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R.F. SUTTON
12477 MUSTONE
ST. LOUIS, MO 63146

RECEIVED
SEP 24 2001

SEPTEMBER 19, 2001

MS. CAROL HANLON
U.S. DEP'T OF ENERGY
YUCCA MOUNTAIN SITE CHARACTERIZATION OFFICE (M/S #025)
NORTH LAS VEGAS, NV 89036-0307

DEAR MS. HANLON,

THE GHOST DANCE OF THE LATE 19TH CENTURY PROVIDES A CHILLING EXAMPLE OF HOW WHOLE SOCIETIES CAN LOSE TOUCH WITH REALITY WHEN THEIR LANGUAGE AND BELIEF SYSTEMS DON'T KEEP PACE WITH NEW TECHNOLOGIES. IN THE CASE OF THE GHOST DANCE MANY AMERICAN INDIANS BELIEVED THE SPIRITUAL POWER OF THEIR GHOST SHIRTS WOULD PROTECT THEM FROM LEAD BULLETS. NEEDLESS TO SAY, THE INDIANS WERE SLAUGHTERED WHEN FIRED UPON BY U.S. TROOPS.

LIKEWISE, OUR LANGUAGE AND HOPEFUL BELIEFS HAVEN'T CAUGHT UP WITH THE REALITIES OF NUCLEAR TECHNOLOGY. AN ALARMING EXAMPLE OF THIS PHENOMENON IS THE CURRENT PLAN BY THE D.O.E. TO "SAFELY" SHIP 40,000 TONS OF IRRADIATED FUEL RODS TO A "PERMANENT" REPOSITORY AT YUCCA MTN. REGARDING ASSURED PROTECTIONS "AGAINST ACTS OF RADIOLOGICAL SABOTAGE" DURING THE THOUSANDS AND THOUSANDS OF PLANNED SHIPMENTS FOR THE

NEXT 25 TO 30 YEARS, WE NEED ONLY LOOK TO THE RECENT BOMBINGS/HIJACKINGS IN NEW YORK CITY AND WASHINGTON, D.C. TO SEE THE HORRIFYING RESULTS OF OUR FAITH IN "SAFEGUARDS". BESIDES TERRORISM, OUR SAFEGUARDS DON'T EVEN PROTECT US FROM OURSELVES. FOR INSTANCE, THE LOS ALAMOS STUDY GROUP (SANTA FE, N.M.) REPORTS THAT THERE WAS A 76% INCREASE IN THE INCIDENCE OF WORKER CONTAMINATION AT LOS ALAMOS LABS BETWEEN 1993 AND 1995 AND THAT TWO OUT OF THREE ACCIDENTS THERE IN 1994 RESULTED IN A "LOSS OF CONTROL OF RADIOACTIVE MATERIAL".

EVEN DISREGARDING HUMAN MALEVOLENCE AND ERROR, OUR WISHFUL THINKING BLINDS US TO THE LAWS OF PHYSICS AND GEOLOGY. NOTHING IS PERMANENT IN THE EARTH'S GEOLOGY, YET WE ARE PLANNING A "PERMANENT" REPOSITORY IN A DORMANT VOLCANO FOR STORING WASTE WITH A "HALF-LIFE" OF 2.3 MILLION YEARS.

WE NEED TO END THE LITERALLY CRAZY GENERATION OF MORE REACTOR WASTES, AS WELL AS THE EQUALLY CRAZY SCHEMES OF SHIPPING AND STORING THEM.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION.

SINCERELY,

Bob Sutton

CC: SENATOR KIT BOND
SENATOR JEAN CARNAHAN