



Rick Van Diepen <RVanDiepen@pgal.com> on 01/09/2008 10:42:03 AM

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To: "EIS_Office@ymp.gov" <EIS_Office@ymp.gov>
cc:
Subject: Yucca Mountain EIS

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My name is Rick Van Diepen, a 14 year resident of Clark County, Nevada and I am opposed to the licensing and further development of Yucca Mountain as a high-level nuclear waste repository. In addition to the proposed dump being too close to Las Vegas, the fastest growing western city for the past 20 years, I am opposed to geologic storage of nuclear waste on traditional Shoshone Indian tribal lands. Transportation of nuclear waste all across the country will be a serious threat for rail and road accidents and for potential targets for nuclear terrorism. I am opposed to Yucca Mountain because the science behind the EIS has been proven to be both flawed in its assumptions and tainted by test data that has been manipulated to support the suitability of the site for the project. I have personally toured the site and I was struck by the proximity to Las Vegas and other much closer urban areas, and I was further stricken by the rough, uneven geology of the tunnels which the DOE has even admitted will allow for significant amounts of water to enter the storage tunnels. As an architect and a homeowner along a proposed transportation route, I have very serious concerns that the future growth of Las Vegas will be seriously diminished as property values of homes and commercial property will be reduced as a result of perceived or real threats of accidents along the transportation routes which pass through many densely populated urban areas here and similarly throughout the country. Many knowledgeable scientists have agreed that on-site hardened storage at nuclear power facilities is the best solution for long-term storage of spent nuclear fuel. I do not support reprocessing of spent fuel because it would require transportation throughout the country and because the process results in highly enriched, fissile materials that will be very desirable to obtain by terrorists. I do not believe that nuclear power is a viable alternative as a solution to combat global climate change. I oppose the expansion of nuclear power do to the environmental threat and because the technology is too expensive to develop without massive tax subsidies. I believe that federal subsidies currently allocated for nuclear, coal and oil based power should be revoked and reallocated to development of clean energy solutions such as renewable energy, electric vehicles, and massive energy conservation programs.]
Sincerely,

Rick Van Diepen
Las Vegas, Nevada