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MR. KAMPS: Thank you for this opportunity

OCT 26 1999

3 to be heard. My name is Kevin Kamps. I work for Nuclear  
4 Information and Resource Service here in Washington, D.C. My  
5 title is Nuclear Waste Specialist. Our organization  
6 represents members in the 50 states of this country. We  
7 represent the grass roots communities around reactor sites,  
8 around radioactive waste dumps, around proposed dumps,  
9 including folks out in Nevada, and all long the transport  
10 routes leading to Nevada. I'd like to begin my comments  
11 reading a couple quotes just to inform my later remarks. The  
12 first quote is from Einstein, "The splitting of the atom has  
13 changed everything except for the way that we think and thus  
14 we drift toward unparalleled catastrophe."

15 The second quote I have is from Frederick  
16 Douglas, a quote from 1949, himself a freed slave. "Power 17  
concedes nothing without a demand. It never did, and it 18  
never will. Find out just what people will submit to, and  
19 you have found the exact amount of injustice and wrong which  
20 will be imposed upon them. And these will continue until  
21 they are resisted with either words or blows or with both. 22  
The limits of tyrants are prescribed by the endurance of

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1 those whom they oppress."

2                   And I'd like to follow immediately upon that  
3 quote that our resistance to the Yucca Mountain repository to  
4 the rush to transport of nuclear waste has always been  
5 nonviolent and will always be nonviolent. Another short  
6 quote from Einstein, the tail end of a longer quote,  
7 "Straight from the village scare must come America's voice on  
8 atomic energy." And that's exactly what our organization and  
9 our allies in the public interest movement and the  
10 environmental movement are all about is educating the grass  
11 roots, getting them involved in this democracy that we are  
12 all apart of, to be apart of the decisions on this most  
13 important of issues.

14                   I have a couple handouts that are available  
15 on the back table. I also have some on my person if people  
16 would like them. One is entitled, "Why Yucca Mountain will  
17 fail as a nuclear waste repository," and the other, "Why we  
18 call it mobile Chernobyl." So, please find them in the back  
19 or find them from me.

20                   I'll start with why Yucca Mountain will fail  
21 as nuclear waste repository. Since 1987, only one site has  
22 been under studied as the final permanent burial site for the

1 nation's high-level nuclear waste. This material contains  
2 more than 95 percent of the radioactivity in the direction of  
3 the nuclear age. The vast majority of this material is from  
4 energy production at commercial nuclear power reactors. The  
5 repository program also includes high-level wastes from  
6 nuclear weapons production and the nuclear Navy.

1 7 [Today, there's no known solution for  
8 isolating this material. For as long as it is hazardous more  
9 than 250,000 years, except for one year at a time, it's going  
10 to leak. So they changed the rules. It's been known since  
11 the early analysis of this site that fractures in the rock of  
12 Yucca Mountain will allow the release of radioactive gases  
13 overtime as nuclear waste decays. The primary gas will be 14  
carbon 14. It's estimated that the release of this  
15 radioactive gas will have global impact overtime but will 16  
result in 25,000 additional cancers. This fact would have 17  
prevented the site from being listed under EPA's nuclear  
18 waste repository standards coming into effect at that time.

19 In 1992, Congress exempted Yucca Mountain  
20 from the EPA standard, telling them to write a special  
21 standard just for Yucca Mountain. The original standard more  
22 or less is on the books, though with a loop hole for the

1 embattled waste isolation. Whoops, it's going to leak more.  
2 So change the rules again.

3 DOE's own data as presented in the 1998  
4 viability assessment shows water moves quite rapidly through  
5 the rocks at Yucca Mountain. The containers begin to fail. 6  
Radioactively will also move rapidly in centuries or less to 7  
contaminate the groundwater in the region. This is due to  
8 the same fractures in the rock that will allow carbon 14 to  
9 escape.

10 Fingerprints demonstrating this fast flow  
11 pathway were left by fall out from the various industries 12  
that created the waste that would be sent to the site.

13 Traces of chlorine 36 were found by DOE researchers deep in  
14 Yucca Mountain at the level where the waste would be dumped.  
15 This radionuclide is not found at these concentrations in  
16 nature. In fact, there is only one bulk source of chlorine  
17 36 atmospheric nuclear weapons test conducted in the Pacific.

18 Salt and the sea water was activated forming  
19 the radioactive chlorine isotope. This fell out all over the  
20 northern hemisphere. It's not unique to Yucca Mountain, but  
21 its presence of repository depth proves water has traveled  
22 there within the last 50 years.

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continued  
on page 5

1 MR. LAWSON: 30 seconds.

2 MR. KAMPS: I'm from Michigan. I just moved  
3 here a couple months ago in Michigan, have fought to make  
4 sure that nuclear waste disposal and storage is done in a  
5 safe manner. And so speaking on behalf of don't waste  
6 Michigan, which has been involved in this struggle for over a  
7 decade, we want to see a safe nuclear waste transport program  
8 in the future, not rushed to meet the bottom line of the  
9 nuclear industry, their profits.

10 It's the most deadly poison on earth, and we  
11 think that short-term profits should not rule the case. So,  
12 the mobile Chernobyl is a huge issue across the country.  
13 Experience is that tens of thousands of people will be there  
14 to note these transports if this process is rushed and they  
15 are excluded from it. And that is what has happened in this  
16 country.

1 continued

17 So, the standards have been lowered again  
18 and again for Yucca Mountain. We feel that there should be a  
19 genuine process, that we should start looking for better ways  
20 to dispose of our waste other than a leaking hole in the  
21 ground in Nevada will condemn future generations to cancer  
22 and other radiation induced diseases and illnesses. How much

1 time do I have?

2 MR. LAWSON: You're over.

3 MR. KAMPS: Thank you for your attention,  
4 and we will be submitting full comments on this issue.

5 MR. LAWSON: Mr. Kamps, could I ask you also  
6 if you want to submit those two documents as exhibits. My  
7 next speaker is William Kovacs, and he would be followed by  
8 James Dushaw who is evidently speaking for Will Paul, and  
9 then Chuck Harple.