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Chrys Ballerano

143 Berkshire Blvd, Albany, New York 12203

518.446.1924

DATE: December 27, 2007

TO: EIS Office; US Dept. of Energy
Office of Civilian Radioactive Waste Mgmt
1551 Hillshire Drive, Las Vegas NV 89134

FAX: 1-800-967-0739

FROM: Chrys Ballerano

FAX: 518-482-4248

In lieu of being present to make a public comment at one of the recent hearings, I am writing this message in opposition to any proposal to transport and store nuclear waste at Yucca Mountain.

Having read the environmental impact statements from the past several years it is appalling to me that this insane plan is still underway to transport nuclear waste across the country to be stored at Yucca Mountain or on any reservation land in Nevada or surrounding states. When are we going to wake up to the fact that nuclear waste is never safe and least of all, transporting it by rail or other means, conducted by humans who have a long standing record of accidents and fatal errors. The idea of storing toxic waste where it will impact the drinking water and health of the Western Shoshone nation is completely unacceptable.

We have an important mandate to take our elected leaders heads out of the proverbial sand and face the reality about high level radioactive waste. Transporting it at high speeds so it becomes "somebody else's" problem is no solution and a cowardly approach to facing a true danger to our domestic security. There have been grassroots efforts to bring scientists, citizens, tribal leaders and other community agents together to guard ourselves and future generations from radioactive waste. These efforts should have our full support as we find and fund alternatives to nuclear power and cease production of all high level nuclear waste. There is technology that is safer out there- our government lacks the political will to confront the economic monopolies that prevent development and distribution of those innovative technologies. Wind, solar, water, permaculture, and other sustainable technologies could be made much more efficient, accessible and affordable if the technical information was freely shared and promoted.

After twenty years of industry-biased research at Yucca Mountain a new credible approach is required. A public non-profit corporation, which would include members of the industry, the public and independent scientists, should be formed to study the problem of radioactive waste disposal. This approach would create an alternative to the current culture of fear and nuclear denial, and would foster new ideas. Oversight and Safety Committees should be in place for each facility and include local community members. The public has a right to know about the amount, type and disposition of the waste generated in their communities. Waste producers have taken advantage of this lack of accountability by mischaracterizing waste streams and by engaging in illegal disposal activities. Mandatory reporting results in source reduction and compliance with environmental regulations. Inventories of waste generated are essential for the development of informed radioactive waste management policy and the public's right to protect their health. 2