

Friends of the Coast
Opposing Nuclear Pollution
Post Office Box 98, Edgcomb, Maine 04556

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September 4, 2001
By fax and by US Mail

The Honorable Spencer Abraham
Secretary of Energy
U.S. Department of Energy
1000 Independence Ave. SW
Washington, D.C. 20585

SEP 05 2001

Re: Notice of Public Hearings on Site Recommendation of Yucca Mountain as a National High-Level Nuclear Waste Repository

Dear Secretary Abraham,

Please note the objections of Friends of the Coast – Opposing Nuclear Pollution to the lack of adequate and timely notice of Department of Energy public meetings to address the site recommendation of Yucca Mountain (Nye County, Nevada) for a national high-level nuclear waste repository. In addition, please note our objection to the lack of regionally accessible meetings on a topic of interest across the nation. Friends of the Coast – Opposing Nuclear Pollution is a non-profit corporation registered in the State of Maine. For reasons now stated below, we call on you to reschedule these hearings with adequate notice and to provide a meaningful opportunity for all citizens who may be affected by recommendation of Yucca Mountain as the national high-level waste repository.

- DOE has provided interested members of the public adequate time (less than thirty days) to obtain and evaluate the detailed technical report, "Yucca Mountain Preliminary Site Suitability Evaluation" prior to holding public hearings on site recommendation, now scheduled for September 5th and 13th.
- Interested members of the public are not limited to the citizens of Nevada. Communities across the United States will be impacted by both transportation and storage of spent nuclear fuel as defined by the location and viability of a national, regional, or private, high-level waste repository. In Maine, over the objections of local citizenry, some 1400 spent fuel assemblies have been generated. Their storage and disposal is to be paid for with electric rate payer dollars, their security is to be provided by state and local police at Maine taxpayer expense, and their transportation is to be provided through Maine communities, over Maine roads and rails.
- The DOE public hearing notice is so flawed as to deny due process and violate provisions of the Fifth Amendment of the US Constitution. De facto exclusion of interested persons due to a single meeting location remote from reactor communities and transportation routes, lack of timely notice, inadequate and

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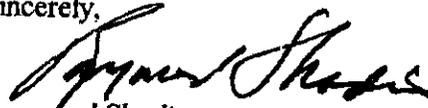
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unclear notice as to the purpose of the hearings, and confusion as to the actual location (in Nevada) of the hearings constitute a failure to provide proper notice and a meaningful opportunity for a hearing.

Please provide a written point-by-point response to this letter if you do not choose to schedule additional, properly noticed hearings.

Thank you for your kind attention.

Sincerely,



Raymond Shadis

On Behalf of Friends of the Coast

Cc: Lake Barrett
Carol Hanlon

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