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U.S. Dept.of Energy.
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Dear Sir:

I am 77 years old and have been following the nuclear subject since 1947. I am a graduate Mechanical Engineer and wrote my graduating thesis on the then proposed theories on how nuclear energy could be used to supply electrical power. I worked at the nuclear rocket test site in Nevada for six years and became somewhat familiar with handling nuclear radiation. I have followed the progress of our past programs to build and operate nuclear power plants in the U.S. and have noted the various ways that different groups have tried to stop the design, building, and operation of these plants. And now we are stuck on the theory that the waste products from these plants cannot be stored safely. In my opinion this is unscientific hogwash!

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I attended the hearing you had in Reno, Nv. On Dec. 1, 1999. I spoke (afternoon session) in favor of the use of Yucca Mt. as a storage place. As I listened to the people object to the Yucca project and other anti-nuclear subjects, I realized that I could not remember a single person presenting an opinion that I believed to be based on reasonable scientific, logical facts. Emotions were the basis of most people's comments; emotions built up by hearing or reading all of the disinformation that has been spread since the building of nuclear plants began.

Because of the atomic bombing of Japan and the large cold war buildup of atomic bombs by Russia and the U.S.A., the public became extremely fearful of the words "atomic" and "nuclear". Anything using these two words became a sensational item that made news media headlines because it "sold" well and for a multitude of reasons, bad, inaccurate, and unscientific information was spread that built up fear in the general public about nuclear power plants.

When these power plants began to be a reality, quick thinking people began to realize that they would cause a major upheaval in the economics and oil dependency of our country. Such a large change would shut down many industries and put many people out of work. It would cut off our massive need for oil imports and our vulnerability in case of war. Cheap electricity would cause an automatic switch to the use of electric vehicles and trains: the use of electricity for the heating of houses and do away with the complicated systems presently in use.

The case against Yucca mountain is just another long series of attempts to stop the proliferation of nuclear plants. Storing nuclear waste above the water table, in the interior of a mountain that is millions of years old is sufficiently safe to allow it to proceed. I have yet to hear a reason against it that is scientifically sound and logical. All I hear or read against it is manufactured, unscientific, highly improbable reasons designed to stir up peoples emotions.

With this background view I have presented, it is my opinion that the disinformation has been spread from selfish groups that only see how nuclear plants would affect their personal interests or finances. Possible examples are as follows :

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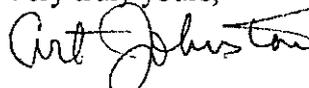
1. Coal mining companies and their stock holders
2. Railroads that get a large percent of their revenue from hauling coal.
3. Coal miners.
4. Coal miners unions.
5. Natural gas companies, their owners and operators
6. Natural gas pipeline companies.
7. Oil companies (domestic and foreign) that would be practically put out of business,
8. The owners of gasoline stations
9. Foreign governments that would like to see the U.S. highly dependent on oil imports to sustain their oil revenues
10. Can you visualize what would happen to the highly dependent oil imports in case of a war?
11. And on and on—for reasons we have not thought of.

The general public cannot be blamed for being fearful. All of the disinformation that has been spread was almost never disputed in the news medias by people that knew better. I think one of the major things that you should do is to take these complaints from scared citizens and answer them in some way that will calm their fears. This sounds easy, but how do you get the news medias to print or broadcast this scientific information. **BIG PROBLEM!** Item 10 above, should make people stop and think about how serious the antinuclear movement is.

Keep up the good work. As yet, nuclear power and hydroelectric plants are the only proven sources of large quantities of power that we need to keep our country healthy and not pollute the air.

I have a deep feeling that something fishy is involved in this anti nuclear program. I would be very interested in knowing where these highly organized groups get the money to sustain their expensive operations.

Very truly yours,



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