



Citizen Alert

Summer 2004

BOARD PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Ross Miller

We've won! It's hard to believe – at last, after almost 29 years, we have a decisive ruling on nuclear waste storage in Yucca Mountain based on science, not politics. The U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit said the Energy Policy Act passed by Congress in 1987 requires that the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) determine public health and safety standards for Yucca Mountain “based upon and consistent with” the National Academies of Science recommendations. We are proud that Citizen Alert was one of the plaintiff's in the lawsuit. (See our website for a link to the final decision.)

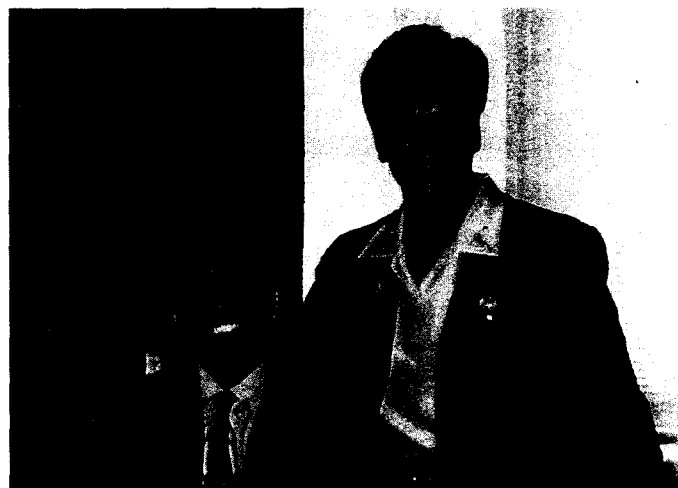
As a native Nevadan, over the years I've been following news of the Yucca Mountain Project with alarm and concern. I was honored when I was approached to serve on the Citizen Alert Board of Directors, even more so when the Board elected me President. Being associated with Citizen Alert, known throughout the state for its leadership to prevent our state from becoming the nation's nuclear waste dumping ground, meant I could be positively involved. This is especially true now. The Court's ruling gives us time to do what we do best—**alert the citizens!**

In fact, it's one of those serendipitous coincidences that we are launching our statewide “Back to Our Routes” Tour in September. The point of the tour is to educate people about Yucca Mountain and water issues and to give them tools for being agents of change. We'll also be asking for feedback. Citizen Alert wants to know what environmental concerns people have and how we can help.

We invite you to attend any of the meetings you can get to and to get the word out to your friends and neighbors. The itinerary is on page 6. On page 7 you will find “Buy Into the Future” described. We want to let people know how they can invest in what may be one of our most important projects ever.

As we look ahead, in addition to our ongoing mission of alerting Nevadans to the threats posed by transporting and warehousing nuclear waste in Yucca

(continued on page 6)



A Winner!—Congresswoman Shelley Berkley congratulated Citizen Alert Essay Contest Winner, Uptin Saidii, when he called on her during DC Days this spring. DC Days is sponsored by the Alliance for Nuclear Accountability (ANA), a network of 32 grassroots organizations working together to address the consequences of using nuclear products in both military and commercial applications. Every spring, the ANA brings together people from around the United States to Washington, D.C., for education, training, and meetings with lawmakers. See “Students Weigh In,” page 9.

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Since 1975, A Voice for the Land and People of Nevada

EXHIBIT D HLRW

Document consists of 12 pages

<http://www.citizenalert.org>

Due to size limitations, pages _____ through _____ provided.
A copy of the complete document is available through the Research Library
(775-684-6827 or e-mail library@lcb.state.nv.us)

Meeting Date 8/31

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From the Executive Director:

I know it's been a long time since you've heard from us. Our apologies. It has been a frustrating time, a busy time and with our recent success in court—an exhilarating time! The frustration stems from not having the dollars to communicate with you (the post office insists that we pay) or to meet our monthly obligations. But we believe our legal success regarding Yucca Mountain will start the "money ball" rolling. Things will be different now with the July 10 federal appeals court ruling that the Environmental Protection Agency's 10,000 year standard was inadequate and failed to follow the National Academy of Science 300,000 year peak radiation standard. This means all work done on Yucca Mountain is inadequate—it only meets the lower standard.

