

GE Stockholders' Alliance

EIS001095

for a sustainable nuclear-free future

January 27, 2000

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Ms Wendy R. Dixon, EIS Program Manager
Yucca Mountain Site Characterization Office
Office of Civilian Radioactive Waste Management
U.S. Department of Energy
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Re: Yucca Mountain Draft EIS

Dear Ms Dixon:

The public welfare will be jeopardized if Yucca Mountain is chosen as the site for "disposal" of high level radioactive waste. Present legislation that is pending in Congress is a thinly disguised political solution to a vexing problem that has haunted us for years. This political solution is not in the best interests of the general public. It would:

1. gut environmental standards. This bill would make the NRC instead of the EPA responsible for safeguarding the health of the public, with the public losing!
2. doom the underground aquifer to radiation contamination. DOE studies says it will almost certainly leak, contaminating farms and residents downstream.
3. lock in this site as the mandated location for the repository even if scientific studies conclude that it is technically not suitable.
4. endanger 50 million people who live along the transportation routes.

What is needed is a truly INDEPENDENT Commission (bi-partisan, professional nuclear scientists, medical specialists, average citizens) to study the whole problem of radioactive waste from nuclear power and nuclear weapons sites. It makes sense to halt all further generation of new radioactive waste production until a reasonable, safe resolution of waste management can be devised to the mutual satisfaction of proponents and opponents of nuclear power. We advocate such a study, rather than railroad political solutions that only please the nuclear industry, and which endanger the public health. We have already had too many people exposed through government negligence. Please don't add to this irresponsibility.

Sincerely,


Patricia Birnie, Chair