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To: <EIS_Office@ymp.gov>
 cc:
 Subject: Yucca Mountain & High Level Radioactive Waste

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I oppose the current policy to use Yucca Mountain as a site for High Level Radioactive Waste!!

The Draft Repository SEIS

Site Characteristics

- 1 Is it isolated from concentrations of human population and activity? Pahrump and Las Vegas NV are among the fastest growing populations in the U.S. Amargosa Valley, at the base of the mountain is home the State's largest dairy, providing milk all the way to Los Angeles. Amargosa Valley shares the aquifer with Yucca Mt.]
- 2 Is it on land controlled by the Federal Government? Some of the land is controlled by the U.S. Air Force and all of it is within the treaty lands of the Western Shoshone nation, ratified by Congress in 1863 and recently upheld by the UN Committee to End Racial Discrimination, naming the Yucca Mt. Project as part of ongoing human rights violation against the Western Shoshone.]
- 3 Yucca Mountain is in one of the most arid regions in the U.S. HOWEVER, when rain does come, it is often in flash floods that travel rapidly. Any escaping radionuclides that reach the surface can travel down the Amargosa River channel. Climate conditions also appear to be changing rapidly and a high-level nuclear waste repository must be able to isolate the waste for hundreds of thousands of years. Throughout the lifetime of the waste, the region is expected to experience future climate cycles that would include ice ages and wetter conditions.]
- 4 Groundwater beneath Yucca Mountain flows into a "closed" hydrogeologic basin. This "closed basin" covers thousands of square miles, and is inhabited by many communities, the Timbisha Shoshone Tribe, and Death Valley National Park, visited by nearly 1 million visitors a year, all of whom rely on groundwater for

survival. The Amargosa River, which is fed by all pathways on both sides of Yucca Mt., is considered the third largest in the western U.S. and parts of it run year round above ground. Research conducted by Inyo County, CA, defines fast pathways from Yucca Mt. to area springs used for drinking water by many.]

Some General Comments

- 5 [DOE's selection of the Caliente Corridor is not supported by the information presented in the Draft SEIS – the information in the DEIS does not adequately compare Caliente with other *viable* rail corridors.]
- 6 [DOE's study of the Mina Corridor as a "non-preferred alternative" is not warranted given the Walker River Paiute Tribal Council's withdrawal of support.]
- 7 [Because DOE has now announced that the rail line it proposes would be a "Shared Use" line, the USDOT Surface Transportation Board should be the lead agency that prepares the Rail Alignment EIS.]
- 8 [The DOE contention that non-rail shipments would be made by over-weight trucks is unsubstantiated, and the impacts of the use of overweight truck in Nevada and elsewhere are not analyzed.]

Yours truly,

Larry Irwin