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Kelly Beard-Tittone
12821 Grandview Rd.
Grandview, MO 64030
March 24, 2000

Secretary Bill Richardson
DOE
Forrestal Bldg
1000 Independence Ave., SW
Washington, DC 20585

Dear Secretary:

I am writing about the draft EIS for the proposed Nuclear Waste Repository at Yucca Mountain that was released in August of 1999. I hope it is not too late to comment.

1... I am a chemist and environmental engineer. I am also an environmentalist. I understand the need and difficulties in siting waste facilities of various kinds. I understand the NIMBY attitude. The opposition to the NWR at Yucca Mountain, however, seems to have a great deal of justification. The transportation hazards inherent in this proposal should be enough to rethink it. Exposing 50 million Americans to such hazards....who did the cost/benefit analysis on this?

The earthquake potential should be enough to rethink it. As a society we are beginning to understand the ramifications of building in a flood plain. It is not a big leap to realize that it is foolhardy at best to locate a nuclear waste repository in an area where in the last 20 years more than 621 earthquakes have been recorded with a magnitude of 2.5 and higher.

2 I understand pending legislation would rewrite the Nuclear Waste Policy Act of 1992 (NWPA) - throwing out radiation standards that are already insufficient. In addition, the bill would provide for the federal government - taxpayers - to take ownership of the waste and accept liability. What a return this would be for members of the Nuclear Energy Institute who invested \$12.8 million in their congressional delegations to encourage pro-nuclear laws.

3 This is one of the clearest examples of environmental injustice. The Yucca Mountain lies within land guaranteed to the Western Shoshone Nation by US treaty. The Shoshone Nation, site of the US Nevada nuclear testing facility, has already been severely impacted by more than 600 atomic explosions in their territory. Cancers are common. Yet the mentality of the United States on this project seems to be best represented by a statement of Representative Lindsey Graham (SC) - "God made Yucca Mountain for the express purpose of storing high level nuclear waste. There's nothing within 100 miles of the place."

1 cont. Please do not approve this project. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Kelly Beard-Tittone

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cc: The Honorable Senators Ashcroft / Bond
The Honorable Representative McCarthy