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May 2, 1997

Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Washington, DC 20555-0001

Attention: Shirley Ann Jackson, Chairman

Dear Ms. Jackson,

I have come across your letter of March 27, 1997 addressed to the Honorable Jerry Lewis, Congressman from the 40th District in California. Your letter is in response to a request to amend the Low Level Radioactive Waste Policy Act.

It is a great disappointment that the Chair of the NRC does not realize that every radioactive waste dump in the US has leaked, whether the facility is located in desert regions, such as Hanford or Beatty, or in the East. To then recommend that another dump of similar design be constructed at Ward Valley is not defensible.

Most people in California, based on statewide polling, recognize that a shallow land burial type dump will leak. The emperor has no clothes. The failed design concept of shallow land burial must be abandoned if the NRC is to retain credibility in the public mind.

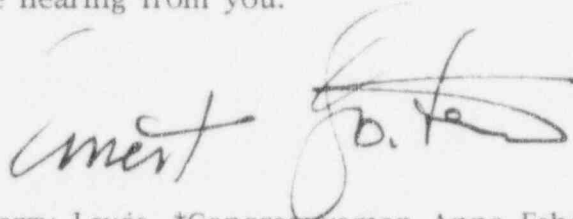
Aside from public opinion, the whole definition of "low level" is misleading because the presence of all isotopes is permitted. The only restriction is based on concentration. It is self evident that the hazards are greater than 100 years. In fact many isotopes are hazardous for 100,000's of years even though they are considered "Low Level".

It is time for the NRC to accept the obvious. Even highly placed officials within the NRC have voiced privately the need to change.

Having worked in the nuclear industry as project engineer for several nuclear power plants, it is disheartening to see the NRC refusing to recognize overwhelming evidence of a failed design and a flawed characterization of radioactive waste.

I urge you to reconsider the thoughtful design concepts and suggestions approved unanimously by the San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors. I would appreciate hearing from you.

Cordially,



cc Congressman Jerry Lewis, \*Congresswoman Anna Eshoo  
Senator Feinstein, Senator Boxer  
San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors