THR-0005 (contd); THR-0006

picture is an alternative that will focus on what is already there at Hanford, what I kayaked by for 45 miles. Not about planning on bringing 70,000 trucks of waste to Hanford.

Thank you.

MR. DEE WILLIS: Thank you. Cathy Snieder. Is Cathy here?

Diedre Duffy.

Clay Smith.

**THR-0006** MR. CLAY SMITH: I am not really affiliated with anybody, except everybody. I'm just a concerned citizen.

And I guess the only two things I would like to say right now is that I think the idea of mixing all the wastes together is a bad idea, dumping it all together. That is not going to let you clean it up later, which is what's going to have to happen. **1**

And so that part of it I think is a really bad idea. And I think also that we need more time to research this, and I think the Department of Energy needs to give us more time rather than the short amount of days that they said we have to have this, all the comments in by. **2**

THR-0006 (contd); THR-0007

Thank you.

MR. DEE WILLIS: Joe Katrosick. Did I get that right?

**THR-0007** MR. JOE KATROSICK: Yes. Very good. My name is Joe Katrosick. I live in The Dalles. I'm 52 years old. My first experience with nuclear issues was when I was a child living in Detroit.

There is a song that Gill Scott Herring wrote called We Almost Lost Detroit. It was about a nuclear problem that they had there at the Fermi plant. And it just shut itself down. They don't know why it did it. So for me, I have been scared a long time.

And I moved out to the Northwest way back in the mid '80s. We did the pony ride against Hanford, you know, the Indians declared war against Hanford back then. It was about 104 degrees.

There's a huge physical issue here that we have to deal with. And that is, is we can't get our arms around this nuclear issue.

The last gentleman just mentioned mixing low-level waste with high-level waste. I mean, that's like, you know, crazy.

THR-0007 (contd); THR-0008

But my issue is mostly that I represent probably a hundred of me that are here that feel the same way I do.

I moved to the Northwest because it was a place where a lot of smart people came to and wanted to live here, way back since the gold rush.

There is a story about how the Oregon Trail went to California and Oregon, they said the people that could read went to the Northwest. And I hope we still can use that to convince the Department of Energy to use the most extreme care, the most extreme measures.

I mean, sure, it's going to cost a lot of money. But even Truman, when he dropped the bomb, did it because he knew how entrenched the Japanese were, but also later before he died, he regretted doing it.

And I hope we will not have to repeat that scenario.

Thank you.

MR. DEE WILLIS: Daniel Lichtenwald.

**THR-0008** MR. DANIEL LICHTENWALD: My

THR-0008 (contd)

name is Daniel Lichtenwald, and I live in Goldendale, Washington, about 50 miles east of here.

The public process supposedly that's going on here, we already have people, NGO people who are pressed to get through the 3,000 pages, do the research, come up with a real understanding of what it's about.

And the citizens depend on them for, you know, to give us some insight on it.

The citizens themselves should be able to read that. And to leave it to 45 days to go through 3,000 pages is a mockery. Virtually confirms that this is a political maneuver. It's being driven by something other than the needs of the people in this region, and the needs, this is all the people in the region, including Native Americans.

So, my comment on the public process is that it's failed. They will say that they have done their bit. They got their tickets punched. But it's a failure. Even the NGO staffers are pressed to get through all of that. Agency people can't get through all of it. They are having to do shortcuts, come up

THR-0008 (contd)

with whatever they can come up with.

So it's a hit and a lick, is all they've given to it.

The groundwater contamination doesn't consider that there is the potential, the eventuality that this is going to get into the river. That isn't even part of the assessment.

2

What's going to happen two, three generations from now? The people who depend on the river for cultural resources, what happens to them? I'm talking about the Tribes.

3

This is a waiting form of genocide, which of course our government has been pretty adapt at doing throughout its whole history. And it is treating people in this area as a third world country.

I don't want to disparage people who are not from first or second world countries, but it has the same effect of going into an area, having your way with them, and not really addressing real lives on the ground.

So, this business of capping, capping is supposedly going to be a way of handling these dump sites, is just what it is.

4

THR-0008 (contd); THR-0009

4

It's a veneer, a mask. Nothing is said about, you know, what's happening, where's the material in the ground go after the water gets to it?

You put a hard cover on it, that means nothing.

So, I guess that's about it.

The soil cap ploy, I don't know what that's supposed to mean. But that doesn't work for me.

MR. DEE WILLIS: Catherine Zanger.

**THR-0009** MS. CATHERINE ZANGER: Thank you. My name is Catherine Zanger, and I live in Hood River, Oregon. I am associated with Columbia River Keeper. I am on their board.

And I have also been associated with the river my whole life. It is like a sister to me. I get really upset when I see things happen to it, I feel hurt. And that is what I feel is happening right now.

And some of the things I am especially concerned about in this particular

1

phase of the attempts at cleanup, that there isn't enough time to assess this statement, it

THR-0009 (contd)

would take a person reading 75 pages a day to look at this in the amount of time we have.

