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cc:

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Subject: Site Suitability

Part of Records Package / Supplement / Correction

September 14, 2001

Carol Hanlon  
U.S. Department of Energy  
Yucca Mountain Site Characterization Office

Coalition-21, a volunteer organization of 80 paid members in Southeast Idaho, appreciates the opportunity to comment on the Yucca Mountain Preliminary Site Suitability Evaluation and the possible recommendation of the Yucca Mountain site to the President as a disposal site for spent nuclear fuel and/or fuel reprocessing waste.

Considering the location on a desert mountain, the low rainfall, the loss of most of this rainfall to evaporation, the long distance down to the water table (with absorption by the intervening rock and soil), and the design directing drainage around rather than through the waste packages, we see no reason why the Yucca Mountain site cannot meet all reasonable requirements for protection of the public, now and indefinitely into the future.

We point out the many hundreds of shipments of spent nuclear fuel safely made to the holding basins at Albion, Illinois, to Barnwell, South Carolina, to the INEEL at Idaho, and among various utility holding ponds as proof that transportation of spent nuclear fuel is not a risk to the public.

We observe that a disposal site will be needed regardless of whether spent nuclear fuel is first reprocessed to salvage useable materials.

The Department of Energy must proceed with completion and operation of the Yucca Mountain disposal site. Any suggestion of starting over with a different location or different procedures will demoralize efforts to deal with high level nuclear waste. With time the opponents of this project will evaluate this project on its merits, and realize that it brings no harm to anyone.

For Coalition-21, John Tanner, Secretary

PS Hard copy follows.  
John,Martha/Tanner