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From: <suponcic@sscl.berkeley.edu>
 To: OWFN_DO.owf5_po(SECY),GATED.nrcsmtp("the.secretary...
 Date: Sat, Jun 24, 2000 8:30 AM
 Subject: Stop nuclear waste dumping on Native lands

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Dear Mr. Richardson,

I am opposed to storing high level nuclear waste at Yucca Mountain, Nevada. Yucca Mountain is on land guaranteed the Western Shoshone Nation through the 1863 Treaty of Ruby Valley. The mountain is sacred to Shoshone and Pauite peoples. In addition to the moral injustice of storing America's deadliest garbage on sacred Native territories, I am opposed to the Yucca Mountain project because it poses a serious health risk to all Americans.

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Yucca Mountain is a seismically active, leaky mountain and does not meet the containment requirements for isolating radioactivity for the next quarter million years.

I believe America must stop producing nuclear waste and invest in a safe energy future. I urge you to protect all Americans and the original peoples of this land by enacting policies that phase out nuclear power and herald in renewable energy resources and energy efficiency.

I am an Ojibwe woman who is struggling to live in a world where Native people can longer live in our traditional way. I am sure you know very well the horror stories and tragedies we have already endured. Please do not allow this to continue into the new millenium -- I urge you to use your power to stop this!

I have spent the past 16 months living in Turkey on a Fulbright Fellowship studying the problems of the Kurdish minority and other poor village groups struggling to preserve their way of life and to add to the cultural diversity of this planet. In my travels here in Turkey I am always asked to talk about the way the government of the US has treated us, the Indigenous people of America. I am sorry to say that my words hold very little praise and much criticism. This situation can certainly be remedied. For these reasons I urge you to stop this tragedy from continuing.

Sincerely,
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