

Dr. William J. Boyle and Dr. Jane Summerson
U.S. Department of Energy
Office of Civilian Radioactive Waste Management
Yucca Mountain Site Characterization Office
P.O. Box 30307
North Las Vegas, NV 89036-0307

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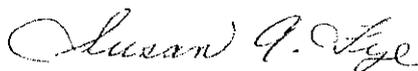
Dear Drs. Boyle and Summerson:

This letter is in opposition to your intent to change the guidelines for the suitability of Yucca Mountain as a nuclear waste repository. The guidelines already established that are based on the Nuclear Waste Policy Act of 1982 should be retained because:

1. You are attempting to change the rules late in the process apparently because Yucca Mountain would not be able to meet the original standards.
2. You employ an averaging concept in the newly proposed guidelines which minimizes disqualifying factors. Disqualifying factors must remain clearly defined in a project of this gravity with such extensive potential for negative results.
3. You intend to eliminate consideration of transportation, socioeconomic and environmental impacts from the guidelines, relying upon the DEIS which is seriously flawed. Environmental, transportation and socioeconomic factors must be covered thoroughly in the guidelines as a tool to direct the Secretary to certain essential elements when considering site suitability.
4. The release of the guidelines coincident with the review period for the DEIS created confusion and suggests that you intended to divide the public's energies, to minimize public scrutiny. The public should be allowed full participation and instead you have effectively discouraged it, thereby violating the spirit and the language of NPWA.

The proposed amendment to the general site guidelines and the proposed new guidelines should be withdrawn.

Sincerely yours,



Susan A. Fye
P.O. Box 211090
Crescent Valley, NV 89821

March 9, 2000