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EIS001857

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

RECEIVED

FEB 29 2000

Dear Ms. Dixon,

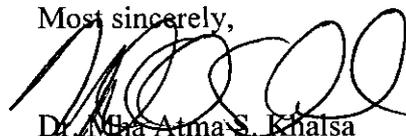
- 1 Thank you for accepting my comments regarding the DEIS on Yucca Mountain. As a concerned United States citizen and taxpayer, I strongly feel that the DEIS is unacceptable and must be completely rewritten for the following reasons.

The DEIS buries the reader in a jumble of confusing cross-references and redundancies. This obfuscation makes it extremely difficult for interested parties to navigate the three-volume report and to provide specific and clear comments to the DOE regarding the improvement of the DEIS.

- 2 The DEIS should clearly and accurately describe the risks involved along the transportation routes, and  
3 it should use the most current information available to do so. Further, it should include site-specific data to show the effects of accidents in highly populated areas or areas where it would be difficult to retrieve a leaking cask (such as ravines and rivers) or where accidents might be more likely because of  
4 extreme weather, steep inclines, or sharp curves. The DEIS should also note which mode of transportation the DOE prefers-rail or truck.
- 5 The DEIS fails to address the fact that the number of shipments and the amount of radioactive material that will be shipped is unprecedented in world history. About 90% of the volume would be spent fuel from nuclear power plants, and virtually none of this type of material has ever been shipped before. The DOE has posted the routes it used to complete the DEIS on its web site. This is a good start, but this information should be included in the DEIS, which should include both maps and tables showing the routes and number of shipments expected on each route, as well as where the waste shipped on each route will originate, and how many casks will be involved (especially for rail shipments).
- 6 The DEIS does not examine what emergency response personnel training and equipment would be needed in all of the communities along the transportation routes and what the specific impacts of a transportation accident would be. Many local communities lack the special equipment and training  
7 necessary to respond to a radiological accident. Further, many hospitals do not have isolation rooms for radioactively contaminated victims. This analysis should at least be done for the major population centers along the transportation routes (populations of 100,000 or more). The DEIS should indicate what emergency response equipment, facilities, and trained personnel are available in these communities, and what the effects of a transportation accident could be.

For the sake of all Americans, I urge you to rewrite this DEIS to fully include and remedy all of the following vital issues.

Most sincerely,



Dr. Mha Atma S. Khalsa