

February 6, 2000

Wendy R. Dixon, EIS Project Manager  
 Yucca Mountain Site Characterization Office  
 Office of Civilian Radioactive Waste Management  
 US Department of Energy  
 P.O. Box 30301, M/S 010  
 North Las Vegas, NV 89036-0307

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Dear Ms. Dixon:

1 I am writing to voice my strong opposition to the transport of nuclear waste shipments across the country to  
 a temporary storage facility in New Mexico. I oppose this proposal for several reasons:

- 2 1. The transport of the nuclear waste threatens the environment and public health and safety. The waste  
 would travel through 43 states, including Ohio, exposing 50 million people to cancer-causing radiation.  
 With up to nine shipments a week transported through Ohio, the risk of accidents and exposure is very  
 real. Local police, fire and medical workers would be the first on the scene of any waste transportation  
 accident. But few communities have the equipment or training to respond to such an event, nor should  
 communities be asked to pay for such facilities when they do not want the shipments endangering their  
 health and welfare in the first place.
- 3 2. The burden of paying for the mess made by nuclear waste generators will fall on American taxpayers.  
 The Nuclear Waste Fund was created to pay for permanent storage of this waste when a suitable  
 technology is found. The backup storage plan would allow for the absolutely needless and terribly  
 risky transportation of nuclear waste before final approval of a permanent repository. Further, the  
 costs associated with transporting the waste and cleaning up the accidents will be borne by taxpayers.  
 Continued industry pursuit of interim storage schemes could leave a funding gap of many billions of  
 dollars, leaving taxpayers holding the bag for the far more expensive job of permanent storage.
- 4 3. The utilities want their waste moved to a spot near Yucca Mountain, Nevada. Yucca Mountain is an  
 unsafe repository which is geologically unstable and sits on an aquifer. The site cannot be licensed  
 unless the DOE changes its own public health and safety rules. Movement of nuclear waste to a  
 temporary dump in New Mexico or Nevada would place pressure to make Yucca Mountain a  
 permanent waste site regardless of its suitability.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

*Maria Schade*

Maria Schade  
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 Cincinnati, OH 45209