



**Educational Directions**

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OCT 19 2001

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October 16, 2001

Ms. Carol Hanlon  
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Office of Civilian Radioactive Waste Management  
U S Department of Energy  
MS-025  
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Carol:

In response to the Yucca Mountain Issue

Having been involved in nuclear education since the mid 1950's as a teacher, lecturer, workshop host, presented at both national and international nuclear conferences, consultant on nuclear issues, chair of nuclear related committees and author of over 30 nuclear related publications including several supporting the Yucca Mountain project, journal pieces, single publications and news features. With this background I feel well qualified to speak to the Yucca Mountain approval matter.

The approval of the Yucca Mountain Project is vital to the continued supply of efficiently produced electrical energy in this nation. Without the approval of the deep geologic repository at Yucca Mountain there is the danger of several of the nuclear generating units being forced to shut down because of the lack of on site storage of the spent fuel. In addition, with the increased threat to our nation from outside elements, one scientifically designed storage facility, namely Yucca Mountain, would reduce the threat to the 100 plus units scattered throughout the nation where spent fuel is presently being stored

Unfortunately the Nevada political forces have spread untruths and distorted information not only to the population of Nevada but across the nation regarding the

safety of transporting highly radioactive nuclear materials and the storage of said material in Yucca Mountain. The enemy of Yucca has been the countless forces opposing the project including the U S Congress by not appropriating the total funds collected from the rate payers who receive electricity from nuclear power plants. These actions have greatly slowed the progress of this important project and such action must come to a stop.

It is my sincere hope that this important project, so vital to the well being our nation, receive prompt approval. Not only for the important contribution it will make for insuring clean and safely generated electricity but for reducing the potential for terrorist attacks.

As a 19 year resident of Las Vegas I urge the Secretary of Energy to approve the project and hope that the President and Congress will do the same.

Sincerely,



Richard G. Telfer