

0148

RECEIVED

552451

OCT 12 2001

MS. TILGES: Is there a stack of EISs I can

10 stand on this time?

11 My name is Kalynda Tilges. I'm a Nuclear
12 Issues Coordinator for Citizen Alert in Las Vegas,
13 Nevada. I'm also a 30-something-year resident of the
14 state of Nevada. 22 in Las Vegas. All three of the
15 children who the doctor said I would never be able to
16 have were born in this state. And the grandchild, who
17 I wasn't really ready to be a grandmother for, he was
18 also born here.

19 So to start off with, I organized a
20 demonstration down the Las Vegas Strip to let the
21 tourists know, on Labor Day weekend, to let the
22 tourists know about the dangers of the transportation.
23 Because it's obvious you guys aren't going to. And I'd
24 like to submit, as part of my testimony, the sign that
25 my grandson carried. "Don't gamble with my future."

0149

1 His mother and he could not be here tonight.
2 His mother wanted me to present this on his behalf.
3 And this one, my 8-year-old son made, and he was
4 willing to testify over the telephone, over my speaker

552451

5 cell phone, but I think he's probably getting ready for
6 bed right now, because it ran so late. And he wanted
7 me, if nothing else, to submit this as his testimony.

8 There's a whole lot I could say. There's a
9 whole lot I have said. First of all, I'd like to ditto
10 every single comment that's been made against this
11 project. And most of what I'm going to talk about at
12 this point is going to be lessons learned at WIPP.

13 On the table back there, there's six basic
14 talking points that were drawn out of 108-page
15 statement put together for Clark County on how New
16 Mexico negotiated for benefits and got royally screwed.

17 But first of all, I'd like to make a comment
18 that as a public advocacy and watchdog membership
19 organization, I have been passing out copies of comment
20 sheets to people who couldn't be here. But in
21 Amargosa, I found out they've changed the address.
22 Isn't that interesting? Were you all planning on
23 telling anybody?

24 So what I'd like to know, and I'd really like
25 an answer right now, is if I'm going to have to track

0150

1 down all those people who couldn't make it here and are

2 counting on being able to make comments, am I going to
3 have to track them all down and give them the new
4 addresses? Because we certainly can't count on you to
5 let people know what's going on.

6 MR. ALLEN BENSON: The post office boxes are
7 good. The old post office box is good for a year.
8 Post office gave us the new post office box.

9 MS. TILGES: Okay.

10 MR. ALLEN BENSON: The old one is good for a
11 year.

12 MS. TILGES: Well, realistically, I don't
13 believe you, but I'm an optomist or I wouldn't be up
14 here. So I'm going to have to go with that.

15 I want people to understand that Yucca
16 Mountain is not a solution. First of all, it's
17 supposed to store 77,000 tons of waste. However, I've
18 seen plans to be, for it to be able to accept 150,000
19 tons. All you're going to have is one more site.
20 You're going to truck it all the way across the
21 country. It really upsets me when they say, you fight
22 about this, you're all politics, it's all politics.
23 When 1987 happened, and the Screw Nevada Bill came into
24 effect, we were thrown into a political fight. And I

552451

25 say by any means lawful, necessary, you're thrown a

0151

1 political fight, you fight a political fight.

2 Personally, I plan on doing everything within
3 my power to stop this project, and I said before, and I
4 will say it again, these trucks will roll across this
5 country over my dead body.

6 I'm not so stupid as to throw myself under a
7 truck. I will stand there and look that man in the
8 eye, the driver. And I will start at the gate of the
9 power plant, and I will work my way, every time I get
10 out of jail, all along the route until I get back here.
11 If that's what it takes. And I won't be the only one
12 there.

13 I was raised in a military family, and I was
14 raised to trust and respect our government. But I'm
15 not stupid. I know what I see. I believed it while I
16 was a child. I'd still like to believe it. But the
17 only 100 percent track record that the Department of
18 Energy has is contamination of every site it's ever
19 taken hold of.

20 They lied to us about the Nevada test site,
21 the atmospheric testing there. They lied to the people

552451

22 of New Mexico about the WIPP project. They're lying to
23 you right now about the contamination in the ground
24 water at the Nevada test site. Which is flowing in
25 your direction. And I suggest y'all start coming out
0152

1 to CAB meetings to find out about that.

