

EIS001120

Robert E. Dolan
811 Pitkin Ave.
Glenwood Springs, CO 81601

RECEIVED

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January 16, 2000

Re: DOE Yucca Mt. Draft EIS

Dear Madam or Sir,

1 Please enter these comments in the record pertaining to the DOE draft EIS on the Yucca Mt. Proposal. [As a resident of Glenwood Springs, CO my primary comments will address the issue of waste transportation to the proposed site Yucca Mt. site. Although, for the record, I believe the centralized disposal of this waste at the proposed Yucca Mt, NV site is unwise and at this time not proven to be in the public best interest, no matter which route or method is chosen for the transportation of the waste.]

2 [No type of packaging will be entirely safe from structural damage if an accident or an event involving an act of sabotage occurs. Each of these scenarios foresees breach of cask and an insuring radiation release. Depending on type of material being transported and location of the release, this could result in not only immediate and numerous losses of life, but latent ongoing health concerns and unspecified danger for the immediate environment and all its inhabitants in perpetuity.]

3... [Currently our local area, as well as other rural regions, is grossly understaffed, under budgeted, and unprepared to respond to current accidents involving the release of hazardous waste. DOE promises to provide local entities with assistance to prepare for the eventuality of a nuclear waste release occurring from an incident involving one of the 49,000 truck shipments and/ or 13,000 rail shipments.]

[A minimum of 1/3 of our state is covered by mountains where distances between towns is not measured by miles, but by how many hours it takes to get from one place to another. With waste being transported from 72 commercial sites and five DOE facilities, how could DOE respond (or any other regional response team) in an adequate time given the restraints of geography, the enormous size of region the waste is being transported across and the sheer volume of waste being shipped over the next two decades?]

[Each community cannot afford its own emergency response team to prepare for the possibility of a nuclear clean up. The time that lapses between notification and response could mean the difference between total and partial ruination of a local habitat, area, region or watershed. What possible solution could DOE design to eliminate concerns of response time? Transportation of this waste is an endangerment to all living things.]

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3 cont.

Many of our major highways run parallel to our major drainages and waterways. Containment of this type of waste would be impossible once it has reached one of those watersheds. The Colorado River serves as basin providing water to a minimum of five states and Mexico. No amount or duration of response and resulting attempts to clean up a spill will return the environment to what it once was, not in our lifetime, not in our children's lifetime. Your proposal is endangering not only the livelihood of local communities and their inhabitants, but also a threat to the very ecosystem that sustains all life here on earth.

4

Transportation security cannot guarantee safety from sabotage. The whole point of terrorist attacks is the unpredictability of the attackers. Somehow, somehow, an individual or organization will find a way to breach transportation security measures and use the resulting spill or theft of nuclear material as a political bargaining point.

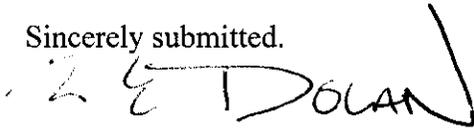
5

A discussion of vitrification points to this process as a solution to the transport of liquid waste. Vitrification is not a proven technology and cannot assume to answer the increased dangers associated with transport of liquid waste. The presence of liquid waste as one of the types of materials proposed to be shipped via truck or train increases the level of danger with the plan. No such wastes in this form should be allowed to be transported.

6

Given the dismal track record of nuclear waste handling and disposal involving other sites (WIPPS, Hanford etc.) and the inherent and unresolved dangers associated with overland transportation of these materials; the DEIS should identify the No Action Alternative, Scenario 1, as the preferred alternative. As identified in the document as an Unavoidable Adverse Impact (S.9), "Transportation of spent fuel and high level radioactive waste would have the potential to affect...the public to radiation. The public cannot and should not be put at such risk by approving the Yucca Mt. DEIS proposal.

Sincerely submitted.



Robert E. Dolan

Cc Representative Scott McInnis
Senator Wayne Allard
Ed Green, Garfield County Manager