Before this ruling, some funders have been reluctant to support us thinking, since Congress handed this Administration a legislative victory, Yucca Mountain must be a sure thing. But the legal ruling proves what we've been saying all along—**Yucca Mountain is not a done deal.**

In spite of everything, we've been able to get through this difficult period thanks to our Citizen Alert staff, willing to hang in with us even though none of us have received a paycheck for many months. They are spectacular—John Hadder in our Reno office has been steadfast; Nancy Haworth Scott our half-time Development Director, who puts in many more hours than she is paid for; and Hal Nelson our volunteer Field Director who has been working a three-quarter time schedule. In fact, we don't know what we'd do without our volunteers, who we'll be talking about in a separate story.

A busy time? Yes, indeed. Where do I begin? First and foremost, we are working with foundations and our Board of Directors to put our financial future on a more stable footing. We continue to have good links to many foundations and much of our work has involved writing grants and researching new opportunities.

As we must at all times, we have been attending critical technical meetings including the National Academy of Sciences Transportation hearings; the Nuclear Waste Technical Review Board meetings; the Bureau of Land Management Scoping meetings for the land withdrawal plan for the proposed Caliente, Nevada, rail line; as well as the Department of Energy scoping "open houses," also dealing with the Caliente rail line. Then, recently, we met with staff from the Nuclear Regulatory Commission Inspector General's Office in our Las Vegas offices.

To keep current with the issues, we take part in Alliance for Nuclear Accountability (ANA) meetings (particularly important as I serve on their board); the DC Days events and training sponsored by ANA; plus Institute for Energy and Environmental Research trainings.

So that Citizen Alert maintains a strong voice on Yucca Mountain and environmental issues, we work diligently to maintain a good rapport with the press locally and across the nation, both informally and through press releases and media advisories. The result has been

a phenomenal amount of coverage. One success leads to another. Recently I was invited to be a guest on KNPR on Gwen Calstaldi's "State of Nevada" for a discussion of the Yucca Mountain repository after the recent court decision. Another invitation came from AlterNet, an Internet news magazine. They asked us to submit stories on Yucca Mountain and on Nevada's drought. You can read them both on the Nevada page at www.alternet.org.

Add to this busy schedule, work to complete our "Groundwater Contamination Report." It calls into question the location of groundwater sampling sites set up to detect if radionuclides have migrated into the water table from the Nevada Test Site. It has received wide press coverage. We also published a condensed version of the Report for use as a handout at community events.

We continue to have a strong presence in the community by attending meetings, networking and, of course, by keeping everyone informed of Citizen Alert's advocacy role on behalf of Nevada's environmental well-being.

I'll conclude by talking about our most ambitious project to date—"Back to Our Routes"—our plans for a fall whirlwind tour of the State. We call it "Back to Our Routes" in honor of the groundbreaking 1975 Nevada tour by Katherine Hale and Susan Orr. That year they journeyed across the state to warn people about the impending Atomic Energy Commission's proposal to make Nevada the future home of nuclear waste. We continue their work to this day. In this tour, we are scheduling Town Hall meetings in 25 cities over a period of 60 days.

On page 7 of the Newsletter, we describe "Back to Our Routes," including our "Buy Into the Future" appeal that details the kind of help we'll need to make this a successful tour.

Climb aboard! Join us in "Back to Our Routes," as we continue Citizen Alert's mission to provide Nevadans with education and advocacy tools so they are empowered to speak up on environmental policy and bring about environmental justice. Working together we can all be agents of constructive change.

A Heartfelt Thank You

To all of you who have donated to Citizen Alert—you have our most profound gratitude. It has been our individual donors who have kept our organization going. Due to a number of factors—lack of staff and funding, especially—we were not always able to send out individual letters thanking each of you for donations. Please forgive us this lapse. Every donation was greatly appreciated. All went to our ongoing programs to educate, inform, and advocate on environmental matters, particularly the Yucca Mountain Project, water issues, and the wise use of energy resources.

*Most sincerely,
Peggy Maze Johnson*

The Last Two Hours: Transporting Nuclear Waste

The Following is the testimony presented by Jennifer Viereck to the National Academy of Sciences Radioactive Waste Transportation Study hearing held in Las Vegas, NV, July 18, 2003.

Hello. My name is Jennifer Viereck, and I provide children's and family programs at a small Family Resource Center in southeastern Inyo County, California. Inyo lies about 17 miles from Yucca Mt., and five miles from its groundwater monitoring perimeter. As I have listened to the proceedings today, I have given a lot of thought to what I might speak to you about, what knowledge I might have that would be most useful to this panel. I have decided to offer you a vignette of one small section of the routes you are gathered to study, what might well be the last two hours of any nuclear waste cask's journey to Yucca Mt. from around the United States.

