

EIS000028

Brentwood Hepworth  
Dorothea Hepworth  
P.O. Box 164  
Caliente, NV 89008-0164

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August 28, 1999

Wendy R. Dixon,  
EIS Project Manager  
U.S. Department of Energy  
1180 Town Center Drive, M/S 010  
Las Vegas, Nevada 89134

Dear Ms. Dixon,

The following are our comments regarding the draft Yucca Mountain Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). We wish to make just two (2) points.

1 Our first point is that we **oppose altogether** the acceptance of Yucca Mountain as being an acceptable repository for nuclear waste. Nevada is the brunt of the nuclear power industry's attempt to force Nevadans to accept nuclear waste that, **(1) was never generated in this state; and, (2) which citizen's (vast majority) oppose having the repository.** This thing is being shoved down our throats, and for the first time, we are writing to tell you we're gagging!

2 continued below Our second point is more direct to to the Yucca Mountain EIS since the first point may be 'mute'; i.e., your office may not be able to address the issue because it's a 'political issue' with the U.S. Congress. However, your office should be aware of our *absolute and unequivocal opposition to Caliente City being an intermodal rail-to-truck depot*. We see the current issue as a transportation issue where there are a number of suggested ways of transporting the nuclear waste to Yucca Mountain should it become the nation's repository. The worst case scenario, from our point of view, would be if the waste would be transferred from train to truck anywhere in the vicinity of Caliente City. That's just unacceptable! **We believe that any route to Yucca Mountain should be a 'rail only' route.** In fact, the *only viable alternative for transportation*

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2 continued *is by rail from the Union Pacific main line at Carlin, Nevada traveling down the west side of the Nevada Test Site to Yucca Mountain. We oppose any truck route proposal to transport high level nuclear waste.*

3 And, as for transporting low-level nuclear waste, a good truck route currently exists from the rail at Yermo, California. That area is practically void of human population since I can remember. (I, Brentwood, was born in Barstow, CA in 1944, so know of what I speak.) Yermo is isolated and could serve as a rail/truck terminal.

2 continued Though both points first mentioned have been made, we wish to add that we feel our local Lincoln County government's nuclear waste oversight committee (JC/CIAC) is tainted since it is not impartial to simply mitigating any negative impacts that Yucca Mountain Repository would have on us. The JC/CIAC is pushing its own agenda rather than being an impartial, mitigating entity that it should be. It is strongly influenced by Caliente's mayor and city council, all of whom have lobbied for new legislation in Washington to designate Caliente as the transfer point in exchange for benefit payments, etc. It is abominable that this committee is taking money under false pretenses; i.e., having a concealed agenda while pretending to be impartial.

Sincerely yours,

*Brentwood Hewitt*  
*Barottha Hewitt*

CC: JC/CIAC

Richard Bryan, Nevada State Senator  
Lincoln County Commissioners