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Dr. Jane Summerson, EIS Document Manager, M/S 010
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

Dear Dr. Summerson:

After reading your agency's Executive Summary YUCCA MOUNTAIN SCIENCE & ENGINEERING REPORT, USDOE/RW-0539, May 2001---the magnitude of the disposal dilemma leads me to wonder why nuclear power has not been replaced with other methods of generating energy.

To have this kind of dilemma with the inherent dangers indicates to me that we need to re-evaluate our dependence on, and use of, nuclear energy.

The report seems to thoroughly explore options, but the report does not give me confidence that even if Yucca Mountain is selected, that nuclear waste can safely be disposed of--ANYWHERE.

Note the following comments from the above-referenced booklet: ...DOE anticipates...might have...may reduce...may also...is intened to...could minimize...might eventually be...should be able to...are expected to...is not expected to...the most likely way...may behave...may affect...could affect...most of it may...it is likely that...might limit...possible reducing...expected duration...is expected to be...will probably...

Is reprocessing the nuclear waste into fuel a possible solution to our disposal dilemma? France and Japan reprocess their waste into fuel, per the enclosed Parade Magazine comments of 27 May 2001, page 11--see attached.

Where will the spent nuclear waste generated in another hundred years be put? In another two hundred years? In another three hundred years, etc???????

We need research and development of alternate sources of power.

Thank you for allowing me to submit my comments, even though it is after your 06 July 2001 deadline.

Sincerely,

Carolyn M. Pfiester

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Parade's Special
Intelligence Report

Hollywood Hammers Homes

Randall Wallace—who wrote the 1995 Oscar-winner *Braveheart* and the new blockbuster *Pearl Harbor*—has a second career. Two years ago, he began Hollywood for Habitat for Humanity, the volunteer program that builds houses for folks who can't afford them. Wallace has attracted such celebrities as Robin Williams and Patricia Arquette. He even got Dustin Hoffman up on a roof, hammering shingles and singing. The program has built more than 20 homes in the L.A. area, all earthquake-proof. "I'm not doing this for celebrities," Wallace, 51, is quick to tell us. "I wanted to get my hands dirty and my heart clean. If you're in this for your image or ego, find something else."

Top: Wallace puts down his pen and puts up a house. Above: His helper, Hoffman, in hard hat

The screenwriter, who grew up in Appalachia, adds: "My career was great, but I was cut off from hardworking, down to earth people." As for *Pearl Harbor*, Wallace says part of what fascinated him was how this nation's hardworking, down to earth people were ready to go to war just hours after the Japanese attack. Building bombers or building homes—both require the same skills, spirit and sweat.

Is America Ready To Rethink Nuclear Energy?

Three Mile Island in Pennsylvania: Its 1979 leak gave nuclear power an unsafe image in the U.S.

Since Three Mile Island, Americans have had a grim image of nuclear power. Just 20% of our energy now comes from our 103 nuclear reactors, as we rely mostly on coal, natural gas and oil. By contrast, 80% of France's energy is nuclear—one of the cleanest and cheapest power sources ($1.70 less than natural gas per kilowatt-hour). With both coasts facing energy woes, Sens. Bob Graham (D., Fla.) and Pete Domenici (R., N.M.) are sponsoring a bill to rev up our nuclear program, but environmentalists still have concerns about the disposal of nuclear waste. (France and Japan reprocess theirs into fuel.) As the air-conditioning season starts up, expect the nuclear debate to heat up.

When Allergies Can Kill

Severe allergies—the kind some people get when eating peanuts or shellfish—are on the rise and now endanger as many as 40 million Americans, says a new study from Columbia University. Without quick treatment, such hypersensitivity (called anaphylaxis) can lead to respiratory failure, illness or even death. And sufferers can't rely on federal labeling laws, since herbal supplements and vitamins aren't covered by some of those rules. They can contain peanut extracts, flavors or dyes without a warning, for example. Doctors might not even know what's in the supplements they recommend. The Columbia study may move Congress to require warnings. Until then, the FDA offers allergy information at *http://vm.cfsan.fda.gov/~dms/wh-alrg1.html*

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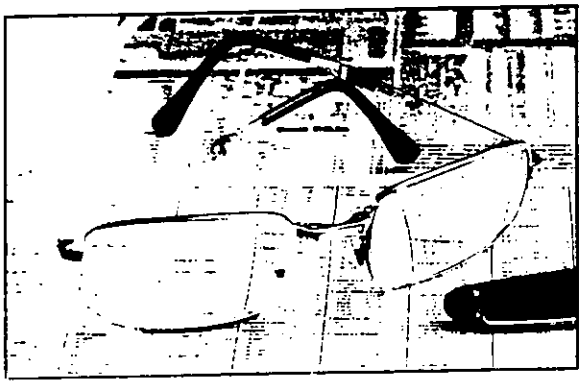

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