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OCT - 9 2001

U.S. D.O.E.
Secretary Spencer Abraham Sept. 1, 2001

Dear Secretary Abraham,

I phoned your office a few days ago to protest DOE plans to re-schedule the Suncoast casino 9/5 meeting to the DOE operations center on 232 Energy way. North Las vegas

This meeting should have been held at least two weeks later. Governor Guinn suggested that Cashman Center would be a better venue.

If the DOE wants to inform Nevadans that their views are not important they (DOE bureaucrats) will find that an error has been made. The symbolism of scheduling this meeting in an armed compound fenced with barbed wire is a major error.

The NRC has notified the DOE that there are serious lapses in scientific

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data on yucca mountain yet the legal theatre continues. my postconcerns about consideration of electrical and mechanical breakdowns, rail and truck accidents and terrorist threats have been marginalized.

the Baltimore tunnel train accident should have been a wake up call but it has largely been ignored by the DOE. the temperature, in this accident, reached 1500°F which would have melted any lead shield in the interior of the transportation casks even if they weren't breached by the force of the accident. then the water main, in the tunnel, broke. Imagine the nuclear catastrophe which would have occurred!

the nuclear power producers would have been protected by the Price anderson bill but americans would have been uninsured. this is unfair, inequitable and should concern every american.

If the nuclear lobby weren't so arrogant they would reconsider their opposition to dry cask storage on site. This waste has been stored there for 44 years safely.

Legally they can force the DOE and the american people to pay punitive fines or move this waste. They won't press their advantage if they truly care about our & future generations.

If Nevada is forced to carry our case, to the 44 states that will be involved in unnecessary and dangerous transportation of nuclear waste, there will be protest to rival Seattle, Washington, Quebec city, Genoa and in the EU. This protest has, in part, led to Germany's abandonment of nuclear power.

I am a transplant to Nevada and I think the federal government

is underestimating the resolve of all nevadans.

Our population has quadrupled plus since the 1987 legislation and there has been a shift to the NW in the Las vegas valley. The Paiute Snow mountain Reservation and Indian Springs have had population growth and are about 20 miles closer to yucca mountain. In the Las vegas valley we have 90,800 tourists visiting daily. The amargosa valley is within 20-25 miles to yucca and has a dairy, alfalfa farms, pistachio groves and residents grow their own produce. These facts alone should disqualify yucca mountain, as a nuclear repository. Beyond that seismic activity, flooding, corrosive Condensation and moisture laden with minerals and micro-organisms make yucca scientifically unsuitable.

If the nuclear producers put the health of our generation and future generations paramount they will cease their campaign to force Nevadans to bring their nuclear waste here.

Nevadans have paid their dues, in blood and sickness, by hosting the Nevada test site for 41 years in which 928 nuclear bombs were detonated. Downwinders in Nevada and other states suffered the most. The DOE has not been a good steward there, because they have not been forthright as to the pollution in the groundwater from the test site.

Nevadans have been labeled as NIMBY site. This is not true.

I hope we (Americans) can avoid unnecessary protest to protect the financial interests of a greedy and arrogant nuclear industry.

Sincerely,
Frank Lema