

2 MONTY BONGOCHI: Good evening, people. [And 1
3 thank you DOE, Department of Energy, for having this
4 hearing. I don't know what hat to wear tonight
5 because I've worn a lot of different hats. I think
6 I'm going to wear this Monache Alliance hat. It's a
7 new, nonprofit organization that's been set up to
8 promote healthy living, develop and redevelop
9 cultural native values for our families in the
10 Eastern Sierra and also the Western Sierra region.

11 I don't pretend to be any authority on
12 nuclear energy. I'll just tell you a little bit
13 about my past. Maybe 10, 12 years ago I used to work
14 for a home that took care of native kids that have
15 been in trouble. Most of them were ordered from
16 their respective county, from the probation
17 departments.

18 Anyway, we went up to Yucca Mountain when
19 the late Corbin Harney, Western Shoshone Traditional
20 Leader, was still alive. And they had a camp out
21 there. And I remember during that time reading about
22 how it would take thousands and thousands of years
23 for time to break down the nuclear, I don't know what
24 you would call it, compound or, you know. Anyway,
25 it's a long, long time.

1 And I always was kind of amazed why would
2 mankind create such a dangerous, devastating element
3 or compound, whatever you want to call it, and not
4 have any kind of a plan or, you know, other than, you

5 know, to bring it over to Yucca Mountain and put it
6 in the earth?

7 And before I came here tonight I washed my
8 face with water because the way I've been taught that
9 water is life. And I was thinking, as I was washing
10 my face, that I wanted to have that water bless me,
11 bless my thoughts so to the best of my humble ability
12 I could express the truth. And what if that water
13 has been contaminated with nuclear waste or any other
14 kind of pollution, any other type of dangerous
15 substance? I don't think I would use that water to
16 wash my face, to drink.

17 And so I would think that, you know, we
18 would consider these things, especially like my
19 comrade Harry Williams said that as native people we
20 look to the next seven generations down the road to
21 make sure that their safety and their health, their
22 welfare is considered before we make our decisions.

23 So I would hope that all mankind besides
24 just, you know, the American Indian people would have
25 that kind of philosophy or mentality, that kind of
1 goodness in their heart to plan and to develop. And
2 I don't want to rub elbows or, you know, in a
3 negative way with DOE personnel because I'm hoping
4 that, you know, my tribe can enter into some kind of
5 contract for sustainable energy, you know, whether it
6 be wind or solar or, you know, whatever. So don't
7 take my words, you know, personal.

8 I'm going to probably just say that another

9 hat I wear is sort of where I've been in education.
10 I'm not degreed from a college, but I've taken --
11 I've been fortunate to be taught by bio-regional
12 economic experts, permaculture development,
13 permaculture design, people that believe in
14 sustainable economics, sustainable lifestyles.

15 And I was thinking that with this
16 bio-regional concept in mind, it should be the
17 responsibility of those plants, again forgive my
18 ignorance, I'm not sure how far those nuclear energy
19 plants, how far their energy goes out, but they
20 should at least, whoever benefits from that, they
21 should clean up their own waste. You know, to me I
22 think that would be, I don't know, like probably it's
23 not a real smart idea, but I know I don't want that
24 being trucked through my country, my aboriginal
25 homeland.] Thank you.