You have not seen my community on any maps displayed here today. It is that blank area just below the Nevada border, usually used for a pullout map of the Repository site or of Las Vegas. I probably live considerably closer to Yucca Mt. than any person in this room. According to the DOE, our area will eventually become uninhabitable. The only question is how many generations of grandchildren we may have before then, and what defects and diseases will signify the end. All water and most wind from the portion of the Nevada Test Site that includes Yucca Mt. flows to the south, to California. We have already been exposed to bomb fallout since 1951. As it is very hot, we drink much more than the liter a day used to calculate safe drinking water exposures. Timbisha Shoshone and other families are multi-generational, leading to cumulative exposures that will be passed on genetically.

Following that path south from Yucca Mt. is CA State Route 127, basically a narrow paved-over wagon trail, with unbanked corners and one very steep grade. You could fit the entire road, and the businesses and homes along each side, within the width of this conference room. Ours is a rural area, without sidewalks. Our schools, stores, cafes and homes sit within feet of the highway. Our exposures are higher than calculated, because of this proximity. We have one California Highway Patrol officer who covers all 1250 square miles, and two Deputy Sheriffs who are not always on duty at the same time. Our volunteer rescue team consists of the local postmistress, her retired husband, the town mechanic, and several other individuals. This is our front line of defense.

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The flooded Amargosa and Route 127, August, 1984. Note the tiny car on the right side, just below the mountains.

Along that narrow desert road travel many of the 1.4 million tourists visiting Death Valley each year from all over the world, frequently driving unfamiliar rentals and oversized camping vehicles. Also using the road are most of the 30-50 weekly trucks carrying toxic waste to the hazardous dump in Beatty, NV, which, due to mischaracterized waste in the past, already has its own plutonium groundwater plume. We lose these trucks periodically on the sharp corner north of Shoshone.

Low-level nuclear waste that has been successfully routed away from Las Vegas also shares this road, averaging 14 trucks a week last time I checked. Until July 11th, all 1600 barrels of transuranic weapons waste now at the Nevada Test Site were

scheduled for trucking to the WIPP site in New Mexico down Route 127, starting this month. Also, plutonium pits, or bomb triggers, now at the Los Alamos Lab in New Mexico were scheduled to move up 127 to the Test Site until recently, as well. These are political decisions, and they could change at any time.

Crossing back and forth under Route 127 thirteen times between Nevada and Baker, CA, is the Amargosa River, third largest in the western US. As this river flows primarily underground until flash floods occur, the danger of sudden road washouts and cave-ins is very great. Many non-desert dwellers do not understand that while we may only get 4 inches of rain a year, we can get it all in an hour. Flowing through sedimentary sand and gravel, this river changes channels often, and rapidly. I have fallen into caverns like subway tunnels in the China Ranch area. In the last 25 years, flash floods have led to at least one vehicle rollover and drowning, road closures for up to two weeks, requiring air deliveries of dry ice and food, and canoe and boat races between the towns of Shoshone and Tecopa, usually ten dry miles apart.

(Continued on Page 4)

The Last Two Hours . . .

(continued from page 3)

I have documented severe incidents in 1943, 1978, 1982, 1983, 1984 and 1993, when the bridge behind the Tecopa Post Office washed away. The 1984 incident is still referred to as the **Third Annual Hundred Year Flood**. USGS studies of floods in the Test Site and Yucca Mt. area in 1995 and 1998 document piles of debris from the nuclear bomb range along highway 95, which you drove past yesterday. These waters could rapidly move entire trucks, let alone radioactive particles.

In closing, I encourage you to speak with local people wherever you go, as you do your research around the country. Rural people know their land, and they are often the only ones who do. You will not find the information I have shared with you in any database, newspaper archive, or website other than my own. I have shown you only 150 miles of the nation's nuclear waste transportation routes, but they could be highly significant ones- subjected to a majority of high-level shipments, in addition to their already existing radioactive burden.

I will separately submit a copy of the "Peoples' Nuclear Waste Policy," a collaborative effort of residents and experts from both nuclear reactor and proposed high-level dump communities seeking a viable solution to the nation's nuclear waste burden. More information can be found at <http://www.h-o-m-e.org/forum>. Thank you for your time and attention.

