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RRR000562

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DOE:

Please include these comments in the public record.
Thank you for sending me the huge package of the volumes of SEIS.
I.e. four volumes of the SEIS re: a rail corridor in NV (to ship radioactive waste), routes, and two volumes
SEIS/Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement re: Yucca Mt. Rad waste depository/dump.
Here are some of my insights, briefly:

1. [The geological strata (earthquake faults, flood areas etc.) of Yucca Mountain make it unsuitable for a location for storing nuclear waste.
2. There is yet the grave risk of accidents that is unanswered. This lack of foresight and responsibility can lead to irreparable harm in the future.
3. There is no plan for stopping the production of nuclear waste.] ... continued below
- 2 4. [The cost of a new rail across Nevada to ship radioactive waste is exorbitant and will not solve the problems of the nuclear industry but will further burden US taxpayers.]
- 3 5. [Building the repository and shipping waste through native lands violates treaty rights of Native people, and illegally trespasses on land not ceded off by the Shoshone tribe.] ... continued below
- 4 6. [The proposal to share rail lines with freight trains is a security risk and dangerous.]
- ... 1 7. [The routes for transport of nuclear waste go through populated areas, and will radiate people living along railroad tracks, and those that work in rail yards etc. The routes along roadways will also radiate civilians and create security risks.
- Continued
8. First responders are unprepared for emergencies.] ... continued below
- 5 9. [The rail cars will be easily identifiable, with casks open-air. Wouldn't this be open invitation for terrorist strikes? The SEIS includes pictures of them.]
- 6 10. [At Yucca Mt. there is a plan for 50 years of dumping, then 50 years of monitoring, then sealing up the mountain leaving no surface structures except to mark where it is buried. This is not acceptable for nuclear waste that remains highly toxic, volatile and dangerous (i.e. leakage, spillage, earthquakes, terrorism threats) for up to trillions of years.] ... continued below
- ... 1 11. [No amount of money can clean up an environment ruined from radioactive waste. This should not be risked. The SEIS plans are not thoroughly worked out, nor can they ever be made fail-safe.] ... continued below
- Continued
- ... 6 12. [Engineers were hired to design casks for high level rad waste to last 100 years. An engineer stated the waste is so hot, no one can design a cask guaranteed for that long. It requires casks designed for 10,000 years or longer. Engineers were frustrated about plans to seal up the mountain and forget about it.]
- Continued
- ... 3 13. [In these studies it mentions Native American opposition to the plans. However, it does not tell of any actual mediation or solution but lays out plans for division of native lands via rail systems. It also says radiation will be greatest along the rail lines (which thread the US like a spider web, especially thick through some reservations, i.e. Paiute) and also at transfer stations. Isn't it about time the government start to listen to the Native people and abide by treaties and honor the first Americans instead of using them to dump nuclear waste on and around, destroy and rape their lands, and disenfranchise indigenous people?]
- Continued
- 7 14. [There are maps showing proposed locations of other nuclear activity areas....what I object to is that when I was at the NTS in 2001, I believe those areas were already being built. Residents told me that those were nuclear waste dumps. Just as taxpayer dollars have been pumped into the Yucca Mt. project, for a flawed plan that may never be used or may already be in use, I believe money has been

put into other waste dump projects, especially in the NTS region, and are probably already being used... why else would trucks be running in and out of already constructed "pads and pits" devoid of anything else for a reason for transport?]

... [continued

15. [I don't know how much money was spent on the studies, but it must have been huge.... Listed are hospitals etc. are along the routes, calculated accident rates via scientific equations (laws of probability), listing the names of birds, plants, etc. that are in the radiated areas.....Such calculated death!!!!. When I think of a little bird, radiated, flying off to die and radiate more life forms like the radioactive ants that were tracked back to a rad waste dump in Washington state.... It is mind-boggling. How can government consider taking such risks? It is unconscionable.]

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16. [I object to the inclusion of another option, a plan to do nothing....it is not doing nothing....it is continuance of the creation of nuclear waste in a world bent on its own destruction. It is a plan without solutions and without hope. The "do nothing" option is a threat to coerce people to accept the Mobile Chernobyl plan for a nuclear waste depository and transport on Native lands, i.e. Yucca Mt. et al.

Therefore, I believe, regardless of all the study and effort it went into producing the massive volumes of study, there are no viable solutions offered.

For years, environmental groups like Don't Waste Michigan have given insight and suggestions as to what to go about nuclear problems. Mary Sinclair, Ph.D., of DWM and the Sierra Club, stated years ago that nuclear waste should be stored in aboveground monitored containers, and that the nuclear industry should cease the production of nuclear waste. DWM and other environmental groups have also continually fought for alternative green energy systems, such as wind, water, and solar to replace the dangerous and environmentally damaging nuclear power systems.

Nuclear power also creates global warming. It heats up the air, water, and soil. Fossil fuels are used to mine, process, and transport uranium. The end product, either a Chernobyl, or Three Mile Island, Palisades, or other facility, produces a product "too hot to handle"...i.e. nuclear waste. Isn't it about time to start using resources to develop alternatives instead of the continuance of a deadly and dying industry?

There is tritium in Lake Michigan from leaks at Palisades nuclear reactor. There is tritium from the Clinton nuclear reactor in the Chicago area. Lake Erie received a load of radioactive material when Fermi had a near melt down. The area around Three Mile Island suffers from permanent mutations because of radioactive releases during their near melt down. Chernobyl will never be the same. Millions of people have suffered from radioactive fall out. The incidence of cancer has sky-rocketed. Some forms are directly attributable to nuclear radiation releases. Increased incidence of infant mortality also coincides with nuclear activity.

The nuclear industry has a bad track record. It should not be trusted and the government should use every precautionary principal, and should strictly enforce environmental laws, and should seek viable alternatives to nuclear power, rather than allow nuclear waste production, transport, and dumping or to "do nothing" to stop it.]

Sincerely,

Kathryn Barnes

