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NM Project: NM-16

PDR w/encl

(Return to NM, 623-65)

NM Record File: 106

LPDR w/encl

Ms. Linda McClain
Department of Energy
Washington, D.C. 20585

Mr. Jeff O. Neff, Program Manager
Balt Repository Project Office
U.S. Department of Energy
505 King Avenue
Columbus, OH 43201

5407 Laurel Creek Way
Houston, Texas 77017
October 15, 1987

HL

Enclosed for your reference are copies of my May 29, 1986, letter to President Reagan and the DOE's Mr. Roger Gale's reply to me of July 14, 1986, regarding the choice of Deaf Smith County near Hereford, Texas, as a possible nuclear waste dump site.

I still have not received an answer to my question as to why you could not place this dump site in far West Texas where there are literally miles and miles of wide open spaces where very little grows and which is very sparsely populated instead of putting it in the richest and most productive farm land in this country and possibly in the whole world.

According to an article in the Houston Chronicle of September 29, 1987, your department is proceeding vigorously with plans for land acquisition, etc., in the Hereford area in spite of the fact that Congress has withheld funding for the program. It also points out that Texas is the only site that would involve condemnation of private land.

Since this is the first nuclear waste dump of this type there no guarantee that it will not contaminate the food chain and, in any event, it definitely would reduce the size and use of this the richest farm land in our country. It really does seem like a deliberate attempt to "mess up" the food chain in this very rich and productive area. These types of areas are few and far between these days as it is. It makes no sense at all to even consider this site. It really smacks of communism - not democracy. I repeat, this does seem like a deliberate attempt to destroy our most naturally fertile link in the food chain. I cannot believe that our government is really doing such a thing. Just what is the objection to far west Texas with its miles and miles of nothing?

I would appreciate an answer to my question. Thank you.

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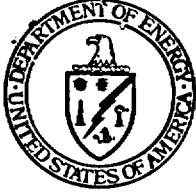
PDR

Yours very truly,

Jacquelyn B. Rea

P. S. After watching the PBS special last night, WE THE PEOPLE - "WHO'S IN CHARGE", I am more compelled than ever to get this letter to everyone I know of who is involved in the selection of nuclear waste dump sites.

cc: President Ronald Reagan
Mr. Roger W. Gale, DOE
Mr. Ben Rusche, DOE
Mr. Lando Zech, Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Senator Lloyd Bentsen
Senator Phil Gramm
Congressman Mike Andrews



Department of Energy
Washington, DC 20585

JUL 14 1986

Mrs. Jacquelyn P. Rea
5407 Laurel Creek Way
Houston, TX 77017

Dear Mrs. Rea:

On behalf of President Reagan, thank you for your recent letter regarding the Nation's high-level radioactive waste repository program. We appreciate the time you have taken to express your concerns regarding the potential location of a high-level radioactive waste repository in Texas.

This Administration is committed to the use of nuclear energy as one element to supply America's electrical energy needs. Regardless of the future status of nuclear power, we have to provide permanent storage for the existing high-level radioactive waste. Our fundamental waste management policy is to provide assurance that existing high-level radioactive waste, as well as waste from future production, will be managed carefully and will not pose a threat to public health and safety.

On May 28, 1986, the Department of Energy announced that sites in Yucca Mountain, Nevada; Deaf Smith County, Texas; and Hanford, Washington, have been selected for site characterization as candidates for the Nation's first geologic repository for permanent disposal of spent nuclear fuel and high-level radioactive waste.

Studies to date do not indicate that a repository would threaten farmland in the Texas Panhandle. However, before any site can be qualified for a repository, the detailed site characterization studies mentioned above must be conducted. Characterizing a site requires constructing exploratory shafts to depths of an actual repository--about 1,000 to 4,000 feet below ground--so that scientific data collection and analysis can be performed to determine if the site meets the criteria for the construction of a repository. In this regard, the repository must meet stringent requirements of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. If site characterization reveals that the repository could be in any way unacceptable according to these standards and regulations, then the site would be eliminated from further consideration.

We expect that full characterization will take several years. During site characterization, we will be working with State and local officials, and the public, to assure that site characterization takes place in a safe and environmentally acceptable manner.

Upon completion of site characterization, the President will select one site for construction of a repository. At this point, a potential host State may disapprove the selection, but Congress can override that disapproval.

You may obtain information on site-specific issues or future activities of the program by writing:

Mr. Jeff O. Neff
Program Manager
Salt Repository Project Office
U.S. Department of Energy
505 King Avenue
Columbus, OH 43201

Thank you for your interest. Please be assured that your continuing involvement in the Civilian Radioactive Waste Management Program is welcomed.

Sincerely,

Roger W. Gale, Director
Office of Policy and Outreach
Office of Civilian Radioactive
Waste Management

5407 Laurel Creek Way
Houston, Texas 77017
May 29, 1986

President Ronald Reagan
The White House
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. President:

The news today that Deaf Smith County in the Texas Panhandle has been selected as a possible hazardous nuclear waste dump site distresses me terribly. I have supported you in almost all of your programs and plans thus far, but I am adamantly opposed to this one.

My son and I both have a health condition for which our doctors prescribe a diet using organically grown whole grains and foods (foods containing no pesticides, artificial fertilizers or additives), and Arrowhead Mills in Deaf Smith County is one of the most naturally fertile farms in our country. They have a complete line of flours, grains and whole foods and most of these foods I purchase come from this farm as their quality is excellent. I think it is unconscionable to destroy such a rich agricultural area with a nuclear waste dump when there are miles and miles and miles of nothing in far west Texas. Why not put it there? I cannot believe the Energy Department wants to do this.

This reminds me of something I think you even may have alluded to in your radio broadcasts before you became president -- that there is a movement in this country, however subtle, determined to destroy our people from within, and what better way to do that than to contaminate our food chain. What a way to go!

Since nuclear waste is such a problem why do we not stop producing so much of it? I would much rather have less progress and be healthier and alive than have more progress and be sick and die sooner. If our scientists are able to put man on the moon and have the successful space program that we have, certainly they can develop solar energy, too.

I am just infuriated by the Energy Department's choice of this particular site and cannot imagine how and why any government agency, or anyone else for that matter, would deliberately want to destroy such a rich agricultural area when there are so few of them still available as it is. The number of jobs they say this project would create makes no sense compared to the damage that would be done.

Please, please do not allow this site to be chosen.

Thank you very much.

Sincerely,

Jacquelyn P. Rea

Encl. Portions of labels from my most-used product from Arrowhead Mills.

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WM Record File

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WM Project

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Docket No.

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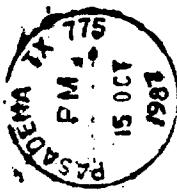
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Mrs. Jacquelyn P. Rea
5407 Laurel Creek Way
Houston, Texas 77017

~~Reagan
President of the United States~~
Mr. Lando Zoch
Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Department of Energy
Washington, D.C. 20585