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FEB 01 2000

EIS001598

MR. JACK DARIN: Thank you very much. My name is Jack Darin. I'm the Director of the Sierra Club, Illinois Chapter, representing over 20,000 Sierra Club members here in Illinois committed to protecting our environment for our families and our future.

1... And although the high-level nuclear waste that would travel through Illinois may ultimately be buried many hundreds of miles away in Nevada, we here in Illinois have more at stake in this proposal than almost any other state in America, because Illinois is expected to receive the third largest number of radioactive waste shipments, as many as 13,000 over the next 24 years, or an average of five per day every day during that time period.

On average, every day, potentially lethal cargoes of radioactive waste will ride our highways next to us in traffic, ride the rails through our neighborhoods and countryside, every day for 24 years through our state, which unfortunately is no stranger to rail collisions, bad weather and highway accidents.

2 And for what purpose are Illinois residents being asked to bear this risk, to share the roads and rails that bring them to work, home, and school with lethal doses of nuclear waste? A fundamentally flawed proposal to sweep the lethal legacy of our dangerous experiment with nuclear power deep under a mountain in the Nevada desert despite the evidence of seismic activity and the potential for groundwater contamination.

...1 Being at the crossroads of the nation's transportation networks has long been a part of Chicago and Illinois history. Now the nuclear industry is eyeing these very rails and roads to take a dangerous, expensive problem off of their hands and give it to the taxpayers, moving much of it through Illinois neighborhoods in the process.

3 Five a day for 24 years. Perhaps we'd get lucky, and 13,000 shipments of nuclear waste would move through our towns, past our homes, schools and hospitals without incident. But what would have been accomplished if we can pull that off? A massive concentration of private industry's nuclear waste buried in a mountain prone to earthquakes, and suddenly the taxpayers' responsibility. It's a risky scheme that doesn't work for Illinois, for America, or for our planet.

I would just like to add that Sierra Club is a member of the Illinois Environmental Council, which is a state-wide coalition of over 70 environmental organizations which couldn't be here today, but they'd also like to share their concern about the transportation issues through Illinois.

Thank you.