



City of Cleveland
Michael R. White, Mayor

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**City of Cleveland
Oral Comments**

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**Department of Energy
Public Hearing**

JAN 28 2000

**On the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for a
Geological Repository for the Disposal of Spent Nuclear Fuel and
High Level Waste at Yucca Mountain, Nevada
Cleveland, Ohio**

Friday, January 28, 2000

My name is Collette Appolito-Jackson. I serve the City of Cleveland as Project Coordinator for Train Agreements. I am here today to deliver the message of Mayor Michael R. White who is in Washington D.C. at this time on important City business.

1... While the opportunity to express concerns about the transport of spent nuclear fuel and high-level radioactive waste through the City of Cleveland is appreciated, we are **sorely** disappointed with the lack of communication and public involvement regarding this grave issue. The Department of Energy did a poor job of notifying stakeholders about the essential facts on this issue, and a poor job of soliciting the citizens of Cleveland to comment at this public meeting. Local government officials, police departments, fire departments, hospitals, schools and environmental groups, all of whom have a dedication to the people most affected by the Yucca Mountain proposal, were left in the dark about this public hearing. Therefore, on behalf of Mayor White and the residents of the City of Cleveland, we ask that the public comment period for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement be extended beyond the February 9th



**CLEVELAND
CENSUS 2000**

Answer the Census!

1 cont. deadline, less than two weeks away. These are the stakeholders who have a right to be fully informed on the issues that will directly impact the long-term health of this City.

2... The Draft Environmental Impact Statement acknowledges that it is not a question of **whether** an accident will happen while these high-level radioactive waste materials are being transported across our country. Section 6.2.4, "Accident Scenarios," explains that a certain number of accidents are "reasonably foreseeable". The questions are **where** and **when** the accidents will occur.

Will the emergency responders; the police, fire, and hospitals, be prepared? All responders, hospital personnel and anyone else coming in contact with this nuclear waste have the right to know how to respond when accidents take place! Who will provide support when accidents occur, a representative in Washington or somewhere else in the country? This is unacceptable! Who will be liable for the damages and expense resulting from these accidents?

3 The lack of answers to these questions is only one example of the way the Department of Energy has failed to fully inform the stakeholders in Cleveland and across the country. [The Draft Environmental Impact Statement fails to provide essential details about the modes and routes of transportation of the spent nuclear fuel and high-level radioactive waste. **The public deserves full disclosure about the amounts, frequency, and types of materials that would pass through the cities where they live, work, and enjoy recreational activities.**]

2 cont. Our highways and rail corridors are designed to connect population centers and to bring goods to market, not to transport high-level radioactive waste. Transporting this dangerous material via highway and rail pulls the City of Cleveland and the citizens

2 cont.

of the City of Cleveland directly into harm's way. It will take a full-scale effort, well in advance of any transportation of radioactive material, to provide protection against the inevitable accidents. The cost of fully training and equipping the emergency responders, in all the cities along the transportation routes, to handle an accident involving high-level radioactive waste must be factored into the cost equation for the Yucca Mountain Project. The cost of the necessary preparation for accidents and liability for damages must be assigned to someone other than the local governments of cities standing, unfortunately, between the nuclear waste producers and the final disposal site.

Thank you, again, on behalf of Mayor White and every citizen who lives, works and visits this great city, for allowing me to submit these comments.