

September 5, 2001

Mr. Lake H. Barrett  
 RW-2, Rm. 5A-085  
 Acting Director  
 OCRWM  
 Department of Energy  
 1000 Independence Ave.  
 Washington, D.C. 20585

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Mr. Joseph Mahaley  
 Code SO-1  
 Director of Security and  
 Emergency Operations  
 Department of Energy  
 1000 Independence Ave.  
 Washington, D.C. 20585

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SUBJECT: Deficiency of Physical Security at Yucca Mountain  
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Gentlemen:

This is in response to Mr. Barrett's of August 28 requesting my comments on Yucca Mountain design.

The basic question with respect to Yucca Mountain security is, "Is there a reasonably-high possibility that, for whatever reason, anyone might wish harm to the repository?" If the reasoned answer is "no" then your current repository design is OK.

If, however, a serious physical threat to the repository is considered significant, then your surface-facilities design (and most probably your operating procedures) as shown in public documents is pathetically inadequate.

Mr. Cloninger, Chief of your Field Engineering Branch in 1991, agreed with me in our meeting in Las Vegas. (See Minutes of that meeting, Atchmt. 2 to Enclosure 1). In the succeeding years, however, no one else at Yucca Mountain seems to have agreed with him.

I question the adequacy of your criteria. I therefore suggest your review of them and then making changes resulting from that review. I further suggest that your revised criteria should come much closer in intent to my Enclosure 1, Repository Security Threat Criteria.

Without such review and the corresponding design changes, I can easily visualize effective ways seriously to damage your repository the day it opens.

Sincerely

Harry E. Thayer  
 425 Coventry Rd.  
 Kensington, CA 94707

Enclosures 1 & 2