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Dr. Jane Summerson
EIS Document Manager (M/S 010)
Yucca Mountain Office
DOE – Office of Civilian Radioactive Waste
P. O. Box 30307
North Las Vegas, NV 89036

Dear Dr. Summerson:

1 I am commenting on the Department of Energy's (DOE's) Supplement to the draft Environmental Impact Statement for a Geologic Repository at Yucca Mountain. I am strongly opposed to the shipments of highly radioactive irradiated fuel rods from nuclear power plants around the country through Missouri. These shipments would average one every other day for the next three decades, if DOE's plans are carried out.

Whether using railroads or truck transportation, regular accidents occur. A major accident in a populated area involving these highly radioactive fuel rods could expose people to deadly doses of radiation and may contaminate communities. Transportation accidents are common – just last May a runaway unmanned train rambled 70 miles before a heroic railroad employee managed to board the moving train and bring it under control. Also in May a coal train derailed and dumped the contents of 14 cars in Webster Groves, Missouri (a suburb of St. Louis).

Our highways are no safer. Both Interstate 70 and 44, likely routes through Missouri, are in poor condition and carry heavy traffic at all hours of the day. The State Legislature has failed several times to increase revenues needed to improve Missouri's aging transportation system.

2 Since 76 nuclear power plants are located east of the Mississippi River, about 3/4ths of the total number operating, proceeding with the Yucca Mountain repository and transport plan would mean continuous shipments travelling across the country the long distances from reactor sites to the repository. Rather than ship this dangerous cargo, it would be better to store irradiated fuel rods at the nuclear plants in secure storage structures so that their radioactivity could diminish over the years. Even then, these wastes will pose risks to future generations. Stopping the generation of additional radioactive waste is the only long term solution to the growing problem of storing these wastes safely.

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3 There also continue to remain serious doubts about the long term safety of the Yucca Mountain site for storage of highly radioactive and dangerous nuclear fuel rods. I believe that DOE should continue to search for better, safer answers to the problem of nuclear waste disposal.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

Roy C. Hengerson

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