

Presentations (contd)

1 country through the year 2046?

2 Because it's not from cleanup.

3 They'd like you to believe it's about helping
4 clean up other sites. But it's about disposing
5 of new weapons production waste and using
6 Hanford as the cheap, cheapest land disposal
7 available, and sacrificing the Columbia River.

8 The Department of Ecology, which
9 isn't here tonight, I guess, issued an order on
10 April 30th that -- about the burial grounds
11 that solid and radioactive hazardous waste
12 remain underground in deteriorating containers
13 that have exceeded their design life, causing
14 soil and eventual groundwater contamination.
15 This is citing a DOE document.

16 Ecology finds that the waste stored
17 in the burial grounds, and there are five of
18 them, pose a potential threat to human health
19 and the environment due to hazardous
20 constituents and transuranic elements known to
21 be stored there, known and threatened spills
22 and releases.

23 This EIS doesn't describe any of
24 those conditions. This is like living in the
25 Land of Oz. You wouldn't know that it's

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Presentations (contd)

1 describing the same site. Nor would you know
2 when you look at what Hanford's managers have
3 to say about this.

4 Now, the mixed remote handled
5 transuranic waste is going into these same
6 burial grounds in unlined ditches. They are
7 illegal hazardous waste landfills. They do not
8 have anywhere near adequate groundwater
9 monitoring. Carbon tetrachloride was measured
10 in the air samples from one of these trenches
11 at levels that are nearly double those that are
12 fatal to humans. 176 times the OSHA exposure
13 limit for workers. It's not even described in
14 this EIS.

15 And we know that these containers
16 release this in about the same period of time
17 that they say they're going to store, quote,
18 store, before shipping to New Mexico the stuff
19 they import.

20 In other words, in the same period
21 of time we have releases that are deadly and
22 moving and have hit groundwater, and they say,
23 well, we're just going to store this stuff here
24 for 20 years.

25 Here is what those -- This is the

Presentations (contd)

1 smallest of the Hanford burial ground trenches.
2 The trenches are as large as 1,000 feet. Many
3 of them are 1,000 feet. Three football fields
4 long. This is a modern disposal practice.
5 This was taken two years ago. We don't have a
6 liner. We don't have leachate collection. And
7 we don't have groundwater monitoring wells.

8 This is what someone living in the
9 Land of Oz said to the Spokesman Review
10 yesterday on the front page. "We aren't seeing
11 evidence of releases from the modern practices
12 of the last 20 years, including the low-level
13 burial grounds." Keith Klein, Hanford Site
14 Manager.

15 I think he needs to be relieved or
16 have his head examined. He obviously isn't
17 living in the same land where the Department of
18 Ecology issued that notice of violation the
19 other day. He isn't living in the same land
20 where workers are being potentially exposed to
21 vapor levels that are twice those, the level at
22 which carbon tet. is fatal.

23 And maybe it's because he's reading
24 this EIS. Maybe that's the problem. Instead
25 of reading anything else. Here Mr. Klein is

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Presentations (contd)

1 modern waste disposal practices at Hanford,
2 this current, now. This is modern waste
3 disposal practices. That's what he calls
4 acceptable.

5 We say it's not acceptable. It is
6 time to do the following by the end of this
7 year.

8 Ban all disposal in unlined
9 trenches. There is no reason to be taking more
10 off-site waste and adding to Hanford's
11 contamination. Every kindergartener can tell
12 you you don't take out more of your garbage
13 until you have cleaned up the old garbage.

14 And it's time for the burial grounds
15 to be fully investigated and for there to be a
16 schedule for groundwater monitoring and a full
17 investigation of them, and there is no reason
18 -- This EIS is totally inadequate. This EIS is
19 totally inadequate for not describing the
20 actual conditions and having a mitigation plan
21 for how we are going to clean them up. Instead
22 of focusing all of its attention on building
23 new burial grounds that are sized to make
24 Hanford the national radioactive waste dump.
25 That is unacceptable. The priorities are

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Presentations (contd); Informal Question and Answer Section

1 backwards.

2 Thank you very much.

3 MR. DEE WILLIS: I want to
4 take a few minutes, 10 to 15, and invite
5 questions from any of you to Gerry or Mike or
6 Dennis.

7 Clarifications. I want to recognize
8 you, I want to limit you to one question and
9 one follow-up.

10 Sir? Would you give us your name,
11 please.

12 MR. JULIAN POWERS: Julian
13 Powers. I'd like to ask the DOE rep, why is
14 the Draft EIS so obviously deficient, or is
15 Gerry Pollet wrong?

16 MR. MICHAEL COLLINS: We have
17 disagreements with Gerry about the EIS on
18 several fronts.

19 One of them is we're not just
20 accepting waste from other sites. We are
21 actually giving away a lot of waste to other
22 sites. And in the long run, we benefit from
23 that.

24 MR. DEE WILLIS: Next?

25 MR. GERRY POLLET: Could I

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Informal Question and Answer Section (contd)

1 respond to that?

