

12

MS. GIUDI WEISS: Can you hear me? Good

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13 evening.

14 Thank you for this opportunity to
15 testify today. My name is Giudi Weiss, and I'm
16 here on behalf of the Gray Panthers.

17 You may know that the Gray Panthers
18 were founded some 30 years ago by Maggie Kuhn.
19 We are a nationwide group, multi-racial,
20 multi-ethnic, multi-generational, dedicated to
21 the cause of social and economic justice.

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22 We believe that democratic governments
23 exist as agencies of the people and that the
24 common welfare is best served when all of us
1 share in determining public policy.

2 Despite this hearing and others being
3 held around the country, we have not had that
4 opportunity on policy concerning the disposal of
5 nuclear waste.

6 I try to be an informed citizen, keep
7 on top of issues that I care about, and yet I
8 learned of this hearing only days ago. It's
9 hardly time to read an environmental impact
10 statement some 1400 pages in length. In fact,
11 it was delivered to me about two hours before I
12 came to this meeting by a very brave UPS
13 delivery man. So how can I make an informed
14 decision about a controversial nuclear waste
15 dump and the cross country movement of thousand
16 of shipments of nuclear waste? How can I assess

17 the risk to my community? And how can I assess
18 the risk to future generations?

19 To make those assessments, I need
20 clear and accurate information. But those who
21 have studied the draft environmental impact
22 statement tell me it's more of a hindrance than
23 a help to understanding. Despite its imposing
24 length, it fails to give us the information we
1 need. Worse, it actively confuses readers so
2 that we can't form an accurate picture of our
3 risks. Let me give you a few examples.

2 4 Number one, to get to Yucca Mountain,
5 radioactive waste will travel through 43 states
6 past the homes, workplaces and schools of 50
7 million Americans. I am one of those
8 Americans. But the DEIS, I'm told, doesn't show
9 me which routes the waste will take and it
10 doesn't address the conditions along those
11 routes. So how can I assess the risk to my
12 community? And how can I assess the risk to
13 future generations?

3 14 Another example, the sheer amount of
15 radioactive material that will be shipped in the
16 next three decades is unprecedented in world
17 history. What's more, most of it will be spent
18 fuel from nuclear power plants, and virtually
19 none of this type of material has ever been
20 shipped before.

21 The casks that will carry it have not
22 been built. They have never been physically
23 tested. So how can I assess the risk to my
24 community and how can I assess the risk to
1 future generations?

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2 One more example. The DOE
3 acknowledges that accidents involving the
4 radioactive shipments are inevitable. In fact,
5 there will be hundreds of these accidents over
6 the course of 30 years, but the DEIS doesn't
7 examine what emergency response training and
8 equipment my community will need or what the
9 specific impacts of a transportation accident in
10 Chicago will be. So how can I assess the risk
11 to my community? And how can I assess the risk
12 to future generations?

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13 You know, the DOE almost didn't have a
14 hearing here in Chicago. And as far as I can
15 tell, the Department has done nothing to educate
16 the people of Chicago about the Yucca Mountain
17 project or the draft environmental impact
18 statement.

19 If the DOE would just as soon not let
20 us know the facts, well, how can any of us
21 assess the risks to ourselves, to our
22 communities and to future generations?

6

23 The Gray Panthers are realists. We
24 are not categorically opposed to nuclear power,

6 cont'd.

1 cont'd.

1 and we know that something must be done with
2 nuclear waste. [] [So] what is it I'm asking for?
3 At this point nothing more than time. I want
4 time to analyze your 1400-page environmental
5 impact document, I want time to make an informed
6 judgment, and I want time to add my voice and
7 the voice of the Gray Panthers to this precedent
8 setting public policy. []

7

9 And something more, [I] want you to
10 rewrite the DEIS so that it's not obfuscating,
11 so that it's clear and honest, so that it gives
12 us the information we need to assess the risk to
13 all of our communities and the risk to future
14 generations.

15 Thank you.