This is my statement, which I shared briefly at the NRC Nuclear Waste “Confidence” Hearing Wednesday night, Oct 30, 2013, in response to Richard Thomas, of NY AREA, mentioning “Washington Gridlock” as the reason why we don’t have a permanent repository for Nuke waste in the United States (Mr Thomas was one of the first to speak. I was one of the last to speak):

Good Evening. I am Jeanne Shaw, of the Indian Point Safe Energy Coalition.

I do not want to repeat what has been abundantly stated during the past two hours. Instead, I’d like to address an issue that came up earlier in this meeting, which I think warrants discussion.

Richard Thomas, of NY AREA mentioned that "Washington Gridlock" is the main reason for the United States not having a permanent Nuclear Waste Repository. “Washington Gridlock” is purely political. Concerns surrounding Nuclear Waste have been made political but are really scientific and physical.

We are facing two mindsets. One where we act on what is Imaginary, including Political and Economic concerns, which is fine and necessary under many circumstances. And one where we act on what is Real, including all things Physical, which is necessary under all circumstances. Ecology, or the “Environment” (Air, Water, Land, Life, Climate) is Reality. It is the web of life. It is that which sustains us, without which all life on Earth is over. Period.

If the Economy collapses (as it seems to do periodically) it does not matter to Mother Earth. If the Ecology collapses (as it seems we are Hell bent on accomplishing, at least via disasters such as Fukushima, and policies promoting more Uranium Mining, Nuclear Power Plants, and Nuclear Waste) the Economy will no longer matter to anyone because there will be no one left to imagine it. Washington, with or without gridlock, is Imaginary. All “Politics” is imaginary. Nothing on Earth is “permanent” including species, nations, mountains, ice caps, etc.

The Earth is neither Imaginary nor static. It is an Ecologically, Geologically, Astronomically active body. Everywhere. No “place” on Earth is forever. No “being” on Earth is forever. Compared to any other “time line” conceivable by humans, Nuclear Waste's toxicity (which begins with the Uranium mining process) is "forever." It can put a much more rapid end to all life on Earth no matter where we "hide" it or how we "label" it. Nuclear Waste is Real. A Permanent Repository is Imaginary. Get Real. Stop making it. Now.

Thank you.