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webserver@yucca-web2.ymp.gov on 12/12/2006 04:48:56 PM

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To: SEIS_Comments@notes.ymp.gov

cc:

Subject: NOI SEIS Comment

User Filed as: Not Categorized in ERMS

December 12, 2006 16:48:56

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Comment Text :

-->Re:Nov.2, 2006 DOE Public Meeting for the Proposed Rail Line to Yucca Mtn.

While there were several large detailed maps of the proposed rail line for shipping high level toxicity radioactive waste through Nevada to the Yucca Mtn. site, none of them showed the dozens of earthquake fault lines the tracks would cross. This is of paramount importance because slippage during earthquakes is more likely to occur at the fault lines established during previous earthquakes. According to the USGS earthquake activity map for the week preceding the public meeting, there were around 15 earthquakes at the southern Nevada/California border area where the rail line would be built and where the repository is already located.

On Nov.9,2006 there was a train derailment near the California border west of Reno which resulted in 2 deaths and in the spill of thousands of gallons of propane and other environmental contaminants. I believe this is the same rail line which has been used to transport shipments of radioactive waste from the Livermore labs and from West Coast reactors to Yucca Mtn. in the past. It is very difficult to find information about the number and type of radioactive accidents in the US, although my research has indicated that there are several hundred a year. No information of that sort was made available to people at the meeting.

There was no information about plans for protecting, treating or evacuating the public in the event of an accident resulting in the release of radioactive materials. Historically, the Departments of Energy and Defense have delayed announcements of accidental releases from the Nevada Test Site and downplayed the health impact to people and animals exposed to radioactivity from them. Lawsuits by victims of radioactive exposure in Nevada and Utah have been overturned on appeal in the Federal courts.

Additionally, the Environmental Impact Statement distributed to citizens at the meeting was dated 2002. It was published before the USGS was publicly alleged to have deliberately falsified data relating to the groundwater flow in the hundreds of earthquake fault lines around the repository. I was informed that corrected data was not available. Eventual groundwater contamination is the crux of the problem with the siting for the repository. When it happens there will be no recall or remediation possible. The results for the surrounding population will show up as congenital deformities & mental retardation, bone cancer, thyroid cancer and leukemia, to name a few.

The use of radioactive material for power generation in the US is a profoundly flawed strategy because the waste materials are lethal in minute quantities, but generated in massive quantities. Because of unanticipated population growth, there are millions of people downwind and downstream of the proposed rail lines and the repository site who weren't there when the site was selected nearly sixty years ago. The Cold War mentality which allowed the Federal Government to regard exposed populations as 'collateral damage' is not acceptable.

American citizens do not deserve to be poisoned by radioactive waste from this misguided technology. If a method can't be found to detoxify the waste, reactors shouldn't be legal in this country. Nuclear power generation should be outlawed permanently because it's too poisonous and until it is outlawed the waste should be stored where millions of people won't be lethally endangered by it, as will happen at the Yucca Mtn. site.

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