



# Hearings for Site Recommendation Consideration of the Yucca Mountain Site for Geologic Disposal of Spent Nuclear Fuel and High-Level Radioactive Waste

## Comment Sheet

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Name	<i>Frank Perna</i>				Organization	<i>WE THE PEOPLE</i>	OCT 17 2001
Street Address	<i>4398 Fernbrook Rd.</i>						
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**Comments:** (If possible, please reference section and/or page number in document if applicable.)

*Please refer to the September 5<sup>th</sup> meeting at the DOE operations center 232 Energy way, N.L.V. for my comments as speaker #31. also, to my comments at the Sept. 18<sup>th</sup> meeting Bldg 9C corrington, Summerlin in which I made public comment orally and written, also to the DOE meeting Oct. 10<sup>th</sup>, Rte 373 amargosa valley at the Longstreet Casino in which I made public comment orally and written.  
(I submitted 2 N.I. newspaper articles and a letter.)*

*I hope that my complaint to the DOE-IG case # I 02 RR 005 is given the consideration it deserves. The attempt to suppress my free speech 9/5, by 5 DOE employees, was ill considered since I explained to all who would listen, that my placard "DON'T DUMP ON US" was protected by the first amendment and a supreme court decision on non-verbal communication!*

*I've included a letter I sent to Senator Harry Reid dated 10/10/2001, that has direct relevance to this comment period. also, my letter to the Editor, to the Las Vegas Sun 10/01/2001 titled Why is the U.N. flag superior to ours? has direct relevance to the actions of 5 DOE employees on Sept. 5<sup>th</sup> 2001. Please refer to the DOE-IG case # I 02 RR 005 for which I have entered a FOIA request to abel Lopez, FOIA officer DOE-IG*

Please feel free to attach additional pages; more postage may be needed. If you prefer to mail your comments, you may use the back side of this sheet as a postage-paid, self-mailer. To do so, fold in thirds along the dotted line so address and postage-paid notice are visible, then secure with tape.

U.S. Senate  
Senator Frank Murkowski

Oct. 12, 2001

Dear Senator Murkowski,

552510

I have been a nevadon for ten years and have been involved in yucca mountain activism since then.

The Department of Energy, DOE Secretary Spencer Abraham, the 5 NRC Commissioners and NRC chairman Richard Meserve, the 48 member advisory board to President Bush, Congress and the President have all the scientific data that must, and does, eliminate yucca mountain as a nuclear repository.

The 1987 legislation was flawed in that it was a political NINBY bill that should have given the Department of Energy a dual mission. Investigate yucca mountain and investigate alternative to geological disposal. The reason Nevada was selected, as the only site, was based on our low population, aside from NINBY concerns, was the erroneous view that desert is dry and worthless and that yucca mountain had a stable environment that was like granite mountains.

Nevada in 1987, had approximately one sixth of the present population. We now have one and a half million population in the Las Vegas Valley. Prior to September 11<sup>th</sup> we had a visitor population of ninety thousand a day.

But, the population growth is also closer to Yucca Mountain; the Paiute Snow Mountain Reservation is 15-20 miles closer, Indian Springs is 30-35 miles closer, Beatty, Lathrop Wells, Amargosa Valley (where food is grown, animals raised and has a large dairy) is within 20 miles to Yucca Mountain.

Newer technologies; Gyro processing, transmutation, acceleration and improved dry cask storage on site must be considered as well as the refutation that geology will protect the environment, in the consideration of Yucca Mountain.

Water passes through Yucca Mountain containing corrosive brine and micro-organisms that will corrode titanium and stainless steel, even with drip shields, that

will corrode waste packages). If and when this corrosion extends to the lesser metals, in the tunnels, like aluminum, copper, sheet metal and steel the robotic system will be immobilized.

Nevada paid its dues, to American security, from 1951-1992 when over 900 nuclear devices were tested. Two hundred of these affected the water table. There now is a radiation plume moving toward the Amargosa Valley and into Death Valley. (Yesterday I attended a Seniors United Coalition where the nuclear industry spokesman said we do not need this water in the Las Vegas Valley.) Is this the consideration that will be given to further pollution from a nuclear repository?

Nevadans and citizens from other states downwind, suffered death, sickness and genetic damage which Congress and the DOE did not acknowledge for years. Only after legal action and activism was compensation granted to them.

Nuclear veterans had a longer wait for justice. Will congress and the DOE factor this deceit into their "scientific" decision on yucca mountain?

Two arguments to blunt activism against the nuclear repository are jobs and benefits and patriotism.

The persons uttering these cynical and hypocritical statements should be ashamed of themselves but vested interest and a corporate conscience distort their thinking.

The 1987 legislation failed also in not recognizing our states sovereignty and the rights of Nevadans for equal protection under the Constitution.

Please read again the American's creed, written by William Tyler Page in 1918, where he speaks of; "a sovereign nation of many sovereign states." Those who say state sovereignty was settled in the Civil War have forgotten it is alive and well today and was in 1918.

September 11<sup>th</sup> made the transportation of nuclear waste too much of a risk due to terrorism concerns. Both rail and truck transportation are not accident free and the human factor is its greatest weakness. The Baltimore tunnel and Wendover, Utah train wrecks both involved fire hot enough to breach a nuclear transportation cask and there are innumerable examples of truck accidents to consider. Just imagine the 30,000 terrorist targets presented by 6 truck convoys a day, for decades!

Nuclear waste has been stored in dry cask storage, on site, for 44 years. It can safely be stored there for 100 years. The Eleven billion dollar waste fund will provide ninety million dollars for the 106 plants, in 65 locations to make them safer and more secure. If all the waste were removed from those sites there still would be 106 attractive terrorist targets!

Please share this letter with the congress and then submit it to the Department of Energy prior to the Oct. 19<sup>th</sup> deadline for public comment.

My views are available in public comment, orally and written, and I wish that all citizens' views are factored into any decision. We do not attend meetings to vent our feelings but as a right and duty outlined in the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution.

Thank you in advance,

GC DOE COMMENT  
OFFICER, CAROL HANLON  
GOVERNOR ROBERT LIST 4398 Fernbrook Rd.  
Sincerely,  
Frank Perna  
Las Vegas, NV 89103  
702-362-0649

10/13/2001

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Las Vegas Review-Journal

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# Nellis to be the stage for Red Flag training

REVIEW-JOURNAL

The U.S. military deployment in the Middle East won't keep a combat training exercise in Southern Nevada from going forward today as planned.

Combat pilots from bases around the country will be at Nellis Air Force Base for its Red Flag training exercise.

"We're trying to go on with things as usual," said 2nd Lt. Carla Pampe, a base spokeswoman. "It's been scheduled for more than a year, and they didn't want to change it."

Red Flag provides realistic combat training exercises intended to give fighter pilots their first 10 combat missions, Pampe said.

Using live ammunition, pilots will employ various tactics to attack mock targets on the base's vast bombing and gunnery ranges in Southern Nevada. The simulated targets will include airfields, vehicle

convoy, tanks, grounded aircraft, bunkers and missile sites.

Most of the aircraft and personnel for the exercise form the "blue" forces, while electronically simulated surface-to-air missiles and anti-aircraft artillery, communications jamming forces constitute the "red" forces.

Foreign pilots have participated in past exercises, but today's exercise will include only U.S. pilots.

The exercises will be from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. and 7 p.m. until 10:30 p.m.

Officials said valley residents will notice an increase in aircraft operations while the exercise is going on.

"They'll just hear some increase in flying noise in the afternoon and evening," Pampe said. "We have four Red Flags a year. The people in the valley are quite used to it."

I am pleased to hear that foreign pilots have been excluded. I have been a critic of this program because it allows foreigners to study the American psyche, militarily also, as I warned against Yucca Mountain, as a terrorist risk.

Frank Penna

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**Las Vegas SUN**

Today: October 01, 2001 at 8:53:33 PDT

## Letter: Why is U.N. flag superior to ours?

I hate people who burn the American flag to make a political statement. I'm sure you do, too.

These linguistically and mentally challenged persons, who can't express themselves in free speech, are using the symbol of our freedoms, for which many have sacrificed their lives, to make a statement. The U.S. Supreme Court and the Senate have said their nonverbal communication is protected by the First Amendment as free speech.

The reason we hate them is because they are using the ultimate symbol of America to make their statement.

*why didn't the 5 DOE employees give me the same protection on 9/11/2001?*  
I have three questions: Why can the United Nations' flag fly on a higher plane than the American flag? Why is this approved under our flag etiquette? What is the statement when the United Nations' flag is superior to our flag?

**FRANK PERRA**362-0649[Return to the referring page.](#)[Las Vegas SUN main page](#)**Questions or problems? [Click here.](#)***All contents copyright 2001 Las Vegas SUN, Inc.**yucca mtn. site characterization office**Oct. 13, 2001**U.S. DOE  
Carol Hanlon**Dear Ms. Hanlon,*

*Please include this statement as part of the public comment on Yucca Mountain with the Oct. 12<sup>th</sup> letter to Senator Murkowski.*

*Thank you,  
Frank Perna**9*