



Te-Moak Tribe of Western Shoshone
Battle Mountain Band Council

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February 17, 2000

RECEIVED

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

FEB 29 2000

Dear Ms. Dixon:

We understand the Announcement of Extension for the public comment period has been extended to February 28th. The Battle Mountain Band of the Te-Moak Tribe of Western Shoshone will be passing a resolution to support our stand against the Geological Repository for the Disposal of Spent Nuclear Fuel and High-Level Radioactive Waste at Yucca Mountain. Our regularly scheduled meetings are usually held on the last Thursday of the month. This month it will be on February 24, 2000. Sometimes we are not able to conduct business on that particular day for a number of valid reasons.

We have drafted a resolution for passage on February 24th. This is very close to the date of February 28th, your deadline for comments. We wanted to be assured our comments would be heard so we are, instead, sending you this letter which will read closely to our resolution just in case our resolution does not reach you by February 28th.

1 [This organization is an Indian organization known as the Battle Mountain Band Council and, as such, we exercise certain rights of home rule and we are responsible for the promotion of economic and social welfare of our tribal members. Since time immemorial, Western Shoshone peoples have continuously inhabited the Great Basin areas. We are indigenous to this land and are unceasingly spiritually connected with Sogobia (Earth Mother) and still seek solace on the aboriginal lands. Western Shoshone people are related to each other in the communities from the northern border of Idaho to the southernmost point including and past the Yucca Mountain boundaries. As indigenous people, we travel frequently to visit family in different communities.

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Our people have traditional diets including animals from the earth, such as deer, rabbit and other animals, since the beginning. These diet pathways have not been included in the studies about radiation by Federal agencies. We are aware the animals, part of our food sources, migrate into areas containing radiation.

We are cognizant Yucca Mountain, still Shoshone country, is being studied for the disposal site for low-level and high-level nuclear waste. Historically, we have been victims of detonated bombs during the 50's and 60's at the Nevada Test Site attributable to various cancers among our people.

Our Nation still feels the sadness of being victims of radiation exposure and environmental injustice. Our continuous survival, as a Nation, depend on traditional lifestyles, food sustenance, and spiritual connection with this earth being as pure and without radiation as possible.

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The Battle Mountain Band Council stands firmly against the Geological Repository for the Disposal of Spent Nuclear Fuel and High-Level Radioactive Waste at Yucca Mountain, Nevada.

Sincerely,



Lydia Johnson, Tribal Chairperson

CC: EPA GAP/SF