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Jessica.L.Weinberg@fakeaddress.net on 05/15/2001 10:23:58 AM

To: SER, Bonnie Fogdall/YM/RWDOE
cc:

Subject: SER Comment

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May 15, 2001 10:23:58

IP address: 140.228.29.57

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---> Commentors Name: Jessica L Weinberg
---> Organization:
---> Position:

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---> The Commentors Address:
---> 7168 Tottenham Rd.
---> Toledo, Ohio 43617

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---> Email Information:
---> lweinberg@buckeye-express.com
---> Add commentor to the mailing list : no

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---> Contact Information:
---> fax number : -
---> phone number : 419-8436078
---> organization :
---> position :

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--> Comment Text :
Dear Ms. Hanlon:

Below is a letter I sent to Governor Bob Taft, of Ohio.

May 14, 2001

Governor Bob Taft

77 South High Street
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30th Floor

Columbus, OH 43266-0601

Dear Governor Taft:

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) has invited your input on its consideration of Yucca Mountain in Nevada as a permanent repository for nuclear waste. The DOE has, however, left many questions about their plans for transporting the waste unanswered, and I urge you to raise these issues with them.

Although many concerns remain about the suitability of Yucca as a disposal site, the DOE is nevertheless rushing towards its final recommendation. In fact, the Inspector General is investigating allegations of collusion between the DOE and the nuclear industry, according a recent press release from the advocacy group Public Citizen.

Leakage of nuclear waste through the mountain is likely to contaminate the groundwater that the residents of Amragosa Valley rely upon for drinking water and produce. The scenario could have a national impact because some of farm products from the area are sold in other states. Of greater concern to the state of Ohio, however, are issues related to large-scale nuclear waste transportation. The canisters that would be used have been subjected to no physical testing, only to testing using computer models, which rely on outdated testing parameters. Our emergency response personnel may lack the training and equipment necessary to respond to a nuclear accident. Moreover, even when no accidents occur, nuclear waste canisters emit the equivalent of one chest x-ray per hour of harmful radiation. This not only places at risk the health of citizens living along the routes, it contributes to a decline in property values.

Should Yucca be approved as a disposal site, more than 77,000 metric tons of nuclear waste would pass through 43 states, including Ohio, and would pass within half a mile of 50 million Americans. Although approximately 11,000 comments were submitted on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement, and more than half addressed transportation concerns, the DOE has not responded. The Draft Environmental Impact Statement itself deals inadequately with many transportation concerns. For example, it does not identify the specific routes along which the waste will be transported or whether trucks or trains will be used.

Please pressure the DOE to address the above-mentioned transportation issues before finalizing their site recommendation. Furthermore, please withhold support for the Yucca Mountain project until these vital safety issues have been addressed and the feasibility of transporting nuclear waste to Nevada has been adequately assessed.

Sincerely,

Jessica Weinberg

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c.c. Carol Hanlon, DOE

Lisa Gue, Public Citizen

U.S. Representative Marcy Kaptur

U.S. Senator Mike DeWine

U.S. Senator George Voinovich