2 There's a lot of information on my table that
3 talks about what happened at WIPP, and I'd just like to
4 read a few of them for you. When New Mexico -- first
5 of all, there were no jobs. Local residents were not
6 hired. Out of 80 jobs created, 75 to 80 percent were
7 filled by out of state workers brought in by the
8 contractor. Unemployment went up since WIPP opened.
9 Local businesses moved away. New spin-off jobs and
10 industries were not created as promised.

11 New Mexico had to take the Department of
12 Energy to court to get the \$57 million that they sold
13 out for. It took them eight years in court to get the
14 court to decide in their favor, and then it took them
15 another seven years to start collecting on it.

16 Personally, my children's lives and my life
17 is not for sale at any price. Nor is my state, nor is
18 my country. And this is not a NIMBY thing. I don't

552451

19 want it anywhere. Those power plants need to be shut
20 down. We can conserve, we can develop solar. I stayed
21 with a woman in Chicago not too long ago, downtown
22 Chicago. She had solar panels on the roof and was
23 selling power back to the utility companies. Why the
24 hell can't we do that here? Why? The government
25 should be subsidizing that.

0153

1 I want to see money from this project put
2 into strengthening those dry casks at the reactor sites
3 so that the people in those communities can feel safe.
4 I want to see a phase-out of nuclear power, and I want
5 to see some real sustainable jobs created that are safe
6 for this country and something we can be proud of.

7 I don't want to see everyone be allowed to
8 come to the table to figure out a whole new nuclear
9 waste policy to come up with a real solution to deal
10 with this waste.

11 This project is not going to happen. If you
12 think it is, then you've been a victim of psychological
13 warfare. And you need to listen to the state, and on
14 the back side of that paper that says lessons learned
15 at WIPP, you'll find out exactly why the state of

552451

16 Nevada won't negotiate for benefit. Not the least of
17 which is that DOE lies. There's a -- the nuclear
18 industry, if there is an accident -- by the way, you
19 notice that cask out there? I find it very appropriate
20 that something developed by the government for
21 something like this is in the shape of a dumb bell, but
22 that's just me.

23 (LAUGHTER)

24 (APPLAUSE)

25 Lost my train of thought. The thing is is

0154

1 that the government, the State of Nevada has a lot of
2 lawsuits waiting in the wings. You can't file a
3 lawsuit on something that's proposed. You have to wait
4 until it happens.

5 Right now, the EPA radiation limits, the EPA
6 radiation, the proposed standards, they're in
7 litigation right now. Department of Energy is moving
8 forward on guidelines that aren't even legal yet. They
9 took the qualifying -- the real conditions of the
10 mountain, the qualifying and disqualifying
11 characteristics, like water in the mountain, volcanic
12 activity, earthquake zones, they found all that. But

552451

13 they didn't want to find show-stoppers, so they threw
14 it all out and went with the total systems performance
15 analysis, the computer models that are malleable, that
16 pretty much put out whatever you put in. Those can't
17 be trusted either.

18 When the Department of Energy took this task
19 on, again as an optimist, I hoped that they would do it
20 the right way. But they haven't. As a realist, I know
21 that Congress is where this comes from. But the
22 Department of Energy is on the front lines, and they
23 should tell the truth. And when that happens, and when
24 the Department of Energy starts cleaning up its mess,
25 not only at the test site but other facilities, and is

0155

1 open and up front and honest with it -- I'll probably
2 be dead by then -- but then, then I might trust them to
3 do a project of this magnitude.

4 But again, nuclear power is not something
5 that we need. It provides 20 percent of the
6 electricity that we have in this country. However,
7 what a lot of people don't know is every part of that
8 cycle, from the mining to the waste, is heavily
9 subsidized by the government. You take away those

552451

10 government subsidies, and it's not worth it. It's not
11 cost effective. And it's not a safe, clean air form of
12 energy, because they have routine radioactive emissions
13 from the power plants into the water and into the air.
14 But because you can't see it, they call it clean.

15 MODERATOR BROWN: If you can summarize fairly
16 soon?

17 MS. TILGES: Okay. DOE lies. Don't believe
18 them. Our lives are worth more.

0174

5 MS. TILGES: There's no one else?

6 MODERATOR BROWN: That's right, nobody else

7 at the moment.

