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To: EIS_Office@ymp.gov
cc: donaldk@nirs.org, electricity2@cs.com
Subject: Yucca Mountain Storage

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It is irrational and irresponsible for the Department of Energy to consider shipping nuclear waste to Yucca Mountain for disposal.

1 [First of all, thanks to extensive geological research, we know that Yucca Mountain is fault ridden. Any wastes buried there will, at some point in the next 20,000 years, leak into the environment. Since these wastes will definitely outlast the nuclear power industry and will probably outlast all our governmental structures and organizations, it is the DOE's responsibility to ensure that when it is finally disposed of, it is done in a manner that actually seals it off from the environment permanently. Otherwise, our government will be deciding to make the region less habitable. This is not only irresponsible, it is immoral.]

2 [Second, the current transportation plans put the American public in danger from rail accidents. In Dayton, Ohio in the year 1986, a train derailed which had a tanker car carrying white phosphorus. The tanker broke open because of heat generated by a fire after the crash, and the phosphorus burned, sending a white cloud of phosphorus over the Miami Valley. Although the cloud was clearly visible, most of the citizens in its path failed to react and simply watched as it enveloped their houses, cars, and families. While that cloud was relatively harmless, the hot, volatile contents of a tanker full of nuclear waste would create a similar pattern of dispersal in an accident--exposing citizens to a very real danger to their health and genetic integrity. Without some kind of training or fair warning at least, the DOE would be violating its mission by endangering American citizens. As I write this letter, a freight train is passing within 200 feet of my home. Here in the Toledo, Ohio, area rail tracks routinely pass within a few feet of many residential neighborhoods. The current plan to move the waste must have the consent of those who will be most endangered in an accident. I know I do not give my consent, and my neighbors would feel the same way if they knew what the DOE is planning to do. There has been insufficient notification and education on this issue.]

3 [Finally, the plan to use a very large, standardized waste container (TAD) is flawed. Simple physics tell us that, since Force = Mass X Acceleration, a larger container will experience a greater amount of force in the sudden deceleration of a rail accident. Larger forces being applied to a larger area means greater chance of failure. Waste containers should be small and heavily reinforced. The desire to save time and money by using large TADs is similar to NASA's short cuts on the the shuttle program that led to catastrophic shuttle failures. When the DOE violates the basic laws of physics for economic reasons, it is again violating its mission.]

Do not begin to ship nuclear waste to Yucca mountain.

Joseph DeMare
1210 Craig Road
Maumee, Ohio 43537
electricity2@cs.com
419-973-5841