

September 9, 2001

Mr. Lake H. Barrett, Acting Director
Office of Civilian Radioactive Waste Management
Department of Energy
Washington, D. C. 20585

SEP 23 2001

Dear Mr. Barrett:

Thank you for your recent letter "printed with soy ink on recycled paper" dealing with Yucca Mountain and the intention of Southern Nevada as your dump site for high level nuclear storage.

As a 35 plus year resident of Nevada, I find it insulting to even be sent such a letter. Though you cite the billions spent on site study, the science, the painstaking process the DOE has undertaken to study this possibility, there is just no getting around the fact that the DOE has done more damage in the past half century to people of So. Nevada and Utah due only to the facts of carelessness, bad science, bad politics, secrecy, self-serving policies and blindness. This is not pure ignorance. While "downwinders" died as a result of poorly planned above ground tests, it is on record that members of the DOE moved their own families out of the way of harm when suspicions arose regarding health threats. Convenience, ego gratification, and pure bullheadedness are earmarks of the tactics of the DOE. This is exactly what is happening today in the study of Yucca Mountain, the only site being studied in the United States. Duh.

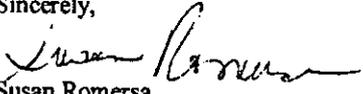
This was apparent even in the meeting held the other night. While people were made to wait in a seemingly poorly planned meeting, while "plants" of the DOE jawed on until late in the evening on a weeknight in a room that was purposely overheated to make it as uncomfortable as possible for a large crowd, we have just another example of the DOE at work. As both the Sun and Review Journal reported, people wanted to communicate their ideas. The DOE does not care to hear them. And, why is that? Because it is irrelevant to a government agency that has already made up its so-called "mind." This is just another load of more of the same thing that is apparently already buried in Nevada. In one of your last public meetings, one of your "plants" who had worked at the test site for 20 years, stood up and stated that Yucca Mountain is very safe to work at (today) and far better than the situation that existed at the test site where nuclear waste is still "cooking" (his words) today and no doubt leaching into the ground water. Hey, why not give us the rest of the nation's nuclear waste too? Why should each state take responsibility for its own deadly garbage? We're talking government statistics here - and why even write this letter? Well, I hear that school children in America used to write to Hitler. And, it's about the same thing really.

I have toured Yucca Mountain. I have asked questions there. If something leaks, it will contaminate Death Valley and furnace creek. The fact that it is on an earthquake fault, the geology and water flow are very much in question, and in a sedimentary area play no real part in the DOE's gameplan. Get it there and figure out later how the casques will even be manufactured, much less transported over highways and by trains. The fact that Las Vegas (possibly a glittering neon joke to the DOE) is now the home to over a million and a half residents and growing rapidly is one very sound reason not to transport raw high level nuclear waste to a faulty area only 90 miles from this fastest growing city in the United States.

Congressional representation? Send a video tape. Hotel and casino intervention? Well, when it comes to gaming regulations, we like to have legislators on our side. Perhaps the stench of dwindling tourism after the first highway spill has changed their minds somewhat, but hotel and resorts should have spoken out against this travesty years ago.

As to answering any of the purported questions to be considered on your third page, just stamp it "forgone conclusion." You don't care and your science sucks.

Sincerely,


Susan Romersa