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Video Project Captures Local Government Lessons Learned about Yucca Mountain Project

Eureka County, Nevada will announce the launch of its Yucca Mountain Lessons Learned Video Project Webpage <http://yuccamountain.org/lesson.htm> at a meeting of the Blue Ribbon Commission for America's Nuclear Future in Washington DC on October 20. The project captures on film and written transcript the opinions of key observers and participants involved in Eureka County's nuclear waste program. The website features video "nuggets," two-minute edited video clips posted on YouTube from the wide-ranging interviews.

Themes emerged from the interviews that will be familiar to the Blue Ribbon Commission. "I got the impression from the Department of Energy that everything was good, and they did not give you any information about the dangers involved in transporting nuclear waste," said Eureka County resident Barbara Dugan. Uncertainty about lingering health effects from downwind exposure from atomic testing was also a common theme. Ron Damele, Eureka County Public Works director, recalled the government taking milk samples at his family's ranch to test for radiation, but the family never learned the test results. Michon Mackedon, author of *Bombast: Atoms Spinning in the Desert* said, "We are left with a legacy of health problems that we still don't really have a good handle on...So, this creates a climate, a climate of mistrust." "Any future repository siting process...must be voluntary," said Joe Strolin, formerly of the Nevada Agency for Nuclear Projects. The interviews affirmed the BRC's conclusion that trust and confidence must be the bedrock of a successful waste disposal program.

The full video interviews will be available for researchers and archivists, and distributed to key libraries in Nevada.

For information about the project, contact Abby Johnson at 775/721-9234.

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