

Carol Hanlon
Yucca Mountain Site Characterization Office
U.S. Dept. of Energy
PO Box 30307
North Las Vegas, NV 89036-0307

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Dear Ms. Hanlon,

Don't you start to think that transporting nuclear (and other hazardous) waste around the country might be just a little unsafe given the state of the world vis-à-vis terrorists? I certainly do. When I hear about train loads of waste rolling through St. Louis, and coming from all over the country I have little doubt that this will pose a serious threat to my family's safety. Even without terrorism we manage to derail our trains, run our oil tankers aground, and have accidents on our highways where tank trucks could be involved. Shipping this stuff is potentially lethal, as anyone would agree. But we have to do something with it, you say. True, but the smartest thing would be to stop making more since we have NO GOOD solution for what to do with it.

To think that we can simply place it in the ground and that it won't be any trouble there is absurd. If there is one thing science has shown about the Earth, its that it is dynamic, always changing, and interconnected as an environment. The only reasonable course is to stop producing waste that we have no way of SAFELY dealing with. It is immoral for this generation to produce toxins from which future generations will suffer, and yet we continue to do so. I have to ask, are we indifferent to the damage that may be done to their quality of life, and even life itself? Or are we just in denial about the extent of the problem, the intractability of the problem, or the full price of our past folly?

To continue to send toxic and nuclear materials around the country, and across the world, trying to find someone poor enough or stupid enough to take them not only encourages terrorist attack but bespeaks the myopia so historically characteristic of "great powers." To gather the country's high-level waste at one above-ground location at Yucca Mountain, while we wait for the construction of a deep geologic repository, is a bad idea and will always be a bad idea. Don't let Yucca Mountain go down in history with the likes of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, Pearl Harbor, and the World Trade Center.

Stephen Sherblom Ed.D.
1808 Lafayette Ave.
St. Louis, MO 63104

