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325 King St.
Port Chester, NY 10573
June 28, 2002

Mr. Michael T. Lasar, Chief
Rules and Directives Branch
Division of Administrative Services
Office of Administration, Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Mail Stop T-6D59
Washington, D.C. 20555-0001

Dear Mr. Lasar:

I am writing to participate in the public comment period on the subject of the proposed Yucca Mountain nuclear waste dump. There are so many reasons why this is a bad idea. Here they are:

- Seventy-seven thousand tons of lethal high-level nuclear waste will be transported through 45 states, within a mile of the homes of 50,000,000 people. It is estimated by the Federal Government that there will be at least 900 accidents involving these shipments. There is no plan whatsoever to protect the health and safety of the people who may be exposed to lethal or disabling radiation.
- The waste will be stored in casks that would not, for example, withstand the temperatures present during the Baltimore railway tunnel fire that raged for days last year.
- Each waste shipment will be a temptation to terrorists. Also, please see the first point above regarding plans to protect potentially exposed populations.
- Yucca Mountain is situated on an active fault line and above an aquifer supplying water to thousands, if not millions of people. In the past 25 years, there have been hundreds of earthquakes registering at least 2.5 on the Richter scale. Apart from the unimaginable immediate danger posed by an earthquake at or near the site, this level of seismic activity over the years has caused a vast network of cracks and fissures to develop in the internal structure of the mountain, providing a direct conduit to the water below.
- Yucca Mountain is also near a volcano.
- Yucca Mountain is located on native American (western Shoshone) land. It does not belong to the Federal Government.
- The dump will also be a temptation to terrorists.
- This project will not solve our nuclear waste storage crisis. Rather than "centralizing" all of our nuclear waste in one location, it simply adds one *more* location. While these deadly shipments make their way out to Nevada over the estimated 38 years it will take to complete them, reactors all over the country will continue to generate more waste. At the end of that time, most of them will be left with close to the same amount they now have. What will we do with it then? Whose land will we despoil? Whose rights will we violate? Perhaps it does not matter, because it will be our children's and grandchildren's problem, not ours.
- This entire project is yet another gigantic subsidy to the nuclear power industry,

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courtesy of the American taxpayer, even without considering the factor of security costs. Furthermore, who will pay for that frightfully expensive increased security which will be required to protect the shipments and the site? The industry, a profit-making group that has in the past been excused from responsibility for many expenses to protect the public? Federal taxpayers, via support from the military? Or no one?

I continue to hope that the Nuclear Regulatory Commission will fulfill its mandate to place public health and safety above private profit. Thank you for your attention.

Sincerely,



Nora Freeman