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Sister Barbara Cox, o.p.
2844-0 Innsbruck Dr.,
St. Louis, MO 63129
09-18-01

Department of Energy of the United States
Office of Civilian Radioactive Waste Management
Yucca Mountain Site Characterization Office
P.O. Box 30307
North Las Vegas, NV 89036-0307

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Re: Recommendation of Yucca Mountain site for nuclear waste

As a non-expert in the mechanics you so precisely provided for public comment, I cannot comment on the practical measures you have devised for containing nuclear waste. I do trust that utmost care has been taken to plan the most effective service possible.

At the same time I have serious concerns about the transport of nuclear waste by train & truck across our nation. Derailments happen frequently in our area.

Also, I am concerned for the health of the people who may be contaminated at the Yucca Mt. site or by accident or through unforeseen geological transformations.

However, the waste exists and it must be placed somewhere as soon as is feasible. Therefore, I can accept the Yucca Mt. site if extraordinary care is taken in transport and if only highly trained personnel handle the waste at the site.

Most importantly: as all involved are so well aware, since the disposal of nuclear waste is so very dangerous and difficult to arrange, it behooves us to stop making new waste and find new, environmentally sound ways to produce energy. Anyone who can produce the intricate plans for the Yucca Mt. site can also produce new energy systems. It is high time to put our human energies toward this important goal.

Thanking you for your consultation in this important matter, and wishing you Godspeed in your efforts,

Sister Barbara Cox, o.p.