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cc:
Subject: EIS Comment

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Comment Text :
--> EIS Office
U.S. Department of Energy
Office of Civilian Radioactive Waste Management
1551 Hillshire Drive
Las Vegas, NV 89134

Re: Draft Repository SEIS, Draft Nevada Rail Corridor SEIS, Draft Rail Alignment EIS

Dear Sirs:

1 [The Yucca Mountain Nuclear Waste Repository should be terminated immediately.

It is irresponsible to go forward with this project that has been technically flawed from the very beginning.

It has generated strong public opposition from all over the country for health, safety, social, economic and legal reasons.

It has devoured huge quantities of taxpayer dollars, and disturbed the fragile desert ecology in the preliminary tests and preparations that have gone on for years.]

2 [But of the utmost importance, it is illegal, for the Western Shoshone Indian

Nation, on whose property the proposed dump site exists, is strongly opposed to this use of its sacred Yucca Mountain. The U.S. has already violated way too many treaties with the Native American Nations. When can they begin to trust the good faith agreements they have made over the years?]

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cont [We realize there are enormous political pressures to make radioactive waste "disappear." We urge that all nuclear power stations cease operation immediately, to help reduce the growing problem of what to do with the radioactive waste. It makes sense to figure out what to do with the waste before generating any more of it. It is unconscionable to promote new nuclear power plants to be built when we still don't know what to do with the waste that was generated more than 50 years ago.

It is totally irresponsible to subject the whole country to the potential health risks of spills or transportation accidents, and even potentially more disastrous, the effects of a terrorist hi-jacking of nuclear waste in transit. Radioactive waste is scheduled to be shipped through 45 states and the District of Columbia. But plumes of radioactive releases don't observe boundaries of cities, states or nations. And scientists have proven that low level exposure to radiation affects victims disproportionately...and that no exposure is considered "safe." You bear a heavy responsibility to knowingly expose members of the public to the risk of radiation exposure.

To compound the problem of what to do with radioactive waste is the additional issue of the U.S. importing radioactive waste from overseas sources. We realize this is a very complicated issue since it would be unconscionable to allow the proliferation potential of that nuclear waste to be available for terrorists who want to make nuclear weapons from that radwaste. Wouldn't it make the problem easier if all nuclear power operations were phased out? Now. After all, the ecologically "correct" energy system is renewable and energy conservation. When will the DoE start promoting the sustainable systems?

One last issue we want to raise is the earthquake risk at the Yucca Mountain site. The U.S. government hints that they want to initiate a new round of nuclear weapons tests to ensure the reliability of the new designs of nuclear weapons (also illegal if the U.S. complies with the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty...). Would these underground nuclear weapons tests trigger a ripple effect of earthquakes AT Yucca Mountain? Has this been considered?

In conclusion, we urge you to use common sense and recommend the termination of the proposed Yucca Mountain radioactive waste repository site immediately.]

Thank you for your consideration,

Pat Birnie, Energy Chair
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