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18 MS. BAKER: My name is Sylvia Baker. I have
19 lived in Nevada for close to 40 years now. Most
20 of my family, four generations worth, reside in
21 Baker, Nevada. And they are ranchers. They are
22 also EMTs, and first responders, voluntarily.
23 They -- the expense of training them has fallen
24 on themselves. They respond to whatever accidents
25 may occur, and I certainly hope they will not

1 respond to one of yours.

2 I have five grandchildren there. Five
3 adult children -- children and their spouses. And
4 their father, their fathers, actually. And their
5 grandmother is still there. One uncle, and
6 another grandmother, my mother, and my brother
7 were downwinders who died early of cancer. We've
8 already been there.

1 9 I would like to see some reflection
10 comparing the risk to a population that has
11 already been contaminated by radioactive activity
12 that was not of our choosing, but occurred as a
13 result of governmental decisions to use federal
14 lands adjacent and downwind of where we were
15 to -- to do their nuclear testing. My mother
16 drove right by during the Bainbridge venting in
17 1962. This population has already experienced
18 nuclear contamination.

19 To a person, if they haven't done it
20 directly, they've done it through hiking, through
21 hunting, through farming, through the rains and
22 the snows. And certainly there are various
23 individual differences. But this is a population
24 of people who are already contaminated. And the
25 damage of radiation is cumulative. And so I take

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1 it very personally that you are choosing this
2 area to move radioactive materials through with
3 little consideration of the population, except in
4 terms of numbers.

5 See, we, each one of us, have a life.
6 Each person is just a person wherever they live
7 and whoever they are. But you're choosing to
8 contaminate people who have already been
9 contaminated probably. And your EIS does not
10 address accidents, minor, medium, or severe at
11 every step along the way in terms of the people,
12 the families, the industry that they have, the
13 food supplies that they have presently and in the
14 future. Because my children are farmers and
15 ranchers. They produce food for livestock and for
16 people. And any contamination for that would
17 absolutely wipe out a fourth-generation business
18 that is successful in White Pine County that
19 produces food for people to eat.

20 But that's also not a consideration.
21 You have to take each step of the way. I want to
22 know what's going to happen if you go past and
23 have an accident out by a Eureka ranch or farm,
24 not just where my kids are. But that's number
25 one, for me. |

3 1 But I want to know, too, what the
2 scientific evidence is that these containers will
3 withstand prolonged below zero temperatures with
4 nuclear waste inside of them that isn't cold, the
5 contrast. I don't see any scientific studies that
6 tell me that that is a safe kind of thing.

4 7 The emergency workers in this area of
8 Nevada are volunteer. They are -- some of them
9 well trained, many of them are only moderately
10 well trained, because we need everybody to pitch
11 in and help. And I don't see any recognition that
12 these people need more training, more equipment,
13 more protection, continuous training, equipment,
14 and protection of themselves and other people to
15 deal with these accidents. All along the way.

5 16 These are long roads. They can be
17 slick. But I'm as much concerned about the excess
18 heat in the summertime, and the potential below
19 zero temperatures in the wintertime. And I don't
20 see anything like that being addressed with any
21 scientific accuracy. And if you're going to do
22 an environmental impact statement, you have to
23 consider every aspect of the environment all
24 along the way. Because each is particular, each
25 is specific.

6 1 We have a tourist industry that would
2 be wiped out just with the idea, just with the
3 publicity, that nuclear waste is going through.
4 Especially in bad weather. And we don't have a
5 whole lot else, except some agriculture and some
6 mining and some wonderful outdoors for fishing
7 and hunting and hiking and camping. And we have
8 renewable resources, as well, which will be
9 probably destroyed for years and years and years
10 to come.

8 11 And then we have an earthquake down
12 there that makes us wonder whether your final
13 destination makes any sense at all. This is a new
14 fault that they just discovered. I felt it in
15 White Pine County. It's connected to something. I
16 didn't feel it terribly, but it knocked down two
17 plants and, you know, kind of banged things
18 around a little. Not much. But still, you become
19 aware that those faults are connected, one to
20 another. And when you have an earthquake in one,
21 it may very well destabilize another. And I don't
22 see adequate scientific information about the
23 seismic activity in California and Nevada and the
24 adjacent areas.

9 25 The other concern I have, if I can

1 remember it, has to do with the socioeconomic,
2 but also the psychosocial culture here. We're a
3 small community. We're interdependent here. We
4 need every human being we can get. We need to use
5 them well and cherish them and work together in
6 order to make our lives work. And to jeopardize
7 even one part of it jeopardizes the community
8 that we have. We're known people to each other.
9 We're not strangers. We're not anonymous.

10 So the psychological, the mental
11 anguish that would occur with any sort of
12 accident, any sort of mishap. Also, simply the
13 anxiety that is chronic in relation to these
14 things has a real affect on community
15 effectiveness. And we do not have the resources
16 because there's so much federal land. White Pine
17 County is 98 percent federal land. We have to
18 make our livings and do our, you know, stuff on
19 two percent. |

20 We have to live. We have to make our
21 livings. We have to conduct our industry. And we
22 have to collect our taxes on two percent of the
23 land area in White Pine County. That's not very
24 much. It's no wonder we're poor.

25 So all -- what might seem a small

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1 effect is going to be like a pebble in a pond.
2 It's going to reverberate and reverberate
3 throughout the communities. And "communities," I
4 mean that. Because Eureka and Austin, we're all
5 interdependent as separate communities, as well.
6 And so are our industries. So I hope that you
7 will take a more thorough, more specific look at
8 this.

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9 And my last concern is that this
10 meeting and the meetings before it were extremely
11 poorly noticed. I don't know whether that's a
12 problem with the newspaper, or whether it's your
13 problem. But they were extremely poorly noticed.
14 I had to go back three, four days to find an ad
15 advertising this meeting. Everyone I've spoken to
16 in the last two weeks have never heard about it.
17 There was only one article, and that was two
18 meetings ago, before the two meetings ago, that
19 explained anything about what this was. And that
20 was quoting somebody local and somebody in the
21 State. So I think that this is a sham, simply
22 because of the poor notice.

23 You're not getting what you need to be
24 getting. You're not hearing from everyone you
25 need to be hearing from. And I don't know what

1 excuse you have for that. |
2 But | I'd also like to see you seriously
3 explore alternatives to transporting nuclear
4 waste to Nevada from all over the United States.
5 And I don't see any of that, either. I don't see
6 any conscious attempt to explore alternatives to
7 this dump site. And an EIS statement is not
8 complete without a thorough exploration of the
9 alternative possibilities in good faith so that
10 they can be compared with the impacts, the
11 alternative impact, the impacts of alternative
12 plants can be compared with the impacts of this
13 plant. | Thank you very much.

14 MS. BOOTH: Thank you.

15 THE FACILITATOR: Yes. Our next speaker will
16 be Ginger Swartz. Ms. Swartz is the last person I
17 have on my list. If anyone else would like to
18 speak, I will take you after she delivers her
19 presentation.

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