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Reno Public Meeting
October 4, 2001

EVA RENEE LAWS: Nice to meet you.

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2 I've been a United States citizen since 1977.

3 I have lived, like most of us, in great physical comfort

4 with too little regard to the energy I use. Because of

5 my lavish use of electricity, I intend to consider the

6 crisis our country faces with 70,000 tons of deadly

7 radioactive waste part of my responsibility.

8 I see this problem as a monumental conflict

9 our country has to struggle with that is so huge that

10 none of us know how to deal with it. The comprehension

11 of what 90,000 dangerous shipments for the next 30 years

12 to a depository represents in terms of risk and liability

13 is beyond my ability to comprehend. We humans lack

14 knowledge, skill and experience to safely manage so great

15 a danger.

16 I understand that the problem dealing with

17 the dangerous nuclear waste was passed from the nuclear

18 power companies to the United States Government and the

19 taxpayers. The government has started to invest a lot of

20 money, over six billion dollars I was told, to prepare

21 for storage of the deadly radioactive nuclear waste on

22 sacred Native American lands, by moving and shaping it

23 from the power plants of the nation to Utah and then to

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24 Nevada.

25 Do the decision-makers assume that Goshute

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1 and Shoshone in Utah and Western Shoshone in Nevada, that

2 these people's spiritual strength could match or

3 neutralize the radiation resulting from the projected 268

4 accidents?

5 Mr. Harrington, please recommend to the

6 Secretary of State, Spencer Abraham, to recommend to the

7 president of the United States the following: For the

8 government to consult with Native American people to help

9 us, our nation, as advisers about the best course of

10 action to deal with the radioactive nuclear waste. At

11 the present time in our land, native people are the most

12 trustworthy to make decisions about the earth, the

13 wisest, the most respectful and the most thoughtful.

14 They also are familiar with the most democratic

15 decision-making process.

16 The government, by consulting with them,

17 would validate the tribe's abilities and maybe make up

18 for the hardship they have put them through. Please put

19 all other considerations aside, politics, power and cost.

20 As a citizen and taxpayer, I would be willing

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21 to follow Native American advice without, of course,
22 making them responsible for any problems, the problems we
23 already have. I'm already sure that they would not
24 recommend that dangerous high-level radioactive waste be
25 shipped by trucks and trains through cities and towns and

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1 rural areas, risking a number of accidents that the U.S.
2 Government has already predicted, not to mention suicide
3 terrorists.

4 Have you seen some of the rails, the rail
5 beds, the roads in this country and the conditions they
6 are in? I was told that each truck of radioactive waste
7 holds up to 40 times the long-lasting deadly radiation
8 that was released by the Hiroshima bomb. Each train
9 could hold up to 200 times that. In case the consensus
10 of the people is to leave the high-level radioactive
11 nuclear waste near the power facilities where it is now
12 until neutralization can be invented, this may mean high
13 cost for expansion and additional security around the
14 power plant storage areas.

15 As a taxpayer, I would rather pay for that
16 than for a premature solution that necessitates shipping
17 and handling, and, of course, all new production of

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18 nuclear power and nuclear arms need to stop.

19 Thank you for your time.