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Crispin Hollinshead <chollins@igpp.ucsd.edu> on 09/17/2001 01:46:45 PM

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To: YMP_SR@ymp.gov
cc:

Subject: NO on Yucca

Part of Records Package / Supplement / Correction

Carol Hanlon, DOE
Yucca Mountain Site Characterization Office (M/S #025)
P.O. Box 30307
North Las Vegas, NV 89036-0307

Dear Ms. Hanlon:

I am writing to express my deep concern over the wayward Yucca Mountain Project and the flawed process railroading it toward unacceptable approval. How can the Secretary of Energy be preparing to recommend Yucca Mountain for a high-level nuclear waste dump when thousands of public comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement still have not been addressed? Without a Final Environmental Impact Statement, a detailed transportation plan, finalized Dept. of Energy repository siting guidelines, or a Nuclear Regulatory Commission repository licensing rule, the Department of Energy lacks any basis whatsoever for consideration of site suitability. The public cannot accept a recommendation to move ahead with the Yucca Mountain Project that arises from such a fatally flawed process.

In short, Yucca Mountain is a very bad site. Yucca Mountain is a very active earthquake zone, with a number of volcanic cinder cones visible a short distance away. The highly fractured and fissured rock allows rainwater infiltration at a fast rate, which will corrode waste containers and wash their deadly contents into the groundwater, the drinking water supply for nearby farming communities. As pointed out to DOE three years ago by over 200 environmental groups, this fast flow of water should be disqualify Yucca Mountain from further consideration, for it violates DOE's own repository siting guidelines.

Given that 75% of commercial nuclear reactors are east of the Mississippi River, moving the waste many thousands of miles across the country to Nevada would require many tens of thousands of shipments, past the homes of 50 million Americans, through 43 States. A severe transport accident on our roads and rails, such as the recent Baltimore train tunnel fire, could release radiation and cost tens or hundreds of billions of dollars to clean up, not to mention the untold health impacts. In addition, DOE has not addressed terrorist and sabotage threats against high-level waste shipments.

I urge you to abandon the Yucca Mountain Project and the countless "Mobile Chernobyl" truck and train shipments it would launch.

Sincerely,

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