



Arizona Safe Energy Coalition

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January 27, 2000

Ms Wendy R. Dixon, EIS Program Manager
Yucca Mountain Site Characterization Office
U.S. Department of Energy
P.O.Box 30307, M/S 010
North Las Vegas, NV 89036-0307

RECEIVED

JAN 31 2000

EIS001096

Re: Yucca Mountain Draft EIS

Dear Ms Dixon:

1... [We strongly oppose Yucca Mountain as the ultimate repository for high level radioactive waste.]

1 cont. There are many reasons why this is a bad concept. We know the nuclear industry is eager to "resolve" the radioactive waste issue. We all are. But [burying it] in Yucca Mt. is contrary to the public interest.

2 [Current legislation, if approved, would lock Yucca Mountain as the official repository site BEFORE it is even determined that it is a suitable site. Your reports already say that Yucca Mountain will almost certainly leak. It is obvious that Congress is intent on a political solution regardless of its scientific viability.] It would be the height of irresponsibility to knowingly transport all that highly toxic radioactive waste across the country (potentially exposing hundreds of thousands of people en route), then again contaminate the aquifer that provides water to Nevada residents and farmers down stream.

3 [Current legislation would gut the protective environmental standards that we now have on the books. It would replace the EPA with the NRC as the guardian of public health. The NRC has demonstrated that its allegiance is to serve the nuclear industry as its first priority. It has shown its willingness to compromise on public health issues in the way it has dragged its feet with implementing safety measures which its own staff recommends. In fact, many of the recommended safety improvements required after the TMI accident back in 1979 have still not been implemented.]

4 [This nation does need a resolution of the problem of what to do with the high level radioactive waste. BASIC COMMON SENSE SUGGESTS THAT NO MORE RADIOACTIVE WASTE SHOULD BE GENERATED UNTIL A PROPER DECISION IS MADE ON SAFE DISPOSAL OF THE WASTE. Rather than politicize this important decision, Congress should set up a bipartisan, independent commission that includes knowledgeable nuclear scientists, health professionals and representative members of the public who could review the entire subject of radioactive waste disposition and the cleanup of the hundreds of contaminated weapons and commercial sites around the country. The health of future generations will depend upon responsible decisions being made in Congress about the proper disposition of radioactive waste.]

Please make your decision on disposition of radioactive waste by how it will affect the health of future generations, not how it will contribute to the special interests (that adversely affect the public health).

Sincerely,

Betty Schroeder, Co-Chair