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10/3/01

Ms. Carol Hanlon
DOE
PO Box 30307
N. Las Vegas NV 89036-0307

Dear Ms Hanlon,

The appeal of Yucca Mtn. is that it's ostensibly better to have one nuclear waste site than 70-odd plants storing their irradiated fuel. I have come to think that Yucca Mtn is a false solution.

Recent events have highlighted the threat of terrorism, and mobile waste is more vulnerable. There was also the recent Baltimore railroad tunnel fire, which the casks would not survive, and also a coal train derailment in suburban St. Louis - I live near those tracks.

The US has started importing nuclear waste from 41 foreign countries. Moving the waste opens prospects for the utilities to generate more waste, and for energy policy to embrace the building of new nuclear power plants. The existing waste can never be truly disposed of; it will remain radioactive, in human terms, forever. The proliferation of nuclear waste must be stopped, not

encouraged.

DOE has a Congressional mandate to accept radioactive waste. In my opinion the way to do this is to secure the waste where it is. If the technology ever is invented to neutralize it, that well be a happy day. If not, the closest we can come to rendering it harmless is not to move it — which only creates room to replace it.

Thank you very much for your attention to this comment.

Sincerely,

Henry Robertson