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Carol Hanlon
U. S. Department of Energy
Yucca Mountain Site Characterization Office
(M/S #025)
P.O. Box 30307
North Las Vegas, Nevada 89036-0307

Dear Ms. Hanlon,

I urge DOE to disqualify Yucca Mountain from any further consideration as the country's high-level atomic waste dump for the following reasons.

The rightful owners of Yucca Mountain are opposed to dumping atomic waste there: the Yucca Mountain Project is in violation of the Treaty of Ruby Valley that the United States government signed with the Western Shoshone Indian Nation in 1863.

DOE's preliminary site recommendation is woefully premature, in that DOE's Final Environmental Impact Statement and changes to its Site Suitability Guidelines have not been published. Rather than disqualify Yucca Mountain as it should have done many years ago, the federal government has continually lowered regulatory standards and weakened environmental protections that the unsuitable site cannot measure up to.

Like an elephant in the living room, DOE has never adequately addressed the huge environmental impacts associated with transporting tens of thousands of atomic waste trains and trucks through 43 States past the homes of 50 million Americans. The September 11th terrorist attacks on America highlight the utter lack of consideration that DOE has given to the fact that every single one of those tens of thousands of waste shipments is a potential terrorist target; Yucca Mountain itself would become a monumental terrorist target, endangering the entire western U.S.

Earthquakes at Yucca's surface could destroy the huge waste storage pools DOE proposes there, resulting in a major radiological catastrophe. A volcanic eruption through Yucca could deliver 1,000 rem annual doses to Downwinders, killing everyone exposed. DOE has not resolved huge uncertainties in its scientific analyses, and cannot guarantee that radiation will not leak massively into the drinking water supply in the first 10,000 years, let alone the hundreds of thousands of years the waste would remain deadly.

Due to his Senate voting record and evident predisposition toward Yucca Mountain, Secretary Abraham should recuse himself from any further decisions on this proposed project. DOE's "final" public comment period

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has been chaotic, capricious, and confusing, with absurdly short notice of hearings and an arbitrarily short deadline.

The real solution to the nuclear waste dilemma is to stop making it in the first place, and to use energy conservation, efficiency, and renewable electricity sources such as solar, wind, microturbines and hydrogen fuel cells to make nuclear reactors unnecessary.

Sincerely,

Robert E. Sloan

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10/12/2001