

U. S. DOE
yucca mountain characterization Sept. 18, 2001
site M 5025
Carol Hanlon

Dear Ms. Hanlon,

I am a resident of Clark County, in the Las Vegas valley. Our population is 1,500,000 and we have a tourist population of 90,000 per day. In 1987 we had barely one sixth of today's population. This alone is reason enough to reject yucca mountain as a nuclear repository.

My first comment is on the ECRB test in which a bulkhead would be moved for accuracy. Will the Ground Fault Interruptors be re-installed, also? On response to a test failure they were removed.

The planning for this meeting was flawed because not all participants in the remote locations had complete information available.

Since the terrorist attack of Sept. 11 there is a new reality, terrorist threat by aircraft is no longer theoretical. All previous correspondence and public comments, concerning terrorist attack by aircraft or any

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Other means must be re-investigated, re-considered and acted upon. As far back as 1985 the Nevada Nuclear waste office registered this concern, about risk by aircraft, and they were given little consideration, then.

The DOE latest proposal would place 5500 metric tons of nuclear waste, in a cooling pond on or near the top of Yucca mountain. This would be especially vulnerable to attack by aircraft which would pollute air, water and soil. The dry cask storage area would also be a vulnerable target. The Nellis AF bombing range is 2 minute flight time, from Yucca mountain, in a plane flying at 600 MPH, loaded with fuel, bombs and missiles. As demonstrated on Sept. 11 the fuel may be more deadly than the weaponry. Magnifying the terrorism threat is our training of foreign pilots, at times using their planes, from Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Arab Emirates and in the 1980's Iraqi pilots were trained.

There is also risk of accidents which are more likely during training exercises and the possibility of suicide, by all pilots.

Nevadans concern of accidents by truck and rail must now be treated with more consideration given the 2 train accidents in the Baltimore tunnel involving fire, involving water, and the Wendover Utah train which burned. Locally, in the past year, we have had 2 trucks which both burned after an accident. one was gas fueled and the other diesel.

In the past all transportation risks were minimized or ignored but they now must be factored into any transportation planning. Where is the environmental transportation plan?

The DOE Sept. 5th meeting did not give Nevadans sufficient time to comment. It never should have held in a federal barbed wire compound with armed guards.

to compound this poor choice of location
with Las Vegas police were called, on to
federal property, in response to hecklers,

This was an implied threat to the
attendees as two policemen were stationed
in the main room.

Now the DOE has rescheduled the
northern meetings, one in Amargosa Valley
and in Pahrump from 2 - 9PM on
Monday Sept. 24th. Why was there
so little notice and why on the
same day?

The Sept. 5th meeting should be
rescheduled, at Cashman Field
as Governor Dunn requested,
until all Las Vegas Valley residents
who wish to comment do so.

I have filed a complaint with
Senator Harry Reid and Senator
John Ensign in regards to the
conduct of 5 DOE employees in
trying to suppress my first amendment
right of free speech and non verbal
communication, in the form of two
placards reading; "Dont Dump on us".

This is a paraphrase of the 1775 revolutionary slogans; "Don't tread upon us" and "Don't tread upon me" used by John Paul Jones.

I was prevented of displayed them because of their literary content then on the protest that the sticks were "weapons". Only after speaking to Bud Craver from the governors local office and to Governor Kenny Guinn did they cease hassling me.

As you know flag burners are protected by the first amendment and the supreme court decision classifying their despicable act as non-verbal comment protected as free speech.

5 DOE employees denied me the same right on federal property!

Sincerely,
Frank Ferrara

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