8 MS. TILGES: If you don't mind.

9 MODERATOR BROWN: No, not at all.

10 MS. TILGES: I'm going to make you all stay

11 until 9:00, so I may as well give you a reason.

12 There's my pen. Again Kalynda Tilges with Citizen

13 Alert.

14 I neglected to do something which I thought

15 was really important. First of all, I did want to

16 thank the DOE for giving us space. They've always

17 given us space, Citizen Alert, and other groups to put

18 up our materials as well. And I really, I really do

19 want to thank you for that, and I think it's the least

20 y'all can do, but I do want to thank you for that,

21 sincerely. It's not part of my normal sarcasm.

22 And I don't even mind these hearings around

23 the volumes of dead trees they produce. You know. I

24 don't mind that. I like the idea of hearings. But the

25 idea that this is supposed to be the very last public

0175

552451

1 comment period on this process is ludicrous. It's
2 abhorrent, it's disgusting, and I, I hope it's illegal,
3 because it's certainly immoral and unethical.

4 The final EIS isn't out. They're supposed to
5 respond to the over, at this point, more than 20,000
6 comments that have been made. They're supposed to do
7 an adequate assessment of transportation, but I
8 believe, wasn't it you, Lake, who told me last year in
9 D.C. that you all don't even plan on addressing
10 transportation, until you start moving the waste,
11 because infrastructure and population centers may have
12 changed? Do you remember that conversation? Is that
13 what you said? Do you remember what you said?

14 MR. BARRETT: We'll talk after.

15 MS. TILGES: I invite everyone to listen to
16 that private conversation.

17 MR. BARRETT: That's fine.

18 MS. TILGES: Because that's certainly what I
19 remember, and my brain hasn't given out yet. But I
20 just -- something that I touched on and I didn't
21 finish, finish talking about, I had mentioned that the
22 whole nuclear waste cycle is heavily subsidized, and

552451

23 you take away those subsidies and add the deaths to it,
24 and it's probably the most expensive form of power that
25 we have, and probably the highest percentage of
0176

1 corporate welfare in this country.

2 But something that very few people know
3 about, even if they know about that, is the
4 Price-Anderson Act, and that's up for renewal in
5 Congress, and if you can't get on -- if you can get on
6 the internet, just type in Price-Anderson Act, and tons
7 of stuff will come up. Or you can get in touch with us
8 at Citizen Alert, and I'm in the process of putting
9 those papers together. That is the insurance subsidy
10 for the nuclear power plants. Price-Anderson was
11 started 50 years ago as a help up to a fledgling
12 industry. 50 years -- what it is is
13 government-subsidized, taxpayer-subsidized insurance.
14 Nuclear industries pay into a pot in case there's some
15 kind of accident. That money gets used to pay for the
16 accident, like it was used at Three Mile Island.
17 However, if the costs of the accident exceed that, the
18 taxpayers pay it, because there's a cap on it.
19 Corporate welfare. If this industry, in 50 years, has

552451

20 not been able to prove itself insurable, do any of you
21 know of any other industry that could still survive
22 with government help if they couldn't get their own
23 insurance?

24 Is the government going to pay for your
25 insurance? Because your insurance isn't going to cover
0177

1 this. Your medical insurance, your property insurance.
2 Look in your homeowner's insurance. Look in the
3 exclusions. Nothing nuclear is covered. And to an
4 industry that is so heavily dependent on the government
5 to keep it alive, and for us to be going through all
6 this, it just seems to me that the nuclear industry is
7 basically dead. It's just in its final death throes.
8 And that's why they're fighting so hard.

9 (APPLAUSE)

10 But I hope that the citizens will throw off
11 the brain washing that's been happening, and kind of
12 give that final jolt of electricity for the electric
13 chair for this industry of death.

14 I've heard that younger countries want this.
15 Do we want them to have it? We can't even trust our
16 own government with it. We want to trust a third world

552451

17 nation with this? I don't have the quote with me, and
18 I will have to paraphrase it. If any of you want the
19 quote, I will be glad to get it to you. My card is
20 back on the table. Any verification of anything I said
21 tonight, I can absolutely back up, and I would be glad
22 to give that to you.

