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USNRC

Richard Wall
3933 Forest Glen Drive
Knoxville, TN 37919

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Secretary
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D.C. 20555-0001

OFFICE
REGULATORY
ADJUDICATIONS

June 28, 1999

Regarding: Proposed Rule on Disposal of High-Level Radioactive Wastes in a Proposed
Geologic Repository at Yucca Mountain, Nevada

Dear Rulemakings and Adjudications Staff:

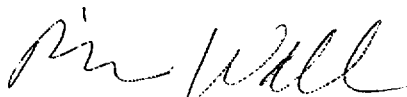
I am opposed to the NRC's proposed rule changes that would weaken the protection standards regarding the Yucca Mountain repository and urge the Commission not to authorize such action.

It is questionable whether the NRC has authority to usurp EPA's legally mandated jurisdiction, under the Energy Policy Act of 1992, to set radiation release, public health, and environmental protection standards for the proposed Yucca Mountain repository. This proposed rule should be withdrawn, until EPA sets standards.

Proposing a lower standard of protection for Yucca Mountain releases is inexcusable. Yucca Mountain should have stringent, not more lax, standards. I ask that you not compromise the potential safety of U.S.—particularly Nevada—citizens just to expedite a half-baked solution to the dilemma of secure nuclear waste storage that Congress and the Department of Energy haven't the fortitude to address responsibly.

Please do not embrace this rule change that would weaken the requirement that DOE record its decisions that significantly concern safety. Systematic accountability on scientific and engineering decisions related to safety must be upheld.

Sincerely,



Richard Wall

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Acknowledged by card JUL - 8 1999
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