

March 12, 2019

Dear Senator,

Our organizations, signed below, have worked for years to advance policies that will address our nation's radioactive waste problems and to substantially improve nuclear waste containment, safety and security. We also share concerns about some so-called nuclear waste "solutions" which would in fact, make the nuclear waste problems worse.

Yucca Mountain, the proposed nuclear waste dump, technically cannot isolate radioactive waste, violates environmental justice, and must be taken off the table as we move forward to face the nation's and the nuclear industry's increasing radioactive waste problems. Consolidated "Interim" Storage is a dangerous distraction from meaningfully addressing this challenge and threatens the whole country while bringing us no closer to being able to permanently isolate the waste. Please see the two brief summaries of the failure of Yucca Mountain and the risks of Consolidated "Interim" Storage attached.

This packet addresses the type of high-level radioactive waste the nuclear industry calls "spent" fuel. A more accurate technical term is "irradiated" fuel because it is millions of times more radioactive than fresh nuclear reactor fuel. Unshielded irradiated fuel emits lethal levels of radiation. Due to the presence of plutonium and other long-lasting radionuclides, it poses a nuclear weapons proliferation hazard and a health hazard for a million years or more. Measured in mass, this waste is relatively small, but the waste generated by making electricity with nuclear fission is the highest concentration of radioactivity on Earth--enough to pollute every drop of freshwater on Earth, making it unsafe for consumption.

The enclosed briefs provide detail about how current proposals for managing irradiated fuel are ineffective, increase the hazards of nuclear waste, and compromise the nation's ability to successfully manage this environmental problem in the future. Here is an overview:

Terminate the Yucca Mountain proposed nuclear waste site.

We support permanent isolation of the waste from the human environment therefore we oppose the Yucca Mountain repository proposal. It should be terminated now. There are abundant disqualifying conditions and environmental justice violations at Yucca Mountain. Billions of dollars have already been wasted, since this site will not perform to isolate the nation's high level radioactive waste. The application for a federal license to construct a repository at Yucca is under challenge by the State of Nevada, Native Community Action Council, and others. The Department of Energy (DOE) (which applied to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) for the Yucca Mountain final repository license) has declared the site "unworkable" and tried to withdraw the license application. Attached is the troubled history of the site.

Reject Consolidated "Interim" Storage.

We oppose moving radioactive waste to a supposedly "interim" consolidated or centralized location, dubbed Consolidated "Interim" Storage (CIS). Such an unprecedented, massive transportation campaign would unnecessarily move the most dangerous, deadly cargo from dozens of sites across the country on

roads, rails and waterways, over bridges and much infrastructure currently in need of upgrades and repairs. These routes traverse densely populated cities and productive farmland only to be moved again once a permanent location is designated. As long as nuclear power reactors continue to generate new waste, a consolidated storage site is simply one MORE site where this deadly waste would be located.

A vote for consolidated “interim” storage is a vote for moving long-lasting deadly radioactive waste on a shipping campaign through nearly 90% of Congressional districts, for supposedly “interim” storage. The shipping period would take two to four decades of continuous hauling to move the waste, once—only to have to do it a second time, when a permanent storage facility is developed. Conveyance is not a way to increase safety or security.

Interim storage, also called "continued storage" by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, is happening now, at the sites where the waste was and is being generated. Rather than exempting those sites from regulations as is occurring, safety and security of waste and storage systems must be improved.

We urge you not to throw good money after bad. A credible and viable nuclear waste program depends upon termination of the failed Yucca Mountain plan, now. The concept of consolidated “interim” storage is merely a distraction from development of a new scientifically based program to permanently isolate nuclear waste.

We call on you to oppose, and work to stop, any legislation that would promote Consolidated “Interim” Storage and to stop any attempts to revive Yucca through appropriations or any other means. Please contact us for more information and to work together toward these goals. Mistakes made now with irradiated nuclear fuel cannot be undone. We are counting on you.