And how many of us can go through technical material at 75 pages a day approximately. That's just not realistic for even the most experienced people in the group.

And there's many basic flaws. One of them is the whole notion of disposal, which I know we all use, but we can only make

2 something that's radioactive as stable as possible in the most protected manner possible. We can't really dispose of these things.

So I would like to see the word disposal removed from the whole statement. The whole idea of a waste complex is kind of an invention that I oppose. And we have the dirtiest site on the continent, and we are

3 talking about bringing more stuff to it. It just is illogical, and I oppose that.

I don't think anything, any option should include that. It's not reasonable.

And then you look at the trucking thing in particular.

Well, I want to say something about the groundwater, and then I will talk about

THR-0009 (contd)

trucking.

The groundwater is essential to address, it's already creating contamination in the Columbia, and I don't find any

4 contamination in the Columbia acceptable.

The fish in the Reach are already changing gender, because they don't like it either, and they sense that their survival is at risk, and so they are creating more females. If the fish can figure it out, so can we. That is a good red flag to us. That it is not safe. Let's just move our measuring -- Let's not reach the groundwater with our measurement

5 devices, let's go downstream far enough because of the large volume of the river the instruments don't pick it up and say it's okay. That is not acceptable to me either.

This whole trucking thing I find unacceptable. Because we are humans. And their own statements really point that out.

6 If you take one truck and watch it carefully, I don't know what you are going to do about watching something from a satellite, how much impact can you have from a satellite if the truck has a problem we are watching it

THR-0009 (contd)

6

from a satellite.

It is like remote access. It's not going to help. You can't stop something that's happening from a satellite.

So you send these trucks out, you send one and you make it, and you send out ten. Ten times the risk. And then you send out 100, it just went up ten times more. And a thousand, it is ten times more. And you go 10,000, is ten times more risk.

The amount of risk in 25,000 or 75,000 trucks is just huge. It's huge. And they realize that. And what they're saying is that their drivers can't have an unauthorized second deviation from route, but they will let them do one deviation from the route and that's okay, they can keep driving.

Their third failure to make -- their third failure, to make their shipment notifications, but the first one and the second one is okay?

So they know their drivers are not going to do everything that is asked of them. So they are cutting them slack already, and we don't even have them on the road hardly. The

THR-0009 (contd)

chargeable accident in a commercial vehicle, but if it is not chargeable, it's okay.

6 They know they are going to have accidents. That's life. That's how it is. You can't move 70,000 vehicles anywhere, any time, anyhow, and not have something happen. It's not realistic. And that's even without people trying to make something happen.

And they haven't addressed the terrorist risk. Which I think is real.

7 Unlike Greg, I think there really is risk. Because it is ideal, it is an ideal access point. So why wouldn't there be some risk? You can't go along with these skyhawk helicopters and watch these trucks everywhere. Are you going to send out 70,000 helicopters? I don't know. I just don't think you can cover it. I don't think it is possible. And I don't

8 think the site should be having to handle more waste coming there.

I also don't like how the statement

9 takes things and relabels them from high-level to low-level. It says, oh, good, we eliminated that problem, 75 percent of our high-level waste is gone. Wow, we just saved how many

THR-0009 (contd); THR-0010

billions of dollars?

So, there's problems with this statement. There is problems with the criteria for drivers that goes on and on. Read the sheet for yourself.

10 So I find the statement unacceptable, the time frame to review it unacceptable, and it has basic flaws in it. Thanks.

MR. DEE WILLIS: Okay. Mike Rockwell.

**THR-0010** MR. MIKE ROCKWELL: My name is Mike Rockwell. I live in White Salmon.

I recreate in the Columbia River, and I have lived here about 15 years. I have been going to Hanford meetings for at least a dozen years.

Every time I leave one of these meetings I leave here angry. I don't leave here satisfied. I leave here angry. I don't
1 feel like my words, whatever they are, are listened to.

I go to the next meeting, I don't hear any kind of resolution of any of the issues that I have heard anybody else express

THR-0010 (contd)

1

or myself express. And this one is really a pisser.

2

I mean, 12 years of going to Hanford meetings, just to battle, just to get the government to take away the waste that they have already created in the last 50 years of these programs, and they just keep putting it off with studies and they keep doing this and that.

3

And then three or four or five months ago I wake up at four o'clock in the morning listening to NPR about these shipments of nuclear waste that are going to start next Wednesday, next Wednesday, without us even being notified, is just ridiculous.

4

And for us to have this meeting here today that even discusses this, is totally bizarre. I can't even believe it, that we are here discussing that the government wants to send more nuclear waste to Hanford.

5

12 years of these meetings, and now they want to send more nuclear waste to Hanford. They want to ship it through the Gorge, this confined area that's one of the most beautiful areas in our country, with one

THR-0010 (contd); THR-0011

of the largest rivers in North America, that
has cliff walls that if there were an accident,
5 that confines this radiation and just dumps it
into the river and into the environment that we
have to deal with.

