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Date: 2/22/00 11:55AM
Subject: Fwd: National Park Service's Yucca Mtn EIS Comments

Attached are written comments prepared by the National Park Service (NPS) on the Draft EIS for Yucca Mt. repository, that were sent to me by Dick Anderson, the Superintendent of Death Valley National Park. (NPS manages Death Valley National Park.) Much of NPS' comments either corroborate or supplement the comments we provided on the DEIS. For example, the NPS found the DEIS to be deficient in its analysis of potential impacts, particularly impacts on water resources and transportation impacts in the Death Valley National Park. NPS notes that DOE may have potentially underestimated potential volcanic and seismic hazards at the proposed site (p. 6). They further note the need for additional studies before DOE can assess the effects of the earthquake hazard on the proposed repository. NPS is concerned what this deficiency might mean for the assessment of potential risks for the release of radionuclides into the regional groundwater flow system underlying the proposed repository and potential impacts to down-gradient springs in Death Valley National Park. On page 14 of their comments, NPS states their "objection to the transportation of nuclear waste materials in and near the boundaries of its management units."

I've also attached California's final comments on the DEIS and Commissioner Laurie's testimony, based on these written comments, for today's public hearing in San Bernardino. A hard copy of the latter two documents have been mailed to you.

If you have any questions, please phone me at 916-654-4976.

Barbara Byron