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GRACE PUBLIC FUND

September 4, 2001

Helaine Lerner
Board Chair

Alice Slater
President

Project Directors

David Brabaker
William J. Weida

Ms. Carol Hanlon
Yucca Mountain Site Characterization Office (M/S #025)
United States Department of Energy
P.O. Box 30307
North Las Vegas, NV
89036-0307

Via fax: 1-800-967-0739

Dear Ms. Hanlon:

GRACE Public Fund is deeply concerned about the Yucca Mountain Project and the flawed process railroading it toward approval. Despite major scientific uncertainties and widespread public opposition, the Department of Energy (DOE) is rushing to open a nuclear waste dump at Yucca Mountain, Nevada.

As the Secretary of Energy is preparing to recommend to the President a high-level nuclear waste dump Yucca Mountain, thousands of public comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement have yet to be addressed. What's more, the DOE recently gave Las Vegas residents only 9 business day's notice of a crucial public hearing on the Secretary's intentions. Without a final Environmental Impact Statement, a detailed transportation scenario, finalized Siting Guidelines, or a licensing rule, DOE lacks the basis for consideration of site suitability.

The plan to build a nuclear waste repository at Yucca Mountain would move 70,000 metric tons of high-level radioactive waste from commercial nuclear reactors and DOE weapons sites across the country. Routing projections indicate that radioactive Yucca Mountain shipments would likely pass within half a mile of the homes, schools, and workplaces of 50 million Americans in 43 states. The DOE's preliminary site suitability evaluation is premature and inappropriately inhibits the democratic process.

The public cannot have confidence in any recommendation that arises from such a dramatically flawed process. I urge you to abandon the Yucca Mountain Project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Christina Salvi".

Christina Salvi
Program Associate

cc: The Honorable Charles E. Schumer, The Honorable Hillary Rodham Clinton, The Honorable Carolyn B. Maloney

A large, stylized handwritten mark or signature, possibly a letter 'D' or a similar character, located in the bottom right corner of the page.