

Concerning Yucca Mountain and the  
U.S. Nuclear Waste Storage and Transportation Policy

EIS000178

Thank you for allowing me to speak to you today regarding this matter of Yucca Mountain and the US Nuclear Waste Storage Policy. My name is Marci McLendon, and I live in Mableton, GA just west of the city of Atlanta. I am twenty three years old and have lived in the state of Georgia for my entire life. I love this state and am fearful to what this plan will do to its environment and people. There are many here today who have and will speak of the insurmountable facts that prove why the Yucca Mountain site is unacceptable and highly dangerous. I want to speak as a citizen of Georgia, to the plan to ship over <sup>14,000</sup>~~2,500~~ casks of high level nuclear waste through GA. [There has been an attempt here today to obfuscate the facts and put all of the attention on the site itself, with no consideration for the other 43 states and hundreds of towns and cities that this program will affect. I am concerned that the EIS does not address the potential environmental impact for the 50 million people who live within ½ mile of the projected routes.] In my area alone, the casks will potentially pass within 5 miles of 82 schools and 7 hospitals. [I fear for local law enforcement and safety personnel who have in no way been equipped or trained to handle the type of disaster that WILL occur somewhere in this country if this program is carried out.] [The EIS assumes specific routes, but these have never been released or announced and I implore you here today to release this information to the public.]

[I am also concerned that our lawmakers have continually relied on the Department of Energy to provide the truth, when the DOE is so desperate to find a solution that they can not possibly speak to the facts without bias.] I had the experience recently of sitting in on a hearing with local state representatives who were supposed to be there to learn more about the issues of nuclear waste storage and disposal. Scientific expertise from highly reputable organizations with unquestionable integrity and knowledge were guests at the hearing to speak purely of the FACTS regarding the dangers of nuclear power. One state representative, whose salary I pay with my tax dollars, accused them of being slanderous and liars. They were also asked if they were members of the Socialist party (it is quite disappointing to hear that in 1999, "red-baiting" is still an effective tool to discredit

someone). This kind of disrespect and the placement of the safety of the American people and environment a distant second to the proliferation and success of the Nuclear industry leaves me quite disheartened.

5 This issue is not a political one – high level radiation does not recognize a republican or a democrat or even a socialist. [This issue is about the safety and well being of the American people. We are faced now with a very difficult reality – that we must do nothing. We must admit that we made a mistake and that there is no truly acceptable solution to this problem. We have created this monster called nuclear waste and we all must work together to find the solution which is most safe. But, if we rush into this program with Yucca Mountain we will be acting out of haste and desperation, which

6 leaves little or no hope for the future.] [You have heard from over 200 local, state, national and international environmental organizations petitioning the DOE to disqualify the Yucca Mountain site under existing repository Site Suitability Guidelines. Please listen – we want to work with the DOE to find the least dangerous solution.] I hope that I am not speaking naively when I say that we all, including the DOE, want what is best for the environment and for the safety of the American people.

Thank you.

Marci McLendon  
6126 Driftwood Trail  
Mableton, GA 30126