exemption for Nonwestern Shoshone. I'm  
17 obviously a blond, I'm not a Western Shoshone. Come  
18 on. But this is a permit that I was given. It's good  
19 for one year, and it's to go and travel on Western  
20 Shoshone land. I use this as my secondary form of  
21 identification at the bank.

22 This is a very, you know, as far as I'm  
23 concerned, this is issued to me by another nation, like  
24 a visa, when you go into another country, they stamp  
25 your passport with a visa. Well, I don't have a

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1 passport, it got stolen, but I do have my National  
2 Council permit. And I urge you all to see what you can  
3 do to get one, because right now, you're illegal. And  
4 pretty badly illegal from what I've seen. I mean,  
5 you're doing some pretty hardcore destruction. I know,  
6 because I've been there. I've seen it. I've seen what  
7 goes on at Yucca Mountain, I've been inside the tunnel,

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8 I've been inside to where I've stood in pools of water  
9 with water dripping on my head, folks.  
10 This is not a dry site. This is not a safe  
11 site. I have chunks and chunks of Yucca Mountain at  
12 home. Why? Because you walk into the tunnel, you  
13 reach your hand up, kind of tap with your fingernail,  
14 and the mountain kind of crumbles down. That's what  
15 this volcanic tuff is. It's crinkly, it crumbles, and  
16 it comes down, and I mean I have, I have bunches of it.  
17 I figure, hey, it's a souvenir, right? You know, what  
18 else do I get to go inside what's really not more of a  
19 mountain, more of a rolling hill. When do I get to go  
20 inside one of these things? Not very often. I am from  
21 New York. I have been in subways, and I feel way safer  
22 in a subway than going in that Yucca Mountain. Because  
23 I see, you can see the fissures, you can see the cracks  
24 from where -- and I am not a geologist, but I can see  
25 it's not solid rock. It's got lines and cracks and  
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1 holes and all sorts of things in it. And it's not,  
2 it's not a solid piece. If you, you know, it looks  
3 like water could saturate it really easily.  
4 I have heard all sorts of stories about water

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5 being inside the mountain, water coming from the rain  
6 water, finding chlorine 36 inside this mountain. That  
7 chlorine 36 is from above ground weapons testing in the  
8 South Pacific. Not even a test site. This is from  
9 far, far away. And it's inside Yucca Mountain. Okay,  
10 now this is a problem. If this radionuclide can get in  
11 there in less than 50 years, what does it mean for us  
12 when, if you start putting waste there, and I honestly  
13 don't think you're going to start putting waste there,  
14 because as I've said before, time and time again, this  
15 project has thousands and thousands of people across  
16 the country working to stop it. Working at the reactor  
17 sites to find sane, healthy solutions for those people  
18 at the reactor sites, working along the transportation  
19 routes to make people informed. They're doing your  
20 job, and they're not getting paid for it. Which really  
21 sucks, because most of us don't have any health care or  
22 don't have any benefits. We're the ones on the front  
23 lines trying to stop this, and what happens, we go to  
24 those sites, and you know, we go to these reactor sites  
25 and we're getting, we're getting a dose --

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1 MODERATOR BROWN: We're at five minutes,

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2 since we're running short of time --

3 MS. SNYDER: Yeah, we're running short of  
4 time. It's amazing. I'd like for it to go on record  
5 that I just want to describe the room. And let you  
6 know, the Secretary, whoever eventually sees this, know  
7 that there's still, oh my gosh, over, I'd say 30,  
8 almost 40 people here. That people have been here all  
9 day, since I got here at 10 to 2:00 this afternoon, and  
10 this room has had chairs filled since that time. I'd  
11 like the Secretary to hear that people in our community  
12 want to hear what other people in our community have to  
13 say. They don't want to hide in a back room to give  
14 their testimony. We want to hear what our neighbors  
15 have to think and have to say. We learn from each  
16 other. And I ask again for you, the Department, to  
17 give an honest information session where you do answer  
18 questions, and you have the ability and you have the  
19 experts that you need in the right places, I guess  
20 that's what you need, to answer these questions. So we  
21 can hear each other. Because I, I have a lot of  
22 respect for this community, and I'm really grateful to  
23 live here. And very thankful for it. And I don't want  
24 to see any harm come to this community. And I will do

25 everything within my power to make sure that that

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1 doesn't happen.

2 And, you know, thank you again for your time.

3 Thank you everybody for coming out here tonight. I

4 know it's not easy to sit through this and we're all

5 blah blah blah, but thank you very, very much, and I

6 appreciate it, and let's continue to work together,

7 because we will stop this project.

8 (APPLAUSE)

9 MODERATOR BROWN: Any other first time

10 speakers? Kalynda, go ahead. You lost that pen in

11 Amargosa, so --

12 MS. SNYDER: I know.