

September 12, 2001

Lake H. Barrett, Act. Dir.  
Office of Civilian Radio-  
Active Waste Management  
Department of Energy  
Washington, D.C. 20585

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Dear Mr. Barrett:

I have reviewed the many documents passed on to me regarding the potential Yucca Mt. Repository. As a layman, with some engineering experience, I can agree that we need a safe and diligent waste management policy. The proposed Yucca Mt. Repository seems to be a good and safe means to control these radio active wastes.

There is the possibility of potential accidents in the hauling of these wastes, the control and the handling as well as the treatment of the public, where these waste accidents will occur.

I am proposing some suggestions to assure additional safeguards, that I have not seen in the documents reviewed:

A road with controlled access, as a freeway, with a bridge across the Colorado River, somewhere south of the Hoover Dam and before Parker Dam. The road would have radio active waste management and control. It would by-pass cities and towns, where possible

A hospital capable of the treatment of some 50,000 inhabitants within 90 miles of the repository: The hospital would be capable of treatment of radio active management and resulting illnesses.

The main offices should be in the near area, so those people in control would be subject to potential accidents. They would safeguard their well being, as well as the general public.

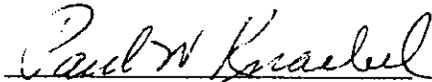
- To improve the area economy, all construction and maintenance would be by local businesses. Therefore, the work on the site and offices as well as roads would require builders and services to have local offices.

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There are subtle safeguards for the care and storage of the waste, but little, if any care for the removal. Removal, if and when some successful other means for the use of the waste or for some other treatment and potential use, would require some marker for the pallets that would keep digging and handling equipment from potential accidents.

Would you consider these comments, as you consider your recommendations to the Secretary of Energy.

Sincerely,



Paul W. Knaebel  
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