Comment on the Department of Energy's Yucca Mountain Draft Environmental Impact Statement

EIS001659

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I agree with the following statements which I have checked:

- [x] The No Action Alternatives are not reasonable. The EIS should have a reasonable no action alternative.
- [ ] The EIS is inadequate because it uses outdated 1990 census data rather than current population data for Nevada.
- [x] The analysis of transportation impacts in Nevada is insufficient for making modal, corridor and route decisions.
- [ ] The floodplain analysis is insufficient for corridor and route selection
- [x] The impact of stigma on tourism, recreation and agriculture based economies in Nevada should be analyzed.
- [ ] The EIS should analyze the impacts of a crash between a military airplane and a nuclear waste rail car.
- [x] Other

Comments:

The Department of Energy's Yucca Mountain Draft Environmental Impact Statement describes the impacts of constructing and operating a repository, including transporting nuclear waste by legal weight truck, rail, or rail to heavy haul truck. DOE is required to consider all comments submitted regarding the impacts of building and operating a repository including transportation.

My comments for the record are: please see attached letter 2 pgs.

Thankyou, Susan L. Maple P.O. Box 1903 Hawthorne, NV.

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I GUESS I WAS NAIVE TO BELEIVE THE NEWS REPORTS THAT OUR STATES POLITITIANS HAD SUCCESSFULLY STOPPED THE YUCCA MTN. PROJECT AT EACH STAGE OF DEVELOPING THAT CAME UP OVER THE PAST SEVERAL YEARS. I HAD NO IDEA IT HAD REACHED THIS STAGE OF CONCERN FOR US ALL HERE IN NEVADA, SO FORGIVE ME IF MY COMMENTS HOLD SOME EMOTIONAL INPUT AND UNPROFFESSIONAL TOPICS OF FEAR.

1 IN E. I. S. REPORT CHPTR.2.4.1. PROPOSED ACTION AND NO-ACTION ALTERNATIVE: UNDER SCENARIO2, E. I. S. ASSUMES IN 100 YEARS THERE WOULD BE NO EFFECTIVE INSTITUTIONAL CONTROLS AT PRESENT STORAGE FACILITIES, ALLOWING FOR POSSIBLE LEAKAGE DUE TO DETERIORATION OF STORED CANISTERS, BUT IN YUCCA MTN., STORAGE AFTER 110 or 120 YEARS, IF ITS POSSIBLE FOR CASKS TO LEAK ON SITES NOW AFTER 100 YRS., WHAT HAPPENS TO CASKS OR CANISTERS UNDERGROUND IN THE PROPOSED YUCCA MTN.SITE WHEN THEY DO THE RECLAMATION THEY PROPOSE AND COVER ALL TUNNELS, FILL IN SHAFTS AND REMOVE
2 ALL SIGNS OF ENTRANCES AND THE CANISTERS THEN OVERHEAT OR START TO LEAK. THE POSSIBILITY OF VOLCANIC LIKE ERUPTIONS FROM THE MASSES OF OVERHEATED WASTE IS
3 A VERY POSSIBLE SCENARIO TOO. WHEN YOU ASK SOMEONE TO GUARD AND PROTECT SUCH A SITE OUT IN THE MIDDLE OF A BARREN DESERT AREA, MILES FROM ANY QUICK RECEIVED HELP COMPARED TO PRESENT ON SITE STORAGE FACILITIES WHERE THE WASTE IS GENERATED AND WORKERS ARE WELL TRAINED ALREADY, IN HANDLING SUCH EMERGENCY OCCURENCES, AND WOULD BE MUCH MORE MOVED TO HANLE WITH GREAT REGARD AND CARE KNOWING THEY HAVE FAMILIES AND HOMES NEAR THE PLANT SITES IN WHICH THEY WORK, IT SEEMS PRETTY CLEAR TO ME WHY THIS DEADLY WASTE SHOULD NOT BE SUBJECTED TO UNTRAINED HANDS SEVERAL DIFFERENT TIMES WHILE BEING TRANSPORTED IN PRECARIOUS AREAS AND ROUGH TERRAIN TO BE PUT SOMEWHERE ELSE.