23 Oppenheimer, on the Manhattan Project, back
24 when all this started when nuclear power was about
25 to -- when they were about to -- excuse me, when they
0178

1 were getting ready to sign the comprehensive test ban
2 treaty, his comment was basically, oh, sure, we'll sign
3 a treaty, but we know what we'll do. We'll build
4 nuclear power plants. Maybe they'll produce
5 electricity. But they probably wouldn't do it in the
6 most needed areas, but it wouldn't matter, because then
7 we'd have facilities that could be transferred very
8 quickly into nuclear weapons facilities in case someone
9 broke their promise.

10 That's why we have nuclear power. To keep
11 the nuclear weapons industry going. Maybe some of you
12 believe in nuclear weapons. I don't know, maybe you
13 should talk to some of the old test site workers. The

552451

14 ones who haven't gotten -- who have got sick. There's
15 still a lot of them out there who haven't yet, and I
16 hope they never do. But I've spoken to the families
17 who are trying to get compensation. I've seen the
18 pictures of the once strapping men, skeletons in their
19 death bed. With children looking at them, wondering
20 why their father's dying like that. But invariably
21 from that death bed, you see a smile, and a thumb's up.
22 The spirit's still there. But the body's been taken.

23 My grandfather died of thyroid cancer. I had
24 a grandmother with both breasts removed. Personally, I
25 didn't really like my grandfather very much. But that
0179

1 was no way for anybody to go. I don't know where he
2 got it from. But I've always called chemotherapy and
3 radiation therapy hair of the dog that bit you. And
4 what I've always said, and I'll end up with tonight is,
5 I don't expect any person in this room to believe a
6 word I've said. And I certainly hope that none of you
7 believe a word that they say. What I want you to do is
8 get your hands on everything you can, pro and con, read
9 it. Try and understand it. Ask questions. And make
10 up your own minds.

552451

11 If anyone is in this room tonight who has not
12 made a comment, who doesn't work for the Department,
13 please, stand up and say something. Even if you just
14 have to say your name, and say I'm a resident, and I'm
15 concerned, and don't even know what that form takes, if
16 you think it's the greatest project going, please, I
17 don't think the DOE cares about our public process.
18 But I care about it, and every one of you should care
19 about it. So let's make them care about it, and
20 everybody get up and say something. If we have to
21 keep, if we have to keep them until midnight, they make
22 a lot more money than most of us, keep them here. But
23 say something, please. Thank you.

552451

0205

15 MS. TILGES: Once again, Kalynda Tilges,
16 Citizen Alert. I was here for Pahrump harvest
17 festival, and I picked up this document at the Yucca
18 Mountain Project booth. Kind of forgot I had it until
19 I remembered the picture that I saw. Yucca Mountain
20 Project, a briefing. And on page number 1, nuclear
21 waste. A long-term national problem. So why aren't
22 there any hearings across the nation? Why is it just
23 here? Why do people have to come from Prairie Island,
24 from San Onofre, from everywhere across the country to
25 come here and speak about this? That's a rhetorical

0206

1 question, I know I'm not going to get an answer, but I
2 think it's wrong. It's very wrong. And so do other
3 people across the country, and I am sure you'll hear
4 from them.

5 There's another thing that is curious about
6 this. This is supposed to be kayakers paddling at the
7 San Onofre nuclear power plant. First of all, I
8 believe there's a seawall there.

9 MR. HOFFMAN: 35-feet tall. I don't see it

10 in the photo.

11 MS. TILGES: Neither do I. Also, what would
12 people be doing, how do you get allowed to kayak that
13 close to a nuclear power plant? Now I'm not saying
14 this isn't a real picture. But I sure am skeptical.
15 But again, I won't ask, because I know I'm not going to
16 get an answer. But, I would like to get a simple yes
17 or no answer from one question. Will you be addressing
18 transportation in the final EIS?

19 MR. BARRETT: Yes.

20 MS. TILGES: You will? Well that I've got --
21 I'll believe it when I see it.

22 MODERATOR BROWN: The answer was yes, and --

23 MS. TILGES: Yes, the answer was yes, by Lake
24 Barrett, and I certainly hope you'll have hearings
25 across the country on that, because as much as Nevada's
0207

1 getting shortchanged, I hope you don't do that to the
2 rest of the country. Because if you think it's tough
3 Nevada riding you out on a rail, wait until the rest of
4 the country gets in on the act. Thank you.