

The Nevada Nuclear Waste Task Force
The Tennessee Chapter of the Sierra Club
The Toiyabe Chapter of the Sierra Club

June 14, 2013

Dear Governor Sandoval:

The Nevada Nuclear Waste Task Force, the Toiyabe Chapter of the Sierra Club and the Tennessee Chapter of the Sierra Club are writing to express our strong opposition to the Department of Energy's (DOE) proposed shipments of Uranium 233 from Oak Ridge, TN to the Nevada National Security Site (NNSS).

Our organizations have worked for most of the last thirty years to defeat the Yucca Mountain project. We appreciated and supported your important work in opposition to DOE's proposed Yucca Mountain repository as our Attorney General and now as Governor. We know that the efforts you have made and continue to make in the final defeat of that project will be appreciated by the people of Nevada for years to come.

We now face a new threat from the DOE. In an effort to save money at Oak Ridge, they propose to impose a risk to people along transport routes and in Nevada by moving very dangerous material. And the money saved would be minuscule compared to the cost of any accident that might occur during the transfer.

The U233 material has components that are highly radioactive and also useable for weapons. When we asked the DOE at a recent meeting why this was considered low-level waste, the answer was, "because it is not high-level." That answer clearly shows that DOE has no qualms about subjecting the public to risks stemming from a waste classification system that is technically unsound.

The proposed and planned destination for the U233 is a trench in Area 5 at the NNSN. Other countries dealing with this sort of nuclear waste would require it to be placed in carefully monitored storage until it can be disposed of in a repository. For Nevada to accept this waste and allow it to be disposed in a trench sets a terrible precedent and makes us vulnerable to future nuclear waste risks.

Material now at NNSS that poses the sorts of dangers associated with U233 is being stored at the device assembly facility (DAF) which has the sort of security required.

Again, we adamantly oppose the shipment and transfer of this material to NNSS and ask that you take all of the necessary steps to stop the proposed plan.

Sincerely yours,

The Nevada Nuclear Waste Task Force
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cc:

Nevada Attorney General
Senator Harry Reid
Senator Dean Heller
Representative Dina Titus
Representative Joe Heck
Representative Mark Amodei
Representative Steven Horsford
Senator Richard Bryan