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To Dr. Jane Summerson
EIS Document Manager, M/S 010
U.S. Dept of Energy - Yucca Mt Site Office

The Yucca Mountain Project, if approved, would launch an unprecedented nuclear waste transportation effort. It will lead to some 77,000 tons of high-level radioactive waste shipments passing through 43 states, within half a mile of 50 million Americans. You may investigate the likely transportation routes, including through our state, by visiting the Yucca Mountain Project website at *[www.ymp.gov/timeline/eis/routes/routemaps.htm]*.

1 As the DOE rushes to recommend Yucca Mountain as the site for construction of a permanent nuclear waste repository, many concerns remain about the suitability of that site. In addition, many issues related to the large-scale transportation of high-level waste through our state have not been addressed. Approximately 11,000 comments - more than half related to transportation concerns - were submitted on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the Yucca Mountain Project, but the DOE has yet to respond.

2 Transporting high-level nuclear waste is inherently dangerous to public health. It elevates the risk of radiological release and distributes this risk along transportation routes where our emergency response personnel may lack the training and equipment necessary to respond effectively to a radiological accident. Yet the DEIS for the
3 Yucca Mountain Project deals inadequately with the transportation scenario. For example, DOE has not
4 specified which routes would be used for Yucca Mountain shipments or whether the waste would travel by train or by truck, and it has not identified a clear process for making these decisions. The canisters that would be used to transport nuclear waste to Yucca Mountain have not been subjected to rigorous physical testing. Furthermore, the computer models used to test the integrity of the transport canisters rely on outdated testing parameters.

Carol McGeehan

Ms. Carol McGeehan
568 W 31st St.
Holland, MI 49423-7218