Sincerely,

Tim Judson, Executive Director
Nuclear Information and Resource Service
Takoma Park, MD
301-270-6477 timj@nirs.org

Allison Fisher
Public Citizen
Washington, DC
202-454-5176 afisher@citizen.org

Damon Moglen, Senior Strategic Advisor
Friends of the Earth
Washington, DC

Ken Cook
Environmental Working Group
Washington, DC

Kevin Kamps, Radioactive Waste Specialist
Beyond Nuclear
Takoma Park, MD

Wenonah Hauter, Executive Director
Food & Water Watch
Washington, DC

Jeff Carter, Executive Director
Physicians for Social Responsibility
Washington, DC

Lynn Thorp, National Campaigns Director
Clean Water Action
Washington, DC

Lea Foushee, Environmental Justice Director
George Crocker, Executive Director
North American Water Office
Lake Elmo, MN

Darien De Lu, President, Women's International
League for Peace & Freedom, US Section
Des Moines, IA

Ian Zabarte, Secretary
Native Community Action Council
Las Vegas, NV

Judy Treichel, Executive Director
Nevada Nuclear Waste Task Force
Las Vegas, NV

Sondra Cosgrove, President
League of Women Voters of Nevada
Las Vegas, NV

Jane Feldman, Conservation Chair
Southern Nevada Group of the Sierra Club
Las Vegas, NV

Janet Greenwald
Citizens for Alternatives to Radioactive Dumping
(CARD)
Albuquerque, NM

Susan Schuurman, Outreach Coordinator
Albuquerque Center for Peace and Justice
Albuquerque, NM

Bob Fulkerson, Development Director
Progressive Leadership Alliance of Nevada
Reno, NV

David A. Kraft, Director
Nuclear Energy Information Service
Chicago, IL

Louis Zeller, Executive Director
Blue Ridge Environmental Defense League
Glendale Springs, NC

Peggy Maze Johnson, Board Member
Heart of America Northwest
Seattle, WA

Sarah Fields, Program Director
Uranium Watch
Monticello, UT

Ashley Soltysiak
Utah Sierra Club
Salt Lake City, UT

Noel V. Marquez, Rose Gardiner, Co-founders
Alliance for Environmental Strategies
Artesia and Eunice, NM

Elizabeth Padilla, Director
Protect Andrews
Andrews, TX

Adrian Shelley, Director, Texas office
Public Citizen
Austin, TX

John Buchser, Nuclear Waste Issue Chair
Rio Grande Chapter, Sierra Club
Albuquerque, NM

Karen Hadden, Executive Director
Sustainable Energy & Economic Development
(SEED) Coalition
Austin, TX

Scott Kovac
Nuclear Watch New Mexico
Santa Fe, NM

John Hadder, Director
Great Basin Resource Watch
Reno, NV

Glenn Carroll, Coordinator
Nuclear Watch South
Atlanta, GA

Sara Barczak, Regional Advocacy Director
Southern Alliance for Clean Energy
Knoxville, TN

Kate Bartholomew, Chair
Sierra Club Atlantic Chapter
Albany, NY

Jeffrey Barrie, CEO and Don Safer, Board Member
Tennessee Environmental Council
Nashville, TN

Gary Headrick
San Clemente Green
San Clemente, CA

Molly P Johnson, Board Member
San Luis Obispo Mothers for Peace
San Luis Obispo, CA

Debra Stoleroff
Vermont Yankee Decommissioning Alliance
Montpelier, VT

Marilyn Elie, Board Member
Indian Point Safe Energy Coalition
Cortland Manor, NY

Alice Hirt, Co-chair
Don't Waste Michigan
Holland, MI

Deb Katz
CAN
Shelburne Falls, MA

Kelly Lundeen, Co-Director
Nukewatch
Luck, WI

Scott Williams, M.D., M.P.H.
The Healthy Environment Alliance of Utah
(HEAL Utah)
Salt Lake City, Utah

