

Powell, Amy

From: Blanchard, Brittany (Reid) [Brittany_Blanchard@reid.senate.gov]
Sent: Thursday, August 28, 2008 4:37 PM
To: Amy Powell
Cc: McDonough, Alexander (Reid)
Subject: Yucca Petition
Attachments: Ltr to NRC.docx; Yucca Petition.doc

Hi Amy,

Attached you should find a copy of the petition, as well as the letter to the NRC that Alex mentioned earlier. The list of over 4,000 signers can be found with the hard copy.

Thanks,

Brittany

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August 27, 2008

Honorable Dale Klein, Chairman
Honorable Gregory Jaczko
Honorable Peter Lyons
Honorable Kristine Svinicki
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D.C. 20555-0001

Dear Chairman Klein and Commissioners:

Please find enclosed a petition urging the Nuclear Regulatory Commission to reject the license application for building a nuclear waste dump at Yucca Mountain.

With the support of my colleagues in the Nevada congressional delegation, I have collected over 4,000 signatures from mostly Nevadans and also concerned citizens from around the country. In light of the Commission's pending decision about whether or not to docket the Department of Energy's license application, I am hopeful that the NRC gives serious consideration to the important objections raised in this petition.

In my view, the Commission is well aware of the most glaring deficiencies which make the Department of Energy's license application unacceptable. Not only does the license application contain substantive deficiencies, such as grossly incomplete repository and shipping canister designs, it is also faulty procedurally.

The Commission's review of the application will heavily focus on whether a nuclear waste repository at Yucca Mountain can satisfy radiation protection standards that the Environmental Protection Agency has yet to promulgate. It would be unsound logically and unfair to millions of Nevadans and Americans if the Commission was to affirm the completeness of the Department of Energy's license application when a key measure for completeness does not even exist yet.

Thank you for reviewing the enclosed petition and addressing the concerns of thousands of concerned citizens.

Sincerely,

Harry Reid
United States Senator

Cc: Nevada Congressional Delegation
Encl.

**A PETITION TO THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
TO REJECT THE LICENSE APPLICATION FOR A
NUCLEAR WASTE DUMP AT YUCCA MOUNTAIN**

We, the undersigned, petition the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) to reject the Department of Energy's (DOE) license application to construct the proposed Yucca Mountain nuclear waste dump.

The DOE is proposing to dump 77,000 tons of high-level nuclear waste in Nevada after transporting it through counties home to over 106 million people.

Enduring these nuclear waste shipments will be communities from Washington, Oregon, California, Idaho, Utah, Colorado, Wyoming, Texas, Oklahoma, New Mexico, Louisiana, Arkansas, Missouri, Iowa, Kansas, Nebraska, Minnesota, Michigan, Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Kentucky, Tennessee, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi, Virginia, Maryland, New Jersey, New York, Massachusetts, Connecticut, Maine, Vermont, New Hampshire, Florida, Arizona, Delaware, West Virginia, Wisconsin, South Dakota and Nevada.

That's 45 states which could host nuclear waste routes. Yet there will be absolutely no public process to review these routes – not by the NRC, not by the DOE, and not even by the U.S. Department of Transportation. This is a massive and dangerous shipping campaign, but the NRC refuses to scrutinize it when considering DOE's application to build the dump.

Furthermore, DOE does not even have complete plans to transport nuclear waste or to build the dump at Yucca Mountain, which is in an earthquake-prone environment. In fact, DOE readily admits that designs for the repository will be at most 35% complete when it asks NRC to license it.

Even worse, the Environmental Protection Agency has not decided what levels of radiation can be "safely leaked" from the dump. EPA has proposed a dangerously lenient radiation standard that completely disregards the health and safety of future generations. But, with less than half the designs for the dump complete, it is preposterous to think that NRC is in a position to decide that a nuclear waste dump could meet EPA's terrible proposed radiation standard.

**THE NRC SHOULD NOT DOCKET DOE'S LICENSE APPLICATION TO BUILD A
NUCLEAR WASTE DUMP AT YUCCA MOUNTAIN.**