

25 MEGAN RICE: It's quite a challenge to try to say
1 nothing that was already said, so I'm going to try to stick
2 to that. My name is Megan Rice. I'm 77, nearly oldest one
3 here but not quite the oldest.

4 And I was nine years old in Manhattan, three
5 minutes away from the physics lab at Columbia University
6 in 1939 when it began. The man next door to us was
7 Selig, Dr. Selig Hect, who could not tell his wife what
8 he was doing it was so secret.

9 And he understood the Einstein theory. And
10 what is the Einstein theory? It's something that very
11 few people around the world can understand. That's what
12 I knew when I was nine.

13 And I apologize. I'm going to spend my time
14 giving a few apologies and a few signs of hope. I
15 apologize for not having spent my life trying to get
16 into that question of understanding the Einstein theory,
17 but I had a few opportunities to learn it by chance.

18 I also want to apologize for having known
19 about and lived through the atomic bomb when I was 15
20 and knowing that -- thinking that it had stopped
21 World War II, but it didn't. Could have been stopped
22 long before it.

23 And to apologize for having even used some
24 radioactive stuff in my research as a cellular biologist
25 and not really talking enough about it to help others,
1 my students in high school in Nigeria for 32 years,
2 although I did try to tell them. So I think I did try

3 to share those secrets that nobody could understand.

4 And I'd like to apologize to our venerated
5 landlords of this state. I've only lived here for two
6 and a half years, to apologize for what the rest of the
7 world has allowed to happen all these years when their
8 land was stolen and so desecrated and is still being
9 desecrated by people who just don't know these secrets.

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10 [And I'd like to now give you a few signs of
11 hope and then defer, if there's a moment, to more
12 experienced people. The hope is that I was here in 1988
13 at a similar gathering, and it lasted all day. It was a
14 hearing about Yucca Mountain. So take heart, friends.
15 It's not going to end next July, because then we only
16 had four people all day long speaking against
17 Yucca Mountain, every other speaker, and they all had 10
18 minutes in those days, was for Yucca Mountain.

19 And, still, we're coming back in 2007, and we
20 held them back this long, and we held back and stopped
21 the not divine strength. If you really want some time,
22 we're going to have a day and a half in March and a day
23 and a half in August at the Nevada Desert Experience,
24 and we're going to allow your stories to be told so the
25 newcomers like me can be educated, the college students,
1 high school students and these new people who moved into
2 Las Vegas and don't know this history. I just happen
3 to.

4 So I'd like to give you hope that you will
5 hear about it when it gets organized, because we're
6 planning it and it's going to be called Environmental

7 Justice.]