

15 CHARLOTTE OMOHUNDRO: Charlotte Omohundro,
16 O-M-O-H-U-N-D-R-O, *****, 89137. The scope of the
17 EPA's environmental assessment at Yucca Mountain is too
18 limited, both in scope and in duration. It does not
19 consider that the environmental impact of the facility over
20 time will affect an enormous geographical area and the
21 people who inhabit it.

22 After the last EPA hearings, the news coverage
23 on Channel 8 quoted the EPA as stating that the rise in
24 radiation levels in Las Vegas after shipping high-level
25 toxicity radioactive waste materials would be no higher

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1 than in Denver, Colorado.

2 That's not at all reassuring to those of us
3 who are aware of the radioactive contamination in
4 Colorado after the fires at Rocky Flats and mishandling
5 of transported radioactive waste to the Lowry Landfill,
6 or of the subsequent unsuccessful EPA superfund attempts
7 at remediation.

8 Dr. Helen Caldicott, the founder of the
9 Physicians for Social Responsibility, stated that she
10 believes that the Denver metropolitan area is
11 uninhabitable because of the plutonium contamination
12 from those fires at Rocky Flats, which were virtually
13 unreported in the local press.

14 Our local news coverage here in Las Vegas
15 failed to disclose the results of the grand jury
16 investigation of the City of Denver's mishandling of the
17 two sites. That occurred as the result of the city's

Untitled

18 partnership with Waste Management, Inc., which was found
19 to have been associated with organized crime in other
20 parts of the country.

21 In addition to the plutonium contamination
22 from Rocky Flats, the Titan Missile Factory and the
23 Rocky Mountain Arsenal dumped at the Lowry Landfill,
24 which is now classified as an EPA superfund site. It
25 has been investigated for flushing radioactive waste

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1 into public sewage systems, which rerouted it into
2 irrigation for public parks and recreation areas in
3 Denver, and for agricultural irrigation.

4 Note: The half-life of PU239 is over 24,000
5 years, and the half-life of U238 is around 4.5 billion
6 years. We are all aware in this part of the country of
7 the failed legal attempts by NTSW's and Utah's
8 "Downwinders" to seek compensation from the Departments
9 of Energy and Defense for medical expenses, loss of
10 life, and losses of property from radioactive
11 contamination after the nuclear bomb testing at the
12 Nevada Test Site in the 1950s and 1960s.

13 The majority of the awards made by the lower
14 courts were lost on appeal in the federal courts. It
15 seems the federal government can't be sued after it made
16 misleading statements about the safety of exposure to
17 radioactivity, even when the exposures resulted in
18 fatalities to civilians.

19 Information about the types of diseases and
20 fatal illnesses that can be expected from the exposure

21 to the lethal toxins that will be stored at
22 Yucca Mountain is nearly impossible for the public to
23 find.

24 Information about the routes of contamination,
25 primarily the ground water seepage through earthquake

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1 faults, has been falsified by the federal government,
2 and the corrections have not been made easily available
3 to the civilian public (whose taxes are being used to
4 build the repository and the rail lines for shipping
5 through earthquake country.)

6 We have no public health services which will
7 provide diagnoses and treatment in the event of spills
8 or other types of contamination. There is no evacuation
9 plan for the city of Las Vegas, to my knowledge.

10 The state of general preparedness for
11 disasters at Yucca Mountain is probably similar to that
12 at the reactor at Chernobyl in Belorussia. The
13 differences are that the amount of material at Chernobyl
14 which went critical was a tiny fraction of the amount
15 scheduled for deposit at Yucca Mountain, and the
16 population in the immediately surrounding area was a
17 tiny fraction of the population in southern Nevada,
18 California, Utah, and Arizona.

19 The environmental impact assessments conducted
20 by the EPA for Yucca Mountain do not take these facts
21 into consideration, nor does it take into consideration
22 that it has been putting the cart before the horse for
23 about six decades when it comes to the use of nuclear

24 facilities.

25 If proper research into the treatment of

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1 nuclear waste to render it harmless after use had
2 already been done, we wouldn't have to worry about the
3 lethal effects of accidents for the civilian population
4 or about the possibility of sabotage by terrorists.

5 We need another Manhattan Project for that
6 research. And until it is conducted, we shouldn't be
7 producing more waste. We need for radioactive waste to
8 be deactivated, not stored.