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5 MS. OLSEN: Mary Olsen, Nuclear Information
6 and Resource Service. And for the record, I do
7 carry my rad alert on airplanes, and I am
8 beginning to limit my airline travel because of my
9 concerns about that dose.

10 3 I think I also want to mention that [many
11 countries in the world get more products and
12 service per unit of energy than we do, as much as
13 four and five times more product and service per
14 unit of energy. Clearly, 20 percent of our
15 electrical generating capacity could be phased out
16 and a good chunk of the coal generating capacity
17 could be phased out if our Department of Energy
18 would follow its name and help to develop the
19 energy sources of the future, which clearly are
20 not nuclear and clearly are renewable energy
21 sources that do not generate this troublesome
22 waste.]

23 So I just want to now mention that it was the
24 organization I worked for that coined the phrase
25 1 cont. "mobile Chernobyl." [I've heard tonight the

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1 1 cont. | reference that we have small impacts from
2 | transportation of irradiated fuel across the
3 | country for 30 years continuously, tens of
4 | thousands of shipments. It was during the system
5 | architecture program the Department of Energy held
6 | about three-four years ago I was privileged to
7 | participate with members of the DOE staff, and I
8 | was informed of this statement that there would be
9 | a small radiological impact -- actually, not even
10 | small, "no significant radiological impact from
11 | the transportation of irradiated fuel to a
12 | geologic repository." Then we also, the next day,
13 | had long conversations about worst-case-scenario
14 | accidents. Why do we call it mobile Chernobyl?
15 | Why are we not shot down in the street for using
16 | that phrase? Because the worst-case-scenario
17 | accident has particles of irradiated fuel
18 | traveling in smoke flumes off of accident sites.
19 | What was Chernobyl accident's impact for most of
20 | the people who were impacted? Small particles of
21 | irradiated fuel traveling in smoke flumes. The
22 | impact may not be comparable in size or scale, but
23 | the immediate impact to an individual is
24 | remarkably the same. And so we call it mobile
25 | Chernobyl.

1 1 cont. So how is it that I was told there was no
2 significant radiological impact? Because this
3 federal agency is indulging itself in a little
4 activity that it likes to do because it's paid to
5 do it, which is packaging and advertising. And
6 it's being packaged and advertised as no
7 significant impact because they're allowed to take
8 all the doses -- could be half of Indianapolis,
9 could be all of Augusta, could be a quarter of
10 Atlanta affected by the particles of irradiated fuel
11 in such a worst-case-scenario accident -- and
12 average it across the entire U.S. population.
13 Well, I for one am not willing to accept that I am
14 insignificant because I was averaged by some schmo
15 who's working for the DOE. I'm sorry, and I mean
16 no offense to the people who work for DOE. I'm
17 sure you're doing your job as well as possible.
18 But when you average me, you're a schmo. Okay?
19 And I am not going to put up with it because,
20 really, it's like doing the Heisenberg uncertainty
21 principle: you more you know about a thing, the
22 less you know where it is, and the more you know
23 about where you are, the less you know about the
24 thing. That is how you're treating these worst-
25 case-scenario accidents.

1 1 cont. The honest truth is we are one people across
2 this country. We are one people who are affected,
3 and those worst-case-scenario accidents are going
4 to happen to us. And it doesn't matter what city
5 you're in, talking to us. You're talking to us,
6 and it's going to happen. So don't play like it's
7 the uncertainty principle. It's quite certain, and
8 it's quite going to happen, and there quite are
9 going to be impacts, and you quite can't average
10 them after they happen, and the whole thing will
11 be quite a big mess once it does.

12 So I want to invoke another European country.
13 We've talked about France and England tonight, and
14 other European experiences. Let's talk about
15 Germany. In Germany we saw what happens when
16 people say no. We saw what happens when tens of
17 thousands of people go out in front of shipments
18 and say no. We get to the point where soccer
19 games get canceled because there are so many
20 police required to guard the shipments. When
21 soccer games get canceled in Germany, it would be
22 about like the ball game, on the same night as the
23 I-85 tie up, also being canceled in Atlanta. What
24 do you think would have happened here? Do you
25 think people would complacently say there's no

1 significant impact? I don't think so. And I do
2 think we are headed down that road. You can stand
3 up here all you want and say we're not, but I do
4 think we're headed down that road unless people
5 take a good long look at it and realize that we're
6 talking about human beings, we're talking about
7 release of radioactivity, we're talking about
8 impacts.

9 And finally, I want to mention in Germany
10 they weren't cleaning the outsides of the
11 containers. So after the police union that had to
12 guard all those casks started reading some of the
13 literature and realizing they were taking that
14 dose, they were taking it as if they were flying
15 around the world all the time not having any
16 shielding on the airplanes, which none of us have,
17 and they were standing right up against those
18 containers at the ten-chest-X-rays-an-hour level.
19 And so the police union said, "We won't do it
20 anymore," quietly, behind the scenes. But in
21 addition, it was discovered that the surfaces of
22 those containers are contaminated, that they
23 weren't cleaning those off.

24 4... [Now, we know the industry here will do a good
25 job to start off with, but we're talking about a

1 4 cont. 30-year program. And so those shipments in
2 Germany have been canceled and they're on hold
3 because of the kind of sloppiness that you can
4 expect to see in a program here. So I'm just
5 saying let's -- if we're going to talk about the
6 international experience, let's talk about all of
7 it.

8 And I know that my little alarm went off, so
9 2... I'm probably at time, but I just want to close by
10 saying that I think more and more people are
11 realizing that when it comes to nuclear waste
12 transportation we all live in Nevada, and a
13 proposal to do 10,000 shipments through this city
14 that I can't find my way around in because they've
15 got all the names that are the same on all the
16 streets and all of these incredible tie ups -- And
17 excuse me, Atlanta, but the planning of the
18 highways here is really rotten. There's a lot of
19 bottle necks. We're talking about putting high-
20 level nuclear waste into this picture for 30
21 years. That's a major federal action. So thank
22 you, DOE, for having a hearing here. But quite
23 frankly, the EIS does not reflect the level of
24 impact that it's going to have on Atlanta, and
25 it's going to be the local people in Atlanta who

1 2 cont. | have to now take this up into their hands and
2 | really get the analysis done to be able to impact
3 | this process, and really with very little help
4 | from this agency.

5 MS. SWEENEY: Thank you.