The Citizen Alert Newsletter

is produced by the

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Volunteers of Citizen Alert

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Election 2004

A TALE OF TWO PLATFORMS

Democrats

The 2004 Platform of the Nevada State Democratic Party: "The Democratic Party **opposes** the establishment of a high-level nuclear waste dump at Yucca Mountain, Nevada, and opposes any attempt to negotiate for benefits in exchange for state acquiescence in the Federal Government's attempt to study or to develop a repository at Yucca Mountain [and] **opposes** the transportation of high-level nuclear waste to Yucca Mountain in Nevada and opposes Nevada being singled out as the nation's high-level nuclear waste dump."

Republicans

Citizen Alert made many attempts to have the exact wording of the Republican Party Platform on Yucca Mountain. At the time of this newsletter, we had not received a reply from the Nevada Republican Party. Our research indicates two planks had been approved at the Nevada Republican Convention—one in **support** of sound science in determining if the Yucca Mountain Project were safe **versus** a second platform stating that the state of Nevada should **negotiate** for benefits to the communities affected by the project.

LET YOUR VOICE BE HEARD!!!!

Being an effective advocate is an important skill citizens need to be able to have a voice in civic life.

Peggy Maze Johnson,

with over 30 years in public service, including serving as a Legislative Assistant for a

member of Congress, will be offering

Advocacy Workshops.

Learn how to **speak up** effectively!

Workshops will be offered on a regular basis in Las Vegas and Reno or

by special arrangements for groups of 15 to 20 people. Call us in Las Vegas at 702.796.5662 for information.

Sacrifice Zones

By Louis Benezet

The selection of Yucca Mountain as the site for the high-level nuclear waste repository, and the recent selection of transportation alternatives via Caliente are examples of the same process. When risks are allocated, the less populated and less politically represented communities are targeted. The State of Nevada, Lincoln County and cities like Caliente are all examples of "sacrifice zones."

This sacrifice zone role is not new to Nevada, and particularly not to Lincoln County. Especially the latter, where its communities lying down wind from The Nevada Test Site were sacrificed to the objectives of the atomic bomb testing program.

According to surveys, a majority of Lincoln County residents oppose Yucca Mountain. When the subject comes up, local opponents will talk about the many cancer deaths they believe were the result of atomic blast fallout. The idea of being "nuked again" fills some with anger and determination.

Still it's easy to be overcome by a sense of powerlessness. Indeed this is the essence of being a sacrifice zone. We now know during above ground atomic bomb testing military personnel and rural residents became human guinea pigs in experiments to determine how much radiation people can tolerate. At that time, a campaign of secrecy and misinformation shielded government agencies run amuck. But with the Nuclear Waste Act of 1982 we were told things would be different. The public would be informed and allowed to participate in decision-making. Science would identify the best repository sites, but the states would be treated fairly and equitably. DOE would study sites in six states for a first repository. Seventeen other, mostly eastern, states were to be considered for a second repository. But, all hopes we would be treated fairly vanished with the 1987 "Screw Nevada" amendments to the Act—no second repository to be considered—only Yucca Mountain would be studied. Although the Act still gave Nevada's governor the right to veto the Yucca Mountain selection, the absence of alternatives in the amendments made congressional override of the veto a foregone conclusion.

Meanwhile, a group of Lincoln County and Caliente officials have tried to capitalize on rather than resist the role of "sacrifice zone." They have sought to pursue economic development by attracting industries or government facilities that no other communities want. In 1987, in a preview of pro-Yucca strategy to come, Kevin Phillips, then head of the county Economic Development Task Force, backed two hazardous waste incinerator proposals. While these projects failed to win state permits, he and others in his group were able to persuade the legislature to adopt a resolution declaring that, "because of its sparse population and remote location, Lincoln County is ideally suited for hazardous waste facilities." Phillips, now in his third term as Caliente's mayor, has

for over a decade headed the DOE-funded Lincoln County Nuclear Waste Oversight Program. With a budget of \$600,000 a year and the tacit support of a majority of the County Commissioners, Phillips has run this program as another economic development agency. While other communities were adopting "nuclear-free zone" ordinances, Lincoln County and Caliente officials actively campaigned for local high-level waste routes and transportation and storage facilities. These they hoped would bring not only jobs but also benefit payments to the host community. The success of this lobbying effort is shown by the focus on Caliente in recent drafts of the House energy bill and the DOE routing announcement.

