

21 DAVID BALERIA: By way of introduction I'm
22 not anti-nuke nor antimilitary nor un-American. I
23 grew up here, I graduated here and may come back and
24 live here permanently sometime when we're through
25 full-time RV'ing.

1 [But I'm very concerned about the health and
2 welfare of Hawthorne and central Nevada as a whole.
3 I'm concerned that the Yucca Mountain project will
4 come at the expense of Hawthorne and Mineral County
5 folks to benefit others in Las Vegas and particularly
6 the eastern United States, both places where they
7 don't want their own garbage or their own waste from
8 sewage to nuclear waste from reactors making
9 electricity for them.

10 Some facts. First, Nevada ranks among the
11 most seismically active states. The number of the
12 larger shocks produced some spectacular examples of
13 surface faulting, including quakes in Pleasant Valley
14 in 1915, Cedar Mountain in 1933, Excelsior Mountain
15 Range in 1934, Rainbow Mountain in 1954, and Fairview
16 Peak in 1954. Some of us who grew up in Hawthorne
17 remember the July through December 1954 quakes east
18 of Fallon, Nevada.

19 The Nevada Test Site in Southern Nevada is
20 the home of 928 nuclear tests during the Cold War
21 until the testing moratorium halted nuclear testing
22 in 1992. One hundred of the tests conducted south of
23 us were atmospheric tests dropped by aircraft,
24 explosive towers, balloons or cannons producing
25 well-known mushroom clouds and dangerous radioactive

1 fallout. Some of that fallout drifted to Hawthorne.

2 The present: Nuclear waste is currently
3 being stored in over 120 locations in 39 states,
4 according to the U.S. Department of Energy Office of
5 Civilian Radioactive Waste Management. Folks would
6 have you believe that it's all a very safe industry.
7 If it's that safe, why don't they keep their waste
8 where they generate their electricity?

9 Keep in mind that this is a federal agency
10 that does not particularly give a damn about
11 Hawthorne or Mineral County residents. It's a
12 federal agency, after all, and we know federal
13 agencies don't really care about rural Americans,
14 small town America. Few have ever lived in a town
15 under 30,000, let alone 3,000 folks. There's
16 probably two of us in this room tonight, my wife
17 being the other one, that has stayed in all 48 states
18 in this grand nation of ours.

19 If you look at the map on the OCRWM website
20 you will see that most of these storage sites are
21 east of the Missouri River, as they should be, but
22 they're filling. Tough. It's their waste, not
23 Nevada's nor Hawthorne's.

24 The massive U.S. population east of the
25 Missouri River, which is east of the great plains

1 states of North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska,
2 Kansas, Oklahoma and Texas is a huge electrical use
3 area in the United States. Yet as with coal mining
4 and coal burning, they don't want that in their own
5 backyards. No, mine coal in Wyoming, ship it to some
6 Nevada old Indian reservation in the southwest and
7 burn it in a coal fired electrical generation
8 facility there, or in the heartland of America or in
9 the west, but ship that clean electricity back to the
10 east for those population centers.

11 Just as the rich and powerful don't want
12 wind power turbines at Cape Cod, Massachusetts, and
13 we know who some of those people are, disturbing
14 their views, they sure want cheap electrical energy,
15 made elsewhere of course.

16 And, God forbid, they don't want nuclear
17 reactors near them, or certainly the waste that will
18 be radioactive for 10,000 or more years stored near
19 their schools, their backyards or anywhere near their
20 pristine eastern towns. No, ship it off to what they
21 see as the wastelands of the rural deserts of Nevada,
22 a state many of them can't even correctly pronounce.

23 Just as Los Angeles managed to steal much
24 water from the north valley decades ago, and Las
25 Vegas is now trying to do with a huge pipe sucking

1 the underground water from rural central Nevada, now
2 the folks who live far from Nevada want to turn
3 Nevada into an even bigger radioactive waste dump.

4 I say no. Let them keep their own waste in
5 their own backyards. We have a gas and fuel crisis
6 in America. They want to ship how many tens of
7 thousands of tons, not pounds but tens of thousands
8 of tons of nuclear waste from all over the U.S. here
9 to Fernley and down to our town here in Hawthorne or
10 near our town on railroad cars, although that seems
11 to have changed if the Mina route is considered.

12 At least throughout Vegas does not present
13 the same adverse impact due to the massive increased
14 shipping data on our highways here. Las Vegas is
15 already an artificial city that should not exist,
16 which has far exceeded its own water resources
17 decades ago. If there's a nuclear spill down there
18 that kills thousands, well, they just won't have to
19 build the next 230,000 homes planned there. There's
20 already 30,000 homes on the sub prime scam market out
21 there now.

22 Hawthorne has already been near enough to
23 nuclear radiation. Many may not remember or even
24 know about the Shoals 12.5 kiloton nuclear shot 28
25 miles southeast of Fallon in 1963. That shot was

1 only 48 miles from Hawthorne. Or how about the 1968
2 1.2 megaton fault shot in the Warm Springs area to
3 our northeast. 828 nukes were fired underground at
4 the Nevada Test Site. Now they went from 77,000 tons
5 of nuclear waste they want to store in our backyard
6 to 150,000 tons.

7 Fortunately the Mina rail route is out. It
8 seems our Native Americans have said no to it again.
9 Maybe seeing the dollar signs being hung out in front
10 of their faces isn't enough to give up what they
11 might lose.

12 Some in Hawthorne likely too see the dollar
13 signs of the Mina route particularly somehow. Will
14 the Yucca project bring jobs to Hawthorne? Not
15 likely. But will it bring other's nuclear waste from
16 all over this country right by our backyard? Yep.
17 What's in it for you? Very little, if anything.
18 Thank you.]