

D Ms. Sandra Delcours
3029 Willow Creek
Florissant MO 63031

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June 20, 2001

Ms.
Dear Dr. Summerson,

I live near the route the
High Level Radioactive Waste will
be transported through the
St. Louis City and County
areas on its way to Yucca
Mountain. I question the
safety of moving the High
Level Rad Waste. ^{Perhaps storage} ^{when the waste} ^{is there now would} ^{be wiser.}

If the U.S. trusted 41 nations
with "Atoms for Peace" in
1953 maybe we (U.S.) should
continue to trust and work
with those nations ^{for storage there} for the
future? I'm sure those
nations are also concerned
with the preservation
of the world for their
people and children.

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Can we really afford the cost and dangers of nuclear power in the long run? Clean up costs are unbearable to many like us (U.S.) in the Cold Water Creek Florissant Valley that used to be flowers not radioactive waste. there/here now.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Sandy DeLancey
Cold Water Creek MO
Stream Dam # 30

Dear friends:

Isn't it amazing? We have to write yet again to say we don't want high-level radioactive waste shipped through St. Louis. And actually, we have to write two separate letters about two separate hunks of shipments:

① Shipments to Yucca Mountain, Nevada, from US nuclear reactors:

With an almost immediate postmark deadline for comments --- **MONDAY, JUNE 25** --- the US Department of Energy is calling for comments on its "Supplement to the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for a Geologic Repository ... at Yucca Mountain." We need to tell the DOE that we don't want irradiated fuel rods from nuclear power and weapons reactors shipped through St. Louis by train or truck, on the average, every other day for the next 30 years.

Although the "Supplement" does not include an analysis of the transport of the wastes, the comment period does give us an unofficial opportunity to demand that the DOE focus attention on the inherent risks of putting the nation's wastes in motion, on highways and railways through 47 states, including Missouri.

Please write now to: Dr. Jane Summerson, EIS Document Manager (M/S 010)
Yucca Mountain Site Characterization Office
DOE - Office of Civilian Radioactive Waste Management
P.O. Box 30307
North Las Vegas, NV 89036-0307

Or by fax to: 1-800-967-0739.

Or via the web at: <http://www.ymp.gov>

Seventy-six operating commercial reactors are located to the east of the Mississippi River (27 are to the west), and St. Louis is on the Mississippi. The DOE likes our bridges, rails (Union Pacific) and roads (I-70, I-44). We need to tell them we don't want these lethal shipments coming through Downtown and through our neighborhoods.

Transport accidents do happen. Fourteen heavily-laden coal cars just derailed and dumped their contents across the street from Webster Groves homes, on May 31. On May 15 a runaway train --- with no conductor! --- traveled through two counties in Ohio (70 miles!) before it was slowed down, and some brave soul was able to jump aboard and stop it. (The freight included hazardous materials.)

If nuclear power plant sites are safe enough to host reactors containing tons of fissioning uranium fuel and permanently radioactive waste, then they're safe enough to store that waste. Actually, the sites are NOT safe enough, but neither are our roads and rails and corridor communities. Unless and until the nuclear industry figures out where and how to isolate radioactive waste from living creatures, it should STOP GENERATING MORE.

Because irradiated fuel rods contain plutonium and enriched uranium -- stuff that nuclear bombs are made of -- the Nuclear Regulatory Commission requires that two armed escorts accompany every shipment through populated areas.

Many scientists question whether Yucca Mountain is a safe location for the first national deep geologic repository. For example, the site has 33 earthquake faults, and in June 1992 an earthquake caused \$1.5 million damage to the DOE's own Yucca Mountain research facility. The Lathrop Wells cinder cones, a young volcanic field, lie only ten miles away. And evidence has been discovered of groundwater movement through the proposed vault site which could potentially contaminate the aquifer below.

The DOE is considering aging (cooling) the fuel in up to 4,500 dry storage casks at Yucca Mountain for up to fifty years on 200 acres of cement pad before emplacing it in the repository. Would it not be safer

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to store the fuel temporarily AT THE EXISTING REACTOR SITES rather than transporting it cross-country and storing it out in Nevada? The hazards of the fuel would thus be somewhat reduced prior to shipment, and perhaps, in the interim, scientific research would yield a safer solution. Or perhaps not.

② Shipments to the Idaho National Energy and Environmental Laboratory from foreign research reactors: *Engineering*

The US began promoting "Atoms for Peace" in 1953 by providing technological assistance and highly enriched uranium fuel to spread nuclear research reactors worldwide. But because the fuel --- after irradiation in a reactor --- contains plutonium and uranium which are attractive to terrorists, the US mandated that all the FORTY-ONE RECIPIENT NATIONS return the irradiated fuel to the US for disposal.

Even though we have no safe permanent disposal site for our own US reactor fuel, we are now importing reactor fuel from 41 other nations! * Perhaps the federal government assumed, back in the early days of "Atoms for Peace," that the US would have a disposal facility in time for the return of the foreign fuel --- or that a process would be discovered to somehow make the radioactive materials not radioactive. But no such luck.

So now ocean vessels with irradiated foreign fuel are arriving at one military port in South Carolina and at one in California, and this is expected to continue for about another ten years. Some fuel is to be stored at the DOE's Savannah River Site in South Carolina, while the rest is to be shipped by truck and train to the Idaho Engineering and Environmental Laboratory. Last summer, after our late Governor Mel Carnahan and former Senator John Ashcroft protested that shipments of British fuel should not travel through Missouri because of I-70 problems, the trucks were re-routed through Iowa.

But in retaliation for Missouri's efforts to bar last summer's shipments, the DOE blocked off its SC disposal site to irradiated fuel from the University of Missouri-Columbia reactor. Therefore Governor Bob Holden has felt obligated to let German fuel pass through Missouri this summer, on I-70, or face the shutdown of the Mizzou reactor which claims to have run out of storage space for fuel on site. Doctors had protested the potential reactor shutdown because of a continuing need for radio-pharmaceuticals generated there.

We need to write to: The Honorable Bob Holden, Governor of Missouri, State Capitol, Jefferson City 65101 --- to urge him to work with the DOE to stop future shipments through Missouri. The DOE likes the St. Louis/Kansas City route to Idaho, but we don't!

The US could ask the foreign nations to keep their own fuel --- at least until the US figures out where to put ours. We could offer technological oversight and protection against terrorists. (I'm writing this letter the day Timothy McVeigh was executed. No nation is immune to terrorists.)

Even though storage at the Savannah River Site in South Carolina is no doubt full of risks, perhaps the wastes from Europe, Africa and South America that are slated to be shipped from SC to Idaho (via Missouri) could stay in SC in dry storage casks, until --- if ever --- some safe disposal technology and location are discovered.

No place is safe for these permanently dangerous, highly radioactive wastes. But the more they're moved around, the greater are the risks.

* Those 41 nations include Argentina, Australia, Bangladesh, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Congo, France, Indonesia, Iran, Israel, Japan, Pakistan, Peru, Philippines, Taiwan, and Turkey.

For information: the DOE's Dr. Summerson: 702-794-1493. MO Coalition for the Environment: 314-727-0600. Nuclear Information & Resource Service, Washington DC: 202-328-0002. Kay Drey: 314-725-7676

*Hope you can help -
Kay*