

1 NOV 09 1999 MS. BENEZET: My name is Cordy Benezet and I  
2 live in Caliente, Nevada. I have some general and some  
3 specific comments to make in regard to the DOE's DEIS for  
4 nuclear repository at Yucca Mountain.

5 I apologize for skipping around in topics, but  
6 I've only spent four days reading the DEIS. I promise my  
7 comments will be more finally honed by the February 9th  
8 deadline for public comment.

9 [ On page 394, ] Section 3.1.13, the chapter on  
10 environmental justice, I would like to quote Executive Order  
11 12898: "Directs each federal agency to make achieving  
12 environmental justice a part of its mission by identifying and  
13 addressing disproportionately high and adverse human health  
14 effects -- human health or environmental effects of its  
15 programs, policies and activities on minority populations and  
16 low income populations."

17 Now next to this quote, you have [a nice little  
18 box that defines minority and environmental justice terms as  
19 basically ethnic groups.

20 I think most basically a definition of minority  
21 is numbers. In terms of numbers, votes, representation in the  
22 government process, Nevada residents should be viewed as a  
23 minority.

24 I don't think people in the East realize what it  
25 means to have ninety-eight percent of your county under public  
1 domain, or eighty-seven percent of your state publicly owned.  
2 Growth, both in population and economic growth, is curtailed.]

3 [The State of Nevada has only two voices in the  
4 House of Representatives. It is no coincidence that when the  
5 Nuclear Waste Policy Act was amended in 1987 to limit studies

6 for nuclear waste burial to Yucca Mountain, previously Texas,  
 2 continued 7 Nevada and the State of Washington were considered as  
 8 repository sites, but guess what?

9 Washington and Texas have more than four votes in  
 10 Congress. |

11 | In terms of low income populations, taken as an  
 12 entity, Lincoln County is about as low income as it's possible  
 13 to get.  
 1 continued

14 It seems like taking advantage of the  
 15 economically disadvantaged to have three of the five possible  
 16 sites for intermodal transfer facilities located in Caliente,  
 17 Nevada. |

18 Then I have some isolated, but specific comments  
 19 just on things I've noticed in glancing through the DEIS.

20 | On page 3-98 under your national highway  
 21 transportation paragraph, quote: "Final transportation mode  
 3 22 and routing decisions will be made on a site specific basis  
 23 during the transportation planning process following a decision  
 24 to build a repository at Yucca Mountain. This should require a  
 25 whole separate DEIS/EIS process which asks for public input. |

2 is no realistic way to assess the risks or local impacts."

6 3 | Also, so far I find no mention in the DEIS that  
 4 Lincoln County water drains into the Colorado River system,  
 5 water which is used, haggled and fought over which five western  
 6 states. |

4... 7 | On page 3-121 in the chapter on affected  
 8 environment, "The D" -- excuse me. "The DEIS states that,  
 9 quote: 'Rainbow Canyon is used for a variety of recreational  
 10 purposes and is a route for the Union Pacific Railroad."

11 I'm sure that many ranchers down the canyon would

...4 12 be delighted with the description of their livelihood. |  
5 13 | Finally, I would like to say that it is almost  
14 laughable to any Nevada citizen that the DOE seriously claims  
15 to be taking cumulative impacts into consideration in the final  
16 choice between a Yucca Mountain repository and the two no  
17 action scenarios.

18 One look at the cumulative impacts evaluated  
19 sheet of your presentation should be enough to disqualify Yucca  
20 Mountain from further study. |

21 Thank you for the opportunity to comment.