

7008 Amherst Ave.
St. Louis, MO 63130
October 2, 2001

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Dear Ms. Hanlon,

Recent attacks have made us aware of our vulnerability to terrorist acts. Shipping nuclear wastes through St. Louis to Yucca Mt. threatens our population not just with acts of terrorism, but with accidents as well. In July a freight train hauling hazardous chemicals derailed in a Baltimore tunnel resulting in a fire which burned at a temperature hotter than canisters of nuclear waste can withstand. Locally in St. Louis, thirteen coal cars derailed and spilled their contents in a residential neighborhood. Accidents happen fairly frequently. A mishap involving nuclear waste could be devastating. Because DOE has not disclosed the intended routes for the transfer of irradiated fuel, our communities are deprived of information necessary to evaluate the impacts of these shipments.

Moreover, the Yucca Mt. site itself is seismically unstable and therefore unsuitable for storing hazardous waste for millions of years. In addition the Nuclear Regulatory Commission declared that the Department of Energy has underestimated the risk of volcanic activity to the repository.

In response to the September 11 attacks, the government has ordered armed forces to guard present nuclear power plants. The expense of protecting nuclear power plants and transporting irradiated fuel make nuclear power a tremendous economic liability as well as a safety hazard. In human terms the nuclear power plants are generating pollution which remains dangerous "forever." Power plants should cease to generate reactor waste and irradiated fuel should remain on site where it was created until a totally reliable method of transportation and storage has been established.

Sincerely,



Leslie Lihou

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