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MR. McGOWAN: I'll be succinct. That means brief, I think. And unequivocal and uncompromising.

My name is Tom McGowan, 720 South Casino Center Boulevard, Number 5, Las Vegas, Nevada 85101.

Some of you look familiar. And most of you are appropriately concerned about this topic.

Very pleased to see a representative of the City of Mesquite here, and I know with interest there are no representatives from the City of Las Vegas, and that's not said for any other reason except because it's extremely important. They're the ones that passed the ordinance yesterday to prohibit the transport of nuclear waste to their --

MR. BROWN: I guess the folks in back are holding their hand up. If you can speak up just a little bit more.

MR. McGOWAN: Yes.

So it's going to your domain apparently instead, and if I were you, I would contact the mayor, advise him that you are also human.

1 Good morning. I'm opposed to the underground storage of high-level nuclear waste, adamantly opposed, and for the following reasons:

First of all, I don't consider it a Nevadacentric issue at all. I consider it a global and universal issue. Nuclear waste doesn't know you from me, doesn't really care, but it will kill in less than three minutes, less time probably that you will allot for this public comment, particularly if you're constipated. It doesn't pass through in a hurry.

That's not meant in any other way except because it's a fact.

2... It's axiomatic that the underground hydrogeologic domain is naturally ordered as in the state of variable dynamic flux. You knew that from the beginning.

Over the entire term of the geologic time scale continuum from inception through cessation inclusively, it's moving as we speak. This earth is not a bowling ball. It's not a monolithic solid steel sphere or anything of this sort. There's all kind of stuff under there.

There is more tonnage of bio-organisms within the earth than there is on top of it, on the onion wafer skin surface. Ask any astronaut. It's public, then.

So our domain is rather irrelevant compared to the much broader underground domain.

You're talking about a safety -- deep hydrologic -- what is deep about something that's a depth of 900 feet along a radius diameter -- not even radius of approximately 4,000 miles.

...2

Can you equate that right away? How about 1/32 of a vis -- it's virtually surface, subsurface underground storage.

It shouldn't be there because if you're putting into directly injecting it into the environment, the ambient environment, you know it's going to end up as human accessible somewhere. Maybe Mesquite, maybe Pahrump, maybe Ash Meadows, maybe Death Valley Junction, maybe Lake Mead. Maybe all of them combined.

It will be in the children's milk and in their ice cream. It's a little worse than arsenic. Right, Steve?

That was meant for Steve Yoakum. He knows it, too.

Consequently it's impossible to guarantee the safe, secure and human intrusion impervious underground storage of high-level nuclear waste by any combination of natural and engineered barriers and statistical probabilistic modeling and institutional controls over any substantially enduring term, either at Yucca Mountain, Nevada, elsewhere nationally or anywhere on this particular planet.

Billions to find that out and you are not sure of it yet; is that correct? So put the billions back and go do something else, because you apparently don't know how to do this.

You must first understand that it can't be done. If you want to try to jump over the Empire State Building with a standing start, go ahead. I'll give you half an hour to draw a crowd.

They might lose interest when they realize that it can't be done. Perhaps you will, too, eventually.

Therefore, I strongly recommend and request that the generic you, including the guidelines hearing officers -- you're part of this responsible process -- the DOE/OCRWM/YMPO, whom I respect and admire as professionals and as people, many of them are personal acquaintances of mine.

I couldn't think of anything -- any higher esteem I could possibly hold on them, but they are soldiers following orders. They are paid to do that.

They do it quite well, and their limitations, I'm sure they're aware of everybody more than I am. Some day they'll admit that. Maybe in a memoir.

3...

The DOE/OCRWM/YMPO, the EPA, the US-NRC, the NAS/ NRC and the NWTRB as well as all state, local and tribal jurisdictions, news media and the interest of the affected public nationally demand -- don't ask, demand that the Congress and the President of the United States immediately repeal the Nuclear Waste Policy Act of 1982 and as amended in 1987, completely and permanently and refrain henceforth and in perpetuity from any further attempts in furtherance of the underground storage of high-level nuclear waste anywhere in the United States and by the provision and promulgation of a emulative model elsewhere internationally.

...3

They're copying us. In fact, they're ahead of us and they're copying in any respects. We lost the nuclear edge in the nuclear age. Thank you, Mark.

Expressly not as the willing and witting pons acting in politically expedient and wholly subjective service to the limited special interests of the irresponsible and formidably resourced and politically persuasive commercial nuclear power industry that our proper brother referenced a moment ago, and their political constituencies who are equally responsible and arbitrary, self-serving.

And thereas to substantially fund and aggressively develop the recently proposed DOE/ATW program which I initially proposed in January 1990 -- remember that year -- pursuant to the safe, secure above-ground storage of high-level nuclear waste, pending reduction and transmutation via accelerator driven transmutation technology and augmented facilities.

And above all, because there are no institutional controls. You're lucky you got enough chairs in this room for the crowd that will show up later. Talk about institutional controls. You got water, nothing else.

I hope we don't get trapped here for three weeks. We'd run out of water. It's all over, isn't it true?

4

But the whole point is there are no institutional controls that will endure as long as Plutonium PU239, not even the first half-life, much less ten.

5

This society and government is unqualified to address this issue responsibly. That's what the crux issue is. We don't know what the hell we're doing in plain English. Pardon my French, but I like emphasize just a little bit here and there. Okay.

We need to set up what I referred to as a nuclear waste priesthood. Don't laugh at that term. I mean a secular priesthood, of course, non-denominational.

The sole purpose would be that would be comprised of individuals and -- who are attained to an utmost higher idealized standard of human spiritual quality effectiveness in terms of reason, integrity, responsibility, morals, ethics and above all conscience to realize what we're dealing with here is capable of causing the extinction of consciousness itself. Think about that while you can still think.

When we're no longer here, there are no humans. Now what?

MR. BROWN: We're at the end --

MR. McGOWAN: That's what we're doing.

We're almost out of time?

MR. BROWN: Yes.

MR. MCGOWAN: That's nothing. Where you're really out of time about is putting it underground. The whole world is out of time.

Get it straight. Okay. You don't have to believe me. Put it at your house and see if you believe that. What will you do, then?

The fact is you will not do that. Because you know as well as I do it can't be done safely.

6

I request to be on your mailing list. I request receipt of -- the timely receipt of the entire public comment minutes and proceedings of all of your hearings, everyone of them all across the country and I request a response to what my request was of you to do where the Congress and the president are concerned.

I want to know what you did, and if not, why not and rest assured that your names will be listed -- I really mean this -- as among those people in our current generations who failed utterly ourselves, each other and all posterity.

7

This is an extremely serious matter. We're talking about something that ranks on the par with the birth of Christ and the discovery of the so-called New World.

This isn't a camp for kids. It's not a hobby. You either do it right or get off the pot, and if you can't do it right, don't feel bad that you have to say, "I don't know how" or apologize. You don't have to. It's okay to say "I don't know," but say it responsibly.

If you can't do that, stand accountable and liable. You will be memorialized, no question about it.

You know my name. Thank you.