FROM THE DESK OF DAVID WEISMAN

August 29, 2001

Carol Hanlon
U.S. Department of Energy
Yucca Mountain Site Characterization Office M/S # 025
PO BOX 30307
North Las Vegas, NV 89036-0307

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RE: Possible Site Recommendation for Yucca Mountain

Dear Ms. Hanlon:

I am writing to oppose the selection of the proposed Yucca Mountain location as a site for this nation's high-level radioactive waste. Among the myriad of reasons why this is an unsuitable choice as a solution for the disposal of high level waste are:

1) The region has known reports of seismic activity and it is impossible for engineers to design or predict the seismic activity and their structural solutions that can be guaranteed for the tens of thousands of years that this waste will be radioactive and deadly.

2) The transportation of this waste through not only the enormous local population center (represented by Las Vegas) but the many other urban areas *en route* put millions of residents at risk from an accident-based radioactive release. The recent railroad tunnel fire beneath Baltimore, MD (July, 2001) which burned for more than 4 days at temperatures of over 1500 degrees would have exposed a cask of radioactive waste to conditions beyond the tolerances required by the DOE.

3) The placement of waste at Yucca Mountain will violate treaties with the Shoshone Nations, and as a U.S. citizen I cannot support this violation of the sovereign rights of this people in "my" name.

4) The Reno Gazette (July 29, 2001) reports that the law firm of Winston & Strawn was being hired to advise the DOE on the suitability of Yucca Mountain as a repository while at the same time lobbying congress on behalf of the pro-industry Nuclear Energy Institute. Until this shocking conflict of interest can be fully investigated, there is no way to trust the DOE's recommendation of this site.

5) Finally, the scientific evidence of radionucleides like chlorine 36 in water samples taken from within the mountain indicate the mountain is not "impermeable" as was once believed. As such, there is the chance that this highly concentrated and dangerous radioactivity could find its way into the bioshpere through either groundwater or atmospheric discharge.

A solution to this problem? Until greater minds can spend time devising a comprehensive plan, all nuclear power generation should be stopped, and the accumulated radioactive fuel allowed to cool and age in the spent fuel pools at the licensed sites where they now repose.

Yours truly,

David Weisman

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