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SEP 05 2001

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MR. FISH: My name is Robert Fish, F-I-S-H.

14 In my opinion, there is too much  
15 misinformation about the Yucca Mountain project that is  
16 being disseminated by many opponents of this project.

17 I have lived in Nevada for over ten years and  
18 have been continually amazed at the scare tactics and  
19 misinformation concerning the transportation of spent  
20 nuclear fuel and the mode of disposal depicted by  
21 opponents of this project.

22 These are the facts as I perceive them.  
23 After years of study, testing, and analysis, scientists  
24 and engineers have reported in tables 4-1 and 4-2 of  
25 their Preliminary Site Suitability Evaluation, that the

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1 Yucca Mountain site will likely meet and probably  
2 exceed, in some cases by orders of magnitude, the  
3 radiation protection standards recently set by the  
4 Environmental Protection Agency and the performance  
5 objectives proposed by the Nuclear Regulatory  
6 Commission. Both the EPA and the NRC are independent  
7 Federal regulators.

8 For about three years, between 1988 and 1991,  
9 I worked for a company in Lynchburg, Virginia, and  
10 participated in the development and design and testing  
11 of a transportation cask for spent nuclear fuel.  
12 During that period of time, I had the opportunity to  
13 interact with the Nuclear Regulatory Commission on a  
14 regular basis and experienced firsthand the strict  
15 standards to which transportation casks are designed

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16 and developed and constructed.

17 Now that the scientists have released their  
18 preliminary findings, some are saying that  
19 transportation is the problem. The facts and the  
20 experience do not support this assertion.

21 The Nuclear Regulatory Commission regulations  
22 at 10CFR71 have set very strict and rigorous design  
23 guidelines, quality assurance procedures, and testing  
24 requirements for transportation casks for spent nuclear  
25 level and high-level waste.

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1 Transportation casks have been designed and  
2 tested to withstand severe hypothetical accident  
3 conditions without releasing their radioactive  
4 contents.

5 Many, many shipments of spent nuclear fuel  
6 have occurred in this country without an incident of  
7 radioactive material release that resulted in injury or  
8 harm.

9 Our economy is inextricably connected to the  
10 economy of all other states. No state is an island.  
11 If opponents succeed in stopping the Yucca Mountain  
12 Project with their scare tactics and misinformation  
13 about so-called transportation issues, the United  
14 States could lose the approximately 20 percent of our  
15 electrical generating capacity, that is currently  
16 supplied by nuclear power plants around the country.  
17 This could have severe consequences on the economy of  
18 the entire United States. And the citizens of Nevada

19 will be the losers along with everybody else in this  
20 country.

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21 For all of these reasons, I think the  
22 Secretary of Energy should go forward with recommending  
23 Yucca Mountain as a suitable site for further  
24 development and licensing with the NRC as a safe  
25 repository for this nation's spent nuclear fuel and

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1 other high-level nuclear waste.

2 Thank you for your consideration of this very  
3 serious matter. A concerned citizen.

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