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SUBJECT: Comments on Yucca Mountain Supplement to the Draft EIS

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It has been known for a long time that Yucca Mountain is not geologically stable. No amount of juggling of data and statistics will make it geologically stable. For this reason alone the proposal to store high-level radioactive waste at Yucca Mountain makes no sense. Radioactive waste stored at Yucca Mountain would NOT be isolated from the environment. Even under the most fortunate circumstances, water would eventually be contaminated. What about the farmland nearby?

Of course the whole idea of hauling the spent nuclear fuel and high-level radioactive waste across the U.S. to get it to Yucca Mountain is a very dangerous one. Even if only one accident took place over the many years of transporting the waste, the consequences could be disastrous. Emergency response could never be adequate over every mile of the various routes. Local emergency personnel would likely reach an accident scene first. Would such personnel all across the country, in both urban and rural areas, be trained and equipped to put out a fire within the limited time of one half hour? Would these local teams, knowing they were not adequately prepared, refuse perhaps to sacrifice their lives or their health at an accident site? I suspect the whole country would need to be mobilized under martial law in order to provide fast enough and competent enough response. How much would fast and competent response cost us? I understand it might take up to a year to clean up an accidental spill. Is the country really willing to close off a major highway or railroad for a year? In fact, of course, several accidents are statistically predicted. It sounds like a nightmare to me.

Certainly it is foolhardy to consider transportation to Yucca Mountain until emergency personnel have been prepared. That preparation needs to be planned and implemented as carefully as the design of the canisters (which, by the way, absolutely have to be physically tested).

Obviously the transportation routes need to be identified long before any transportation takes place. Transportation of such dangerous materials cannot be done without public knowledge. The public should have input in the evaluation of the routes.

Living in Oklahoma, in the middle of the country, I and my neighbors feel particularly threatened by this transportation plan, which looks just plain crazy. (I probably should not refer to a "plan", because I don't think that the transportation issue has even been addressed seriously.)

On the subject of the Yucca Mountain site itself, the repository is projected to be there for a long, long time. Is the necessary water supply assured forever? What if, in spite of the best laid plans, the supply of electricity is insufficient for personnel safety?

"Waste packages would remain intact for more than 10,000 years." Preposterous!!! Does anyone at the DOE really think you can predict what will happen in 10,000 years?!!!