

14 DARLA HEIL: I'm with the Owens Valley Indian  
15 Water Commission, and I have a few comments about this  
16 process. I understand -- [I haven't gotten a chance to look 1  
17 at this document yet. I understand that this document was  
18 sent out a couple of weeks ago, and that it's a very large  
19 document.

20 And I also understand that this is the  
21 public's only chance to make a comment on this document.  
22 And I think that two weeks' prep time and not many  
23 places to get ahold of this document makes this meeting  
24 a little inane.

25 It just seems like it's a little short of a  
1 time frame for the public to make very informed  
2 comments, which maybe you're not looking for very  
3 informed comments from the public. So I'm kind of  
4 giving you off-the-cuff comments right now.

5 I don't have a piece of paper with things  
6 written out. I haven't gotten to go through the  
7 document and say I have a problem with this, I have a  
8 problem with that. That's a general comment.]

9 [A second general comment I have is that when I 2  
10 look over here at all these maps, it looks to me like  
11 you guys don't know California abuts Nevada, and that  
12 actually some places in California are some of the  
13 closest inhabited places to Yucca Mountain.

14 And I think that that is -- if that carries  
15 through in the document, which I haven't gotten a look  
16 at the document, but if we are ignoring the fact that

17 California is right across that straight line on the  
18 southwest side of that map, we've got a problem, okay.

19 So another general comment is I really dislike  
20 the fact that you've got these maps showing it as if  
21 Yucca Mountain only had to do with Nevada.

22 Yucca Mountain has to do with much more than Nevada.]

23 [The problems -- this is, again, general  
24 comments, because I haven't gotten to see this document.

25 I have fears for the sorts of groundwater studies that  
1 you guys have done. I think that there are people who  
2 are worried about the radioactive material from  
3 Yucca Mountain ending up in the groundwater, and that  
4 that groundwater may end up in Death Valley, okay. So I  
5 have worries about that.]

6 [And my biggest worry has to do, though, with  
7 the transportation, the issues of moving radioactive  
8 waste to Yucca Mountain through parts of rural  
9 southeastern California, Inyo County, on roads that are  
10 really not good roads. They're really narrow roads.

11 I don't know how much driving you've done in  
12 the Tecopa Shoshone area, but that is apparently one of  
13 the routes to get nuclear waste from southern California  
14 to Yucca Mountain, because it bypasses some of the more  
15 heavily populated places in Las Vegas.

16 And I have real problems with -- with doing  
17 that, with taking hot radioactive waste on these not  
18 very good roads through that part of the county. And as  
19 I understand it -- I haven't seen this document -- I  
20 don't know that that is very well handled here. I don't

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21 know that -- and I do worry about that very much. And I  
22 guess that's really most of my comments about this.]

23 Okay. [The other comment I have is have you  
24 guys done any consultation with the tribes who are  
25 governments in their own right in this area and should  
1 be consulted with about this? Now, as far as I know,  
2 there has not been any consultation with any of the  
3 Owens Valley Tribes.

4 I don't know whether -- I would dearly hope  
5 that you have been at least consulting with Timbisha,  
6 the Shoshone, Western Shoshone Timbisha Tribe that's in  
7 Death Valley, which is basically where the water from  
8 Yucca Mountain might possibly end up.

9 And I really have concerns about that, is that  
10 the Department of Energy should be following  
11 consultation protocols with these governments. They're  
12 governments too, and they are effective governments.]

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