2 MR. DEE WILLIS: Quick
3 response.

4 MR. GERRY POLLET: The whole
5 point of having the national deep geologic
6 repositories was to clean up places like
7 Hanford.

8 MR. MICHAEL COLLINS: Uh-huh.

9 MR. GERRY POLLET: It is not
10 appropriate to keep using the place that's the
11 most contaminated place outside of the Soviet
12 weapons complex in the entire world, it isn't
13 appropriate to add more waste to the soil at
14 Hanford.

15 The whole point of deep geologic
16 repositories was to get Hanford waste cleaned
17 up. And so it's not -- we're not sending waste
18 to already contaminated places there.

19 MR. DEE WILLIS: Next question.
20 Ma'am? Name.

21 MS. VICTORIA POTTS: I am
22 Victoria Potts. I'm curious about New Mexico,
23 the depository in New Mexico.

24 Is there any mention of that in this
25 statement impact?

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Informal Question and Answer Section (contd)

1 MR. MICHAEL COLLINS: Yes. We
2 don't analyze the disposal there, but we
3 analyze the treatment and certification to get
4 TRU waste there, the transuranic waste there,
5 including the stuff that Gerry showed in the
6 pictures that we are going to dig up, have dug
7 up some already, and will be sending there.

8 MS. VICTORIA POTTS: The waste
9 that's dug up at Hanford, is what you're
10 saying?

11 MR. MICHAEL COLLINS: The
12 transuranic waste that is underground right
13 now, we are in the process of digging that up
14 right now and getting it certified and sending
15 it down there.

16 And that includes not only straight
17 radioactive transuranic waste, but that also
18 includes transuranic waste mixed with
19 chemically hazardous constituents.

20 MR. GERRY POLLET: Correction.
21 You are not doing --

22 MR. MICHAEL COLLINS: It does
23 not include what is called the remote handled
24 stuff yet. Gerry is right on that.

25 MR. GERRY POLLET: And it

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Informal Question and Answer Section (contd)

1 doesn't include mixed waste. There is no
2 permit to send mixed waste to New Mexico, and
3 you don't have a facility to do the mixed waste
4 there either.

5 MR. MICHAEL COLLINS: No.
6 They are accepting our transuranic mixed waste
7 right now.

8 MR. DEE WILLIS: Next
9 question. Name please.

10 MS. LINDA GREENE: Linda
11 Greene. I was wondering what the liners are
12 made of and how long they will last.

13 MR. MICHAEL COLLINS: They
14 normally have a design life of 30 years.
15 That's all anybody will guarantee. Generally
16 they last longer. There has not been any
17 testing to say that it will last hundreds or
18 thousands of years yet. Generally what they
19 are, they are called a bentonite clay liner,
20 and then it's a plastic liner, some separation.
21 Another liner, and then dirt on top. And then
22 between the two plastic liners there is pipes
23 and stuff to collect anything that may make it
24 through the first liner so they can suck it out
25 and treat that.

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Informal Question and Answer Section (contd)

1 MS. LINDA GREENE: Well, if
2 the nuclear waste has a half-life of thousands
3 and thousands of years, what is 30 or 50 years
4 going to help as far as the liner goes? It
5 seems like --

6 MR. MICHAEL COLLINS: Well, in
7 general, the vast majority of the radioactivity
8 are low half-life stuff. The more radioactive
9 you are, the lower the half-life, and vice
10 versa. That's what makes things like plutonium
11 that's in transuranic waste not very good for
12 this type of disposal, because it is long
13 half-life, and that is why we don't dispose of
14 it in those kind of facilities. That is why
15 those things are going into deep geologic
16 repositories.

17 MR. DENNIS FAULK: I guess the
18 other point on that, I think it will last a lot
19 longer than 30 years.

20 But a lot of the environmental
21 impact happens when you are disposing of the
22 waste. You end up putting water on it, you
23 compact it, and what you're doing there is, for
24 example, we have a compliant facility and we
25 are collecting hundreds of thousands to

Informal Question and Answer Section (contd)

1 millions of gallons of water a year in that
2 facility, that once you close it, that water
3 won't be there.

4 So what you're doing is you are not
5 putting that water into the environment.

6 MS. LINDA GREENE: Where does
7 the water go?

8 MR. DENNIS FAULK: It goes to
9 a treatment facility. In this case there is
10 very little contaminates in it. But if there
11 were any, the contaminates are taken out.

12 MR. DEE WILLIS: Ma'am? Name
13 please.

14 MS. THERESA POTTS: Theresa
15 Potts. Well, what is the average half-life of
16 the low-level waste?

17 MR. MICHAEL COLLINS: I mean,
18 there is no average half-life. It depends on
19 the specifics of the individual thing being
20 disposed of. Some of them are extremely short.
21 There is a few --

22 MS. THERESA POTTS: Well, okay.
23 Then what is the longest?

24 MR. MICHAEL COLLINS: I
25 couldn't say right now.

Informal Question and Answer Section (contd)

1 MS. THERESA POTTS: Well, then,
2 if you can't say that, how can you store it?

3 MR. MICHAEL COLLINS: Because
4 I don't have them memorized. But, I mean,
5 there will be hundreds of thousands of years
6 for some of them in low concentrations.