Given the level of controversy about Yucca Mountain, Mayor Phillips and his supporters on the County Commission have tried to avoid confronting locals with their pro-dump position. Phillips, will speak of the need for jobs, but always in the context of "whether you like it or not its coming; Yucca Mountain is inevitable and nuclear waste will be transported through Lincoln County." Coming from any Nevadan the phrase "its inevitable" identifies someone who supports Yucca Mountain for economic reasons but won't say so outright.

This puts Mayor Phillips in some difficulty. On the one hand he must assure locals that high-level waste transportation is as safe as it is inevitable. That is to say: accepting transportation facilities, whether a rail spur or an "intermodal" rail to truck depot, involves no real risk to Caliente. On the other hand, he must convince Congress and the DOE that the circuitous route via Caliente is needed to protect Las Vegas from these shipments. But also that, in addition to economic development funds, Caliente deserves financial compensation in the form of benefits payments for volunteering to serve as a sacrifice zone. It is interesting to see how much work is needed to ensure an inevitable outcome.

The inevitability of Yucca Mountain, along with the need for Nevada to start negotiating for benefits, is the same line the Nuclear Energy Institute (the nuclear industry lobby organization) has been trying to sell Nevadans for years. And, in 1998, Mayor Phillips selected NEI consultant and former DOE public relations flak "Ace" Robison to represent the County Nuclear Waste Program in dealings with DOE and Congress. Since then most of the county program work was shifted from the county office to the Henderson office of his firm, Robison/Seidler. Local staff was reduced from six to only one employee. So much for DOE funded jobs.

While it's a tall order to have to take on our own officials in addition to the federal government, Yucca opponents here have not given up. Caliente native Marge Detraz says, "Yucca Mountain will never be licensed." Marge is convinced that if Lincoln County joins the rest of the state in refusing the role of "sacrifice zone," Yucca is no done deal.

So, as long as Nevada opposes Yucca Mountain, Lincoln County and Caliente must support our governor and congressional delegation in this fight.

Louis Benezet is a long-time member of Citizen Alert's Board of Directors and resides in Pioche, Nevada.

Meet Hal Nelson, Field Director

Last year, my wife and I were basking in the last glow of a typically short summer in the Pacific Northwest, knowing that once again we faced months upon months of sunless skies, chilly temperatures and the incessant rain that arrives each fall on the Washington coast.

"Aren't you getting tired of this weather after 30 years?" I asked. "So you're finally ready to get out of here!" she answered.

We jumped on the Internet and surfed for a spot with little rain, lots of sun and, affordable housing. Our search took us to the growing community of Pahrump, Nevada. We couldn't pronounce the town's name, but we felt we were ready for the desert experience.

It was only after we had settled into our new house that I discovered we had located ourselves a mere 60 miles south of Yucca Mountain, a site sacred to the Western Shoshone and Southern Paiute tribes who once flourished in the area but apparently not very sacred to the U.S. government. Yucca Mountain was to become the dumping ground for all the high-level radioactive waste produced by nuclear reactors and nuclear weapons facilities throughout the country, a fact known to all Nevadans but little reported elsewhere.

It was too late to escape, so I decided to fight. I got back on the Internet, googled "anti-nuclear groups" and quickly found Citizen Alert, the Nevada-based grassroots organization that has been fighting the repository for the past 29 years. And to my utter amazement, staring out at me was a photo of Executive Director Peggy Maze Johnson, a comrade-in-arms from the social-justice wars in Seattle 30 years ago.

My own career as a citizen activist started when I dropped out of college to open Seattle's first food bank. Boeing had just laid off 35,000 workers. Before long I was organizing unemployed workers and welfare mothers into a political force. These experiences were a good grounding for non-profit work and, over the years, I have launched several grassroots organizations. Before we came to Nevada, I had directed a medical transportation program for low-income seniors in Olympia, Washington.

After learning from Peggy about Citizen Alert's work, I couldn't help but get involved. I am now the new Field Director for Citizen Alert. I'm proud to join with the courageous down winders and anti-nuclear activists in Nevada who have fought the Yucca Mountain Project these many long years.

I've only just started, but wherever I go, I hear people's concerns. I have a special sympathy for people living in Nevada's rural communities. I grew up on a farm and, on two occasions, have taken leave from non-profit work and gone back to farming and raising pigs.

