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Please provide my comments to Spencer Abraham, Secretary of Energy and to all other appropriate individuals regarding the Yucca Mountain site for development as a spent nuclear fuel and high-level radioactive waste geologic repository.

I, along with my entire family and friends stand in ADAMANT OPPOSITION to the YMP. We are against the nations highest level nuclear waste being dumped in our back yard. My immediate family members and I have personally visited and toured Yucca Mountain last year conducted by the DOE. I am a RN and have been involved in Health Care Quality Management throughout my career. My brother is an MD, certified in Occupational Medicine, and works for the Dept. of Health & Human Services (US Public Health Service) as a Medical Coordinator for Environmental Emergencies & Hazards and works very closely with NIOSH, CDC, EPA, & FEMA. My father is now retired but has spent his career in the medical field as well. I consider ourselves to have scientific minds and to have thoughtfully considered the possible and potential ramifications of this project.

Firstly, we are opposed to the timing and locations of the hearings, especially the first one in Las Vegas. We also believe that Mr. Abraham should have been present to personally hear the comments presented for the biggest issue and impact facing our state. We are opposed and outraged by the entire unfair hearing process that has occurred. It is a travesty for the people of Nevada.

We do NOT want to be subject to the potential risks and dangers of Yucca Mountain!

1) Science is not always sound. Science and technology is only considered the best available at the current time of study. It is forever changing and what may be sound science today may be very different a year from now or in the near future. Current knowledge quickly becomes obsolete and incorrect based on newer findings. College science courses are obsolete after five years and would have to be taken over again for course credit. Products and drugs once tested and considered being safe by FDA and other top governmental testing facilities are often recalled and removed from the market. Unfortunately, this is done after many people die, are seriously injured, or harmed by usage. Newer and more accurate ways of testing are continuously being developed. Yucca Mountain is no exception to this rule. What may seem to appear as good science now by the testing currently performed at YMP may soon reveal an incomprehensible magnitude of future devastating problems that we Nevadans will have to endure. The impact of the unknowns is far too great of a risk despite the best available current science and technology, theories, and hypothesis on small scale testing. We do NOT want to be subject to the potential risks and dangers on any scale. Furthermore, data is constantly manipulated and results can be produced to the advantage of who is performing the testing. If you don't like the outcome, change the data or parameters.

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- 2) Water contamination of the ground water has not satisfactorily been determined. Our ground water in Nevada and surrounding states, being geologically desert terrain, is dependent on Lake Mead for the majority of its water supply. It is critical that it remain safe and usable for our survival. Any corrosion of various elements is unacceptable.
- 3) Nevada is one of the top three seismologic states. Earthquakes have already occurred in the immediate area of Nevada Test Site and Yucca Mountain. There is much to be concerned about regarding future seismic activity and the current fault lines for future volcanic events.
- 4) Radiation contamination has already occurred by the "downwinders" from the Nevada Test Site. They have years later now developed illnesses directly caused by the radiation. They have fought a long battle to prove the ill effects caused by the exposure. They were initially told they were all safe by the government's current testing standards available at the time. Another current scenario is the situation recently exposed in Libbey, Montana. For many years the people in the town have had primary and secondary exposure to vermiculite, an end product of mining in their town. The people were consistently told they and their environment was safe by the W.C. Grace, their employer as well as the EPA. Now again after a long and gruesome battle, many of the towns residents and families are dying or have asbestosis, etc. as a direct impact of inaccurate testing, studies, and deceitful and false information provided to them by our own government agency. This is perhaps the largest case in the history of our country of primary and secondary exposure to a toxic and deadly environmental agent reaping havoc on a town. Of course, we can not forget the critical mass meltdown of Chernobal and Three Mile Island. The people were all told that they were safe too!
- 5) The biggest concern we are now even more challenged with is the terrorists plots after Sept. 11, 2001. Transporting the nations highest level nuclear waste throughout neighborhoods and throughout the entire country to my backyard is NOT ACCEPTABLE to me, my family, or the citizens of the entire country. We were unprepared for the terrorist attack on Sept. 11, and no one could have predicted the horrific devastation caused by the attack on our citizens and fundamental liberties that have changed in our country since the attack. The Anthrax scares are nothing in comparison to the ongoing threat of biological, germ and NUCLEAR warfare. Mr. Abraham, I truly don't believe you would be comfortable or would want the country's highest level of nuclear waste traveling through your neighborhood nor do I, my family, or anyone else I know. I can't even imagine the potential for continual attack or devastation during shipping and transport and at Yucca Mountain both above ground and below ground storage for 77,000 tons of high-level commercial and defense nuclear waste for many years to come.

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I believe in being proactive in matters of this high magnitude that can affect our future and the future of generations to hopefully follow. I don't want us to be in a position to have to figure out how to rectify a disaster later or to deal with the potential for a devastating outcome. The quality of life as we know and protection of it and our environment is crucial for all Americans. This YMP is NOT environmentally safe. It is NOT formulated with "Sound Science" and NO science can safely assure us that this can be done. My continual evaluation of the on-going issues, Preliminary Site Suitability Evaluation, The Yucca Mountain Science and Engineering Report, and review of testing by the so-called best scientific minds working on the project, have not allayed or eliminated my above concerns. The country does NOT need this additional on-going fear or threat affecting all of our lives!!!!

Respectfully Submitted,

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