7 MR. DEE WILLIS: One more
8 question. Ma'am?

9 MS. JEANINE WADE: My name is
10 Jeanine Wade, and I would like to know what
11 measures the Department of Energy has
12 considered to eliminate any risk of having
13 these truck loads of contaminants being perhaps
14 hijacked by terrorists.

15 Are all of these 70,000 trucks going
16 to be accompanied by armed guards? What
17 measures are in place to prevent this sort of
18 thing from a terrorist from high-jacking one of
19 these vehicles and making dirty bombs or to
20 crash it into a bridge or whatever?

21 To me this poses a huge, huge
22 security threat. And I'd like to know what the
23 federal government's response to that would be.

24 MR. MICHAEL COLLINS: It's
25 dependent on the type of waste, the

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Informal Question and Answer Section (contd)

1 protections. You will have a lot of secrecy
2 about the exact times and routes people are
3 going. Because they don't want that to happen.

4 They generally have two drivers to
5 make sure they don't stop and make that
6 high-jacking possibility easier.

7 Depending on the type of waste,
8 especially if it is high-level waste, or
9 transuranic waste, it's not just drums on the
10 back of a truck. It's drums in a cask in a
11 canister that have been tested, such that, you
12 know, under fire conditions, under water
13 conditions, different conditions, to make sure
14 they don't leak.

15 And the 200 millirem per year that
16 was cited earlier, if you are standing next to
17 one of those drums, that's one of those drums
18 that's unshielded. You could never, ever
19 transport one of those like that.

20 MR. GERRY POLLET: Could I
21 just follow up here. I think that is a vital
22 question.

23 It is one of the reasons the state
24 and citizen groups are suing, and the state is
25 taking a very strong position about, the fact

Informal Question and Answer Section (contd)

1 they have not considered the risk of terrorist
2 incident. The trucks leaving Hanford for WIPP
3 have security.

4 The ones coming in do not. They are
5 not even highway route controlled, as the
6 state's lawsuit points out.

7 And it's kind of a joke to say that
8 the terrorist doesn't know the route, when you
9 guarantee that they are taking, you say, in the
10 EIS, this route, and in response to the state's
11 lawsuit, you said we're not leaving the
12 Interstate 84, 90 route.

13 So they know where it is, and they
14 are like rolling dirty bombs, and unfortunately
15 there has never been an analysis of what would
16 happen if someone simply in a downtown area
17 blew one up.

18 MR. MICHAEL COLLINS: Could I
19 just say one more thing.

20 Just to give you a feel for how much
21 hazardous material is being transported
22 throughout the United States every year. 300
23 million shipments. Three million of those deal
24 with radioactive type materials. 6,000, 7,000
25 of those are DOE shipments.

Informal Question and Answer Section (contd)

1 MR. DEE WILLIS: One final
2 question, and we are going to go to comments.
3 Ma'am?

4 MS. JANE CUNNINGHAM: My name
5 is Jane Cunningham. And I want to just say,
6 all of those things that you told were going to
7 be protections, which I don't think they are
8 adequate, but are they in the EIS?

9 MR. MICHAEL COLLINS: We
10 assume they occur. But we also assume, what
11 does happen if there is a terrorist event?
12 That's clearly in the EIS right now. What
13 happens if an event takes out one of these
14 shipments? And we do analyze that.

15 MR. DEE WILLIS: We're going
16 to go to comments now, formal comments.

17 If we finish those comments before
18 ten o'clock, you can ask all the questions you
19 want of DOE. All right? So this doesn't cut
20 your questions off.

21 Here are the ground rules for
22 comments. The purpose of this meeting is to
23 get public comment. The main purpose.

24 I will ask you to speak in the order
25 that you signed up. I will read your names

Informal Question and Answer Section (contd); TSP-0001

1 from index cards. As I read your name, please
2 come up here and speak into one of these,
3 either this mike or the standing mike.

4 We have 17 people signed up to
5 comment. I think with 17 people, a five minute
6 limit on the time of comment would be
7 appropriate, out of consideration for everybody
8 that wants to speak tonight.

9 I'm going to invite people with
10 small children or other pressing concerns to
11 speak first, to comment first, before the
12 people who have signed up, in that order.

13 The meeting's going to last as long
14 as required to take all comments.

15 Discussion between commenters and
16 the initial presenters will not be allowed.
17 Just you talking to DOE.

18 Any questions about these ground
19 rules? Anybody with small children or other
20 pressing concerns that need to speak?

21 All right. I'm going to go to you
22 in the order that you have signed up. William
23 Greene.

24 **TSP-0001** DR. WILLIAM GREENE: My name
25 is Bill Greene. And I am a pediatrician in