1 cont'd. THE METAL CANISTERS BEING EXPERIMENTED WITH BY INFALLIBLE MAN? , DID NOT HOLD UP TO THE EXPECTATIONS, THERE WOULD BE NO WAY TO RETREIVE THEM AFTER CLOSURE OF THE SITE. WHEN THE COOLING SHAFTS ARE FILLED IN AND TUNNELS CLOSED OFF UNEXPECTED TEMPERATURES COULD CREATE THE PREVIOUS MENTIONED VOLCANIC ERUPTIONS OF RADIOACTIVE MATERIALS INTO THE ATMOSPHERE UNDER SUCH PRESSURE IT COULD GO MUCH FURTHER THAN ANY PREVIOUSLY THOUGHT ACCIDENT OCCURENCES. ITS HARD FOR ME TO CONCEIVE A COOLDOWN OF THIS WASTE IN ONLY 100 to 120 YEARS WHEN ITS ACTIVELY DANGEROUS FOR UPTO 250,000 YEARS.

4 IN THERMAL OUTPUT CHAPTR.A.2.3.5.4. ....CURRENT PLANNING CALLS FOR BLENDING BY YRS. 2013-2016 OF CERTAIN TYPES OF WASTE MATERIALS WHICH WOULD MAKE THE BATCHES OF WASTE MUCH HOTTER IN CANISTERS AT MAXIMUM ALLOWABLE WATTS. IF SUCH MIXTURES HAVE NOT BEEN EXPERIMENTED WITH FOR LONG PERIODS , WHOSE TO SAY THE TEMPS. ALOWED WERE NOT MORE THAN THE CANISTERS WALL THICKNESS COULD HANDLE? AND WHAT IF SUCH CANISTERS BEING PREPARED FOR SHIPMENT WERE MISS MARKED OR CANISTERS BEGAN TO LEAK DURING SHIPPING ? IT COULD BE MISSED FOR MILES SPEWING DEATH IN ITS PATH ACROSS THESE MANY STATES.

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5 ARE WE REALLY READY TO TRADE OFF DECREASED LIFESPANS , DAMAGE TO UNBORN CHILDREN, PAINFUL TERMINAL CANCERS, AND GENETIC MUTATIONS AND FETAL INFANT DEATHS FOR A CHEAPER, LESS COSTLY METHOD OF KEEPING OUR MICROWAVES, LARGER COLOR T.V.S, INCREASING COMPUTER USEAGE ETC. ETC. I REALIZE NUCLEAR POWER WAS A GODSEND FIND OVER THE USEAGE OF OUR FOSSIL FUELS, BUT I, AND THE MAJORITY OF NEVADANS ARE SURE THAT THE COMMERCIAL PLANTS GENERATING THE WASTE SHOULD HAVE PLANNED FOR ITS LONG TERM SAFE STORAGE.

6 THE FIGURES GIVEN BY E.I.S. FOR PROBABLE ACCIDENTS HAVE TO BE CONSIDERED MUCH GRATER THEN GIVEN, WHEN TAKING INTO ACCOUNT THE MANY DIFFERENT TIMES ONE LOAD MAYBE HANDLED OVER THE 1000's OF MILES IT WILL BE MOVED, IT MULTIPLIES EXPONENTIALLY TO A MUCH GREATER RISK. THE RELIGIOUS AND MILITANT FANATICS AND TERRORISTS WOULD JUST LOVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO GET A HOLD OF THIS KIND OF WEDGE.

7 WITH THE MAJORITY OF THE GENERATED WASTE COMING FROM THE MID AND EASTERN STATES IT MAKES MORE SINCE TO ME TO FORM LARGE PARKS NEAR 6 or 8 GENERATING PLANTS WHERE TRANSPORTING WASTE ONLY AMOUNTS TO A FEW 100 MILES OR MORE, REDUCING HIGH RISK OF LONG SHIPMENTS THROUGH DELICATE ECO-SYSTEMS AND HIGHLY POPULATED METROPOLIS. OUR BEAUTIFUL DESERT HERE IN NEVADA WITH ITS FEW NATURAL WATERWAYS AND LAKES , HAS BEEN SUBJECTED TO ENOUGH OF OUR GOVERNMENTS POLUTION WITH THE NUCLEAR TEST SITE, THE AMMUNITION STORAGE AND DETONATION SITES, AND THEN THERE'S THE GREAT LAS VEGAS, OVER BUILDING AND TRAFFIC CREATING AS MUCH SMOG AS NOISY LOS ANGELES.

DON'T LEAVE OUR CHILDRENS CHILDREN WITH THE FEARS WE WENT THROUGH IN THE 50's DIGGING BOMB SHELTERS IN BACKYARDS, MAYBE THEIR GENERATION WILL COME UP WITH A BETTER SOLUTION , AT LEAST LEAVE THEM THE OPPORTUNITY TO DO SO.

Very Sincerely
S. Maple