

From: nobody@nrc.gov
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Date: Thu, Aug 8, 2002 9:17 PM
Subject: Response from "Contact the Web Site Staff"

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The following information was submitted by
 Serena Rainey () on Thursday, August 8, 2002 at 21:16:34

Document_Title: Yucca Mountain Review Plan (NUREG 1804 Rev. 2 Draft)

Comments:
 To whom it may concern:

I oppose the authorization of Yucca Mountain as a nuclear waste repository for several reasons.

As former Vice-President of my neighborhood association, I have been in constant communication with a wide range of railroad-area residents, and it is obvious that an overwhelming majority of people living and working near railroad tracks and highways oppose the Yucca Mountain plan. Many families live near enough to the railroad tracks that, if the plan were to go through, they could be exposed to the equivalent of two chest X-rays per person per week. This would be enough to cause an unacceptable increase in miscarriage, stillbirth, cancer and other ill effects. Also, both trains and trucks often stall in proximity to residences or vehicles, sometimes for an hour or more. Everyone I have spoken with is afraid of being stuck in traffic behind any vehicle carrying high-level nuclear waste.

Additionally, serious railroad accidents are becoming more common. The Federal Railroad Administration in 1997 reported that Union Pacific Railroad Company had experienced a "fundamental breakdown" in safety, and since then U.P. has downsized while hazmat traffic on the rails has continued to increase. In 2000, eight railroad workers' unions brought hundreds of reports of intimidation of accident witnesses by U.P. to the FRA's attention. The FRA's conclusion was that the railroad had a company-wide policy of underreporting. Across all railroads, the rate of reported serious accidents is about one every 90 minutes. Some railroad employees say that at Union Pacific only one accident in every 10 is ever reported. The Baltimore tunnel fire of 2001 illustrates how quickly a train can reach temperatures higher than the Yucca Mountain transport casks were designed to withstand. That incident would have been far more serious if the train had been hauling nuclear waste. The highwa!

ys and railroad tracks on the Yucca routes also cross waterways that provide irrigation and drinking water to populated areas, including Los Angeles. This makes the transportation more dangerous yet, extending the area at risk far from the transport routes themselves.

Water has been shown to be seeping into the Yucca Mountain site itself, causing inevitable corrosion. Even drip shields cannot protect the casks from corrosion for as long as the contents remain radioactive. By making maintenance more difficult, the plan would increase the chance of substantial leakage into groundwater with time. We have no right to pass such danger on to any future generation, however far away it may be.

Finally, Yucca Mountain belongs to the Shoshone, who oppose storing nuclear waste on their land. I believe that their rights should be respected.

The Yucca Mountain project is dangerous, irresponsible and ill-considered from any viewpoint. Please reject the Yucca Mountain waste site proposal.

Sincerely,
 Serena Rainey

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SUBMIT2: Send Questions or Comments