Nancy Price, Chair
WILPF-US Earth Democracy Committee,
Sacramento, CA

Gwen DuBois MD, MPH President
Chesapeake Physicians for Social Responsibility
Baltimore, MD

Lora Chamberlain, Lead Organizer
Nuclear Free Illinois
Chicago, IL

Terry Clark, Chapter President
Physicians for Social Responsibility of WNC
Asheville, NC

Maggie Gundersen
Fairewinds Energy Education
Charleston, SC

Scott Meyer, President
Don't Waste Arizona
Phoenix, AZ

Maureen K. Headington, President
Stand Up/Save Lives Campaign
Burr Ridge, IL

Diane Turco, Director
Cape Downwinders
Cape Cod, MA

Susan Gordon, Coordinator
Multicultural Alliance for a Safe Environment
Albuquerque, NM

Mike Carberry, Director
Green State Solutions
Iowa City, IA

Nancy Burton, Director
Connect Coalition Against Millstone
Redding, CT

Manna Jo Greene, Environmental Director
Hudson River Sloop Clearwater, Inc.
Beacon, NY

Nikos Pastos, Environmental Sociologist
Alaska's Big Village Network
Anchorage, AK

Eve Shapiro MD, MPH, Chapter President,
Physicians for Social Responsibility, Arizona
Tucson, AZ

Stephen Erickson
Citizens Education Project (CEP)
Salt Lake City, UT

Damon Motz-Storey, Nuclear-Free Northwest
Oregon & Washington PSR
Portland, OR

Terry Lodge, Convenor
Toledo Coalition for Safe Energy
Toledo, OH

Preston J Truman, Director
Downwinders INC
Malad, ID

Paula Gotsch, Co-founder
GRAMMES – Grandmothers, Mothers and More
for Energy Safety
Brick, NJ

Susan Hito-Shapiro
LEAF of Hudson Valley
Nanuet, NY

Jessie Collins, Co-chair
Citizens' Resistance at Fermi Two (CRAFT)
Redford, MI

Nancy Vann
Safe Energy Rights Group (SEnRG)
Peekskill, NY

Michel Lee, Senior Analyst
Promoting Health and Sustainable Energy (PHASE)
Nanuet, NY

Don Eichelberger and Roger Herried
Abalone Alliance Safe Energy Clearinghouse
San Francisco, CA

Chris Nelson
Confronting Endless War
Chico, CA

Norma J F Harrison, Central Committees member
State and Alameda County
Peace and Freedom Party
Alameda County, CA

Felice & Jack Cohen-Joppa, editors & coordinators
the Nuclear Resister
Tucson, AZ

Ellen Thomas, Chair Proposition One
Campaign for a Nuclear-Free Future
Tryon, NC

Cyrus Reed, Interim Director
Lone Star Sierra Club, TX

Ellen Rosser, President
World Peace Now
Point Arena, CA

Robin Lloyd
Women's Intl League for Peace and Freedom
Burlington Branch
Burlington, VT

Sheila Parks, Ed.D., Founder
On Behalf of Planet Earth
Watertown, MA

Vic Macks, Steering Committee
Michigan Stop the Nuclear Bombs Campaign
St. Clair Shores, MI

Sally Jane Gellert
Occupy Bergen County
Bergen County, NJ

Barbara Warren, RN, MS Executive Director
Citizens' Environmental Coalition
Cuddebackville, NY

Philip Anderson, Chapter Chair
Veterans for Peace Ch 80
Duluth, MN

Mark D. Stansbery, Secretary
Community Organizing Center for Mother Earth
Columbus, OH

Cynthia Papermaster, Coordinator
CODEPINK Women for Peace
Golden Gate Chapter
San Francisco Bay Area, CA

Robin Lloyd, Co-Chair
WILPF-US Disarm/End Wars Committee
Burlington, VT

Helen Jaccard, Golden Rule Project Manager
Veterans For Peace
Humboldt Bay, CA