

Peter Coogan
7310 Weil Ave
St. Louis, MO 63119

RECEIVED
OCT 10 2001

Carol Hanlon
Department of Energy
Yucca Mountain Site Characterization Office (M/S #025)
PO Box 30307
North Las Vegas, NV 89036-0307

October 3, 2001

Dear Ms. Hanlon,

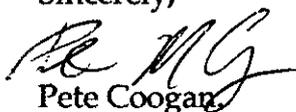
I have become aware of plans to ship irradiated fuel rods through St. Louis to the Yucca Mountain storage site, which concerns me greatly. I grew up in the seventies and remember a news feature called "Wreck of the Week," which featured footage of railroad accidents. While this feature no longer appears on television and rail safety seems to have improved, just since May of this year there have been three large rail accidents. If a similar accident were to occur with a cargo of irradiated rods, you can imagine the danger that would create.

Given the recent terrorist attacks, I'm sure that many scenarios spring to mind. It would be relatively easy for terrorists to disable a section of track in an isolated area and make off with enough fuel rods to poison a considerable portion of the water supply, given how little radioactive material is needed for that sort of an attack. If I thought of something like that, don't you think that terrorists could come up with something much worse?

The best thing would be to halt the nuclear generation of energy and to use the plants themselves, areas of which are by their nature already contaminated, as storehouses for the waste. If you wonder where we could find the energy to replace the generation, that's not too difficult. For instance, California could have solved its recent "crisis" for \$120 million dollars by buying 60 million compact florescent light bulbs and distributing them to the public. This shift would have cut demand enough to lower prices and obviate the need for more generating capacity. Similar actions could be taken across the country. Another idea is to expand solar generating capacity. But, you might ask, where can we find the space for the collectors? Simple. Put them on the roofs of buildings and houses, thereby expanding our generating capacity without taking up space on the ground and extending the useful lives of roofs (at least the roofs of residential houses).

So you see, we don't need more capacity and we can conserve without any effect on our lifestyle. Finally, if you think the waste can be shipped safely, I would like to see you ride along with it. If you're unwilling to do so, then you clearly don't believe your own rhetoric.

Sincerely,


Pete Coogan