

January 9, 2008

RRR000723

Jane R. Summerson  
M. Lee Bishop  
Environmental Impact Statement Office  
U.S. Department of Energy  
Office of Civilian Radioactive Waste Management  
1551 Hillshire Drive  
Las Vegas, NV 89134

Re: Comments on draft Repository Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement  
and draft Nevada Rail Corridor/Alignment Environmental Impact Statement

Dear Ms. Summerson and Mr. Bishop,

1 [ There are several issues I, as a Las Vegas resident, have identified regarding both of the above documents that should be addressed by the DOE in the course of developing both Final Environmental Impact Statements (EIS). Using the Yucca Mountain site to 'dispose' of nuclear waste is a very risky and unacceptable choice as a nuclear waste repository since geological fault lines run through and near the Yucca Mountain area. Yucca Mountain is extremely unstable site for nuclear storage with the geological changes that are expected in that area. ]

2 [ Also, Yucca Mountain has been and continues to be a sacred and beloved site for thousands of years to the local Native American tribes. The Timbisha tribe and other Western Shoshone tribes have conducted spring renewal ceremonies on Yucca Mountain for a long time, and continue to do so into the present on the western portion they are still able to access. The SEIS also fails to mention the ongoing dispute and litigation involving the United States' violation of the 1863 Treaty of Ruby Valley with the Western Shoshone which clearly defines territorial borders for their nation of Newe Sogobia as well outside the proposed land withdrawal. This treaty was fully ratified by Congress, and is legally "the supreme law of the land". In April of 2004, the United Nation's Committee to End Racial Discrimination upheld the Shoshone claim in a record decision, and their declaration clearly identifies the Yucca Mountain Repository as one of several ongoing serious human rights violations by the United States against the Western Shoshone Nation. ]

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cont [ There are serious risks associated with the 'disposing' and transportation of nuclear waste. One of the most deadly waste materials on earth, nuclear waste should be stored on-site, in retrievable casks, and not transported across the country. What will be the impact of an accident to the drinking water supply, impacts from truck transport of nuclear waste, socio-economic impacts, impacts to cultural resources, not to mention the possibility of terrorist attacks? A nuclear waste repository at Yucca Mountain creates a false sense of security for using nuclear energy while we should be focusing on alternative renewable energy sources. I am convinced that the research on this site clearly shows that storing nuclear waste in this area is neither safe nor ethical and I do not wish to see this project carried out. Yucca Mountain is unacceptable as a nuclear waste repository. ]

Sincerely,

*Joanne Halt*  
Joanne Halt

