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Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515-0505

May 2, 1994

The Honorable Ivan Selin  
Chairman  
Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Washington, D.C. 20555

Dear Chairman Selin:

It is my understanding that there is an idea afoot to store low level nuclear waste at the closed Rancho Seco nuclear power facility located on the outskirts of Sacramento. I vehemently oppose any effort to store radioactive waste of any kind at the Rancho Seco facility. If this issue should come before you, I urge you to oppose these efforts.

There are many reasons why the storage of radioactive waste at Rancho Seco must be opposed. First and foremost, if remote Ward Valley - the proposed low level waste disposal facility located in the deserts of Southern California - is not safe enough for storing low level nuclear waste, how can we consider storing waste in Sacramento, a community of 1.2 million people? Sacramento is growing to the south and east of downtown and continues to encroach upon the land surrounding Rancho Seco.

Second, just as Ward Valley is near a major river, so too is Rancho Seco. In fact, the watershed flowing on all sides of Rancho Seco delivers water to the Sacramento River and Delta, the San Francisco Bay, and the Central Valley and State Water Projects. The Cosumnes River, a major tributary of the Sacramento River, is nearby, as are Laguna and Badger Creeks. Additionally, wetlands are widespread in the vicinity.

Third, proponents argue they wish only to temporarily store waste which is dangerous for a short time only (e.g. 5 years), and then send the waste to sanitary disposal facilities for final disposal. However, this is ripe ground for a "camel's nose in the tent" scenario. It is easy to envision a not-too-distant future when the storage crisis mounts even higher and more dangerous waste is allowed to enter Rancho Seco.

Fourth, a broader waste management public policy question is posed by this idea. If waste is only temporarily "parked" at Rancho Seco, where will it be taken for final disposal? The Rancho Seco option provides merely a temporary postponement of the decision of how we ultimately dispose of low level waste.

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Fifth, Rancho Seco could become a magnet for waste, with concomitant risks posed by transportation of waste to and from the facility. One need only remember the Dunsmuir disaster and, more distantly, the munitions explosions at the rail yards in Roseville to understand the dangers presented by allowing the transportation of extremely hazardous materials through our community.

Again, I urge you to oppose this absurd scheme.

Very truly yours,



ROBERT T. MATSUI  
Member of Congress

CONGRESSIONAL CORRESPONDENCE SYSTEM  
DOCUMENT PREPARATION CHECKLIST

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