6 And then they want to give us 45
days to study a 3,000 page document. And they
don't want to give an extension.

Everything in this whole process
stinks. And I'm just fed up with it. And I
hope that you guys are, and I hope that
everybody here writes their Congressman, gets
on the web, sends out comments.

This administration is just full of
foxes watching the hen house, and that's
exactly what's going on right now. So, get
mad, write them.

MR. DEE WILLIS: Is there
anybody else who would like to offer comment to
DOE right now, before we start the panel?
Cyndy?

**THR-0011** MS. CYNDY deBRULER: Well, I
wasn't going to talk tonight. I thought I
would just sit back and relax and listen to the
public speak.

THR-0011 (contd)

My name is Cyndy deBruler. I am Executive Director of Columbia River Keeper. And have, too, been work working on the cleanup of Hanford Site for 14 years now.

I think that it's important for the new management at the Hanford Site to really remember that the public's been here for 14 years. And we've been involved in this process. And we've been meeting with them regularly, many of you, giving massive amounts of your time to attend public meetings. It's not the most fun thing to do.

1

We tried to lighten it up a little bit tonight with some decorations, reminding the DOE that we are here, and that they really need to listen to what we have to say.

And I think one of the most disturbing points that they need to hear right now is that we are very alarmed at what appears to be them walking away from the public process that we have worked so hard to build, a good relationship with the cleanup agencies, offering constructive criticism with ideas that help to improve the actual cleanup at the site.

And we have heard from those

THR-0011 (contd)

1 agencies, the cleanup agencies involved with
2 the regulation, that that's what's made Hanford
3 progress so outstanding in this country.
4 That's why we've gotten so much
5 done. And we really have gotten a lot of
6 progress made.
7 But all of that's at risk right now
8 with the USDOE saying that they want to double
9 the amount of waste at Hanford, that they are
10 playing shell games with the terminology.
11 I am a chemist by background, a
12 pharmacist, and what they're calling low-level
13 waste is not low-level waste. Some of it's so
14 radioactive and so dangerous, and yet it's
15 termed low-level waste merely because it
16 doesn't fit into any of the other categories.
17 It's not a measure of how
18 radioactive or how dangerous it is. And yet
19 that's what they're saying they're going to
20 ship here and bury in unlined trenches for the
21 next five to six years, next to the Columbia
22 River.
23 The people who are there will not be
24 here, managing this site, in 15 years from now,
25 when you and I will still be living on the

54

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THR-0011 (contd); THR-0012

banks of the Columbia River.

And it's very important that they listen to us. And I just urge them to please open your doors, open your ears, and listen to what we've got to say, because together we can clean it up.

5

But trying to do it this way behind closed doors, to ignore groundwater issues, to ignore real cleanup will never work, and we will all pay.

MR. DEE WILLIS: Thank you. Yes, Ma'am.

**THR-0012** MS. JUDY NELSON: Judy Nelson. I wasn't going to speak tonight either. But it's a call to arms going on now.

I was sitting there doing a little division. You would have to read 130 pages a day of this 3,000 page document. That would then leave you 20 days for testimony. We are already past that.

1

They set it up as impossible on purpose. They changed the rules and not informed us, on purpose.

2

They start shipping tomorrow. When did this happen? Those of you who have been

3

THR-0012 (contd)

coming to these for 12 or 20 years or more, there was movement, positive movement, and all of a sudden, two years ago, things changed. All of a sudden we have the highest level of radioactive material scheduled to come into our backyard. Two years. Does this tell you something?

So, get on your computer, let your Senator and your Congressman know, and also send one to the White House, and tell them how you're going to vote during the next election. Because that's all they care about.

The logic of this is simply no waste to come in, and clean up the huge mess that we have now. And that was beginning to be discussed, and now it no longer is. It's just pile it all in, quick, fast, before anybody can say anything.

And you see the same faces here at these meetings year after year, and, you know, I wonder if we make a difference. But we did for a while. We really were making headway. And it was like, ah, after 10 or 15 years. And all of a sudden . . .

So it is the Bush administration and

THR-0012 (contd); THR-0013

their money. If they can take the whole country of Iraq and look for hidden, underground items that are radioactive, maybe could they come up here where we know it's radioactive, and deal with it in honesty? And what we are getting is dishonesty, ignoring.

The only thing that matters is the vote. So if you inform them that Idaho, Washington, Oregon, California, vote is going to go against them if they continue this policy. So, your comments to your Congressmen do matter.

But for all of you, don't give up. Hang in.

MR. DEE WILLIS: Who else would like to comment? Sir?

**THR-0013** MR. CLAY SMITH: Could I have a few minutes that I didn't take before?

MR. DEE WILLIS: Come up.

MR. CLAY SMITH: Okay. My name is Clay Smith. I am from The Dalles.

And I don't recognize a whole lot of people from The Dalles here. And I am sorry about that. Because, you know, we should be here, too.