

# Ohio House of Representatives



EIS001280

19th House District

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DALE MILLER  
State Representative

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**COMMITTEES:**

Finance & Appropriations  
Transportation  
Subcommittee  
*Ranking Minority Member*  
Financial Institutions  
Commerce & Labor

February 2, 2000

Wendy Dixon, EIS Manager  
Yucca Mountain Site Characterization Office  
Office of Civilian Radioactive Waste Management  
US Department of Energy M/S 010  
PO Box 30307  
North Las Vegas, NV 89036-0307

Dear Ms Dixon,

I'm writing to offer comments regarding the proposed development of a Geologic Repository for the disposal of high level radioactive waste and the proposal to transport that waste through heavily populated areas starting in year 2010. While I am not convinced that development of a geologic repository is the best solution to the problem of nuclear waste, my comments will be limited to the issue of transportation.

1... I represent approximately 110,000 people in western Cuyahoga County, Ohio, including Brooklyn, Fairview Park, Linndale, and parts of Cleveland and Parma. Cuyahoga County is one of the most densely populated areas in the United States, and I strongly object to the proposed transportation of high level radioactive waste across Cuyahoga County on the basis of safety. In the event of a serious accident, the resulting injury and/or loss of life is almost certain to be greatly increased in a major population center. Serious accidents could result from many factors including but not limited to vehicle condition, driver performance, improper packaging, severe weather or natural disasters, terrorism, and sabotage.

According to Congressman Dennis Kucinich, 21% of proposed rail shipments would traverse Ohio. In addition, major urban highways such as I-480 and the Ohio Turnpike are proposed for truck shipments. I strongly object that it appears that little or no effort has been made to avoid densely populated areas or to fan out shipments to distribute the risk more evenly. It clearly appears that Northeast Ohio will be bearing the brunt of the shipments.

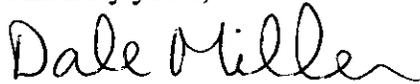
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2... My constituents who have heard about this proposal are very concerned. However, it has not been well publicized and few are aware of it. I request and strongly recommend that the comment period on this draft statement be extended at least 90 days to allow more people to learn about the proposal and provide input.

1 cont. In addition to the above comments, I would appreciate your response to the following questions: Why does the proposed plan not provide for the routing of shipments to avoid densely populated areas? Why does the proposed plan not provide for the equitable distribution of shipping routes among a much larger number of possible routes, rather than placing such a heavy burden of shipments through Ohio and Cuyahoga County? What will be done to guarantee the soundness of vehicles used to transport shipments and to insure that drivers are highly capable, healthy, and drug/alcohol free? What will be done to prevent terrorism or sabotage of shipments by internal or external sources? How will you deal with the issue that the public has a right to know when and where shipments will take place but that publicizing shipments would increase the risk of terrorism? What consideration is being given to phasing out the use of nuclear power to bring limit the growth of further radioactive wastes? Will the comment period be extended to allow more people to learn about and comment on this proposal?

Thanks for your attention to these comments and questions.

Sincerely yours,



Dale Miller,  
State Representative,  
19<sup>th</sup> House District, Ohio