

RECEIVED

TOM BEDONIE

JAN 20 2000

1 MR. BEDONIE: My name is Tom Bedonie. I'm from Big Mountain, Arizona. I was going to be home, back home, but I heard of this hearing here and my friend, Kay Drey, told me -- asked me to stay and give a statement, so here I am again the second time up to give a statement. And I'm very concerned for the Western Shoshone people. I'm very concerned because this waste disposal plant is a violation of human rights and religious rights and burial rights. This land is very sacred to the Western Shoshone. It's very sacred because it's a rare place that they have their shrine and their sacred place to pray and offer sacred stones or do pipe ceremony and talk to the holy being of life, the provider of life. And why is it always Native American Indian people have to be sacrificed? Why is it that the area of native land considered as a national sacrifice area?

2 We are human beings, too. We're not just objects or a piece of rock. We are humans. We breathe, we eat, we live just like everyone else of all walks of life. I want to say this because it's very important that we, as human beings, as people, if we do not stick together, if we do not unite together, we will all be doomed. This radioactive material, the waste product, is very dangerous. It has killed a lot of people and it will kill more if we continue to take plutonium from Mother Earth. If you don't know how to deal with it, why not leave it in the ground. Why do you people have to pull it out of the ground and don't know how to deal with it? You should know what you're doing. I thought people with some kind of education or scientific terms, anything like that would know what they're doing and how to deal with this waste product of the plutonium.

3 I would like to say that we're asking you please do not put a waste disposal plant in Yucca Mountain. The Yucca Mountain is very sacred and we cannot violate the traditional people of the Western Shoshone and the Piauxes within Nevada. Some of them live in California, Arizona and Utah. It is very important that we live together and stick together and solve this kind of issue. I think that delivering radioactive waste by rail or by tractor trailer is unsafe. We must think of we the people, not I will make a dollar. We must think of the children, and just a while ago the children gave their statement and they're saying how they feel out of their heart, out of their minds. They wrote it down on a piece of paper. So you must understand that this life is very important, is very sacred. All walks of life is very important, so I think that maybe we should not have a waste disposal plant under Yucca Mountain. Maybe we should stick it down to Washington D.C. to the Department of Energy and make a waste disposal plant there and that way they could deal with the problem themselves, because if they try to put it on Indian land, they do not understand. They do not see what the problem, what kind of disease it carries, what kind of thing it is because you cannot see with your naked eye radiation. You talk about armed guards. Will they see that radiation coming out, leaking out? If they do, are they going to shoot it down? Relatives, thank you for letting me talk to you. I appreciate it, all your support. Thank you.