I've encountered many people who, while totally opposed to Nevada becoming the nation's nuclear waste dump, are convinced it's inevitable. They cite the billions of dollars already spent on the project, Nevada's lack of political clout, and the expensive propaganda effort by DOE and its prime contractor, the Bechtel Corporation, to convince us that 77,000 tons of high-level radioactive waste can be

continued from page 1

Mountain, we must alert the **50 million people nationwide** who are living within one-half mile from the proposed routes. We now have time to make sure people know "the rest of the story." ▲

Ross Miller was born and raised in Las Vegas. He is the son of two second-generation Nevadans, Sandy and Bob Miller. Ross observed firsthand the importance of the Yucca Mountain struggle when his father, Nevada's Governor from 1989 to 1999, led efforts to combat the Nuclear Waste Repository.

Presently Ross serves as a Deputy District Attorney in Clark County, Nevada. He is a 1999 Stanford University graduate and obtained both a J.D. and an M.B.A. from Loyola Marymount University in only three years, the first to do so in the school's history.

AT LMU, Ross met his future wife, Lesley Baumann. The two were wed on June 4, 2004. Lesley is an associate attorney for Thorndal, Armstrong and Delk, a Nevada law firm based in Las Vegas.

"BACK TO OUR ROUTES" TOUR ITINERARY

Monday	Sept. 6	Rachel
Tuesday	Sept. 14	Overton & Logandale
Wednesday	Sept. 15	Mesquite
Thursday	Sept. 16	Boulder City
Friday	Sept. 17	Laughlin
Tuesday	Sept. 28	Caliente, Pioche & Panaca
Tuesday	Oct. 5	Carson City
Wednesday	Oct. 6	Fallon
Thursday	Oct. 7	Austin
Friday	Oct. 8	Eureka
Saturday	Oct. 9	Ely
Sunday	Oct. 10	West Wendover & Wells
Monday	Oct. 11	Elko
Tuesday	Oct. 12	Battle Mountain
Wednesday	Oct. 13	Winnemucca
Thursday	Oct. 14	Fernley
Friday	Oct. 15	Reno
Tuesday	Oct. 19	Tonopah
Wednesday	Oct. 20	Beatty
Thursday	Oct. 21	Pahrump
Friday	Oct. 22	Las Vegas

Check our website for updates and changes!

safely transported and stored in the bowels of Yucca Mountain for generations to come.

But this radioactive time-bomb is not inevitable. The Yucca Mountain Project was dealt a blow July 9 when a panel of federal judges ruled in a lawsuit Citizen Alert was a party to that the EPA standard for safely containing the high-level waste for 10,000 years was inadequate. This is sure proof that **Yucca Ain't a Done Deal Yet!**

On Labor Day, Citizen Alert will be kicking off "Back To Our Routes," described on the following page. Citizens throughout Nevada will have the opportunity to send a loud and clear message to their elected representatives that we will not sacrifice our families and future generations to a radioactive wasteland. ▲

"Back to Our Routes" Takes to the Road in September

In the summer of 1975, two intrepid pioneer women, Susan Orr and Katherine Hale, left their homes in the Truckee Meadows to journey far and wide across Nevada to warn citizen abouts the perils of nuclear waste. They had just heard that the Atomic Energy Commission had selected the Nevada Test Site as a dumping ground for America's high-level nuclear waste and they were convinced that an informed citizenry would rise up and fight this dangerous proposal.

They were right. By the end of the summer, more than 350 people had volunteered their help and Citizen Alert was born. In the intervening years, Citizen Alert has mobilized Nevadans every step of the way to stop the government from turning our state into a nuclear wasteland of contaminated air, water and land. Yes, the Department of Energy, after spending billions of dollars, has succeeded in digging a tunnel into Yucca Mountain. But they don't yet have a license to transport and store high-level nuclear waste there and if we, the people, stay united in our opposition, that license will never be granted by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

You'll know we're in town when you see the mock nuclear waste transportation cask mounted on a 20' trailer.

In the spirit of Susan Orr and Katherine Hale's pioneering tour nearly 30 years ago, Citizen Alert is preparing to go "Back to Our Routes" by going on the road to 25 cities and towns throughout Nevada during September and October to hold town hall meetings and reawaken citizen opposition to the Yucca Mountain Project. Our tour will serve a three-fold purpose: to provide Nevadans with up-to-date information and materials they can use to contest the nuclear waste repository; to recruit people to serve on the Citizen Alert Advisory Board; and to significantly increase our membership, volunteer base, and donors.

At our Town Hall meetings we'll talk about the health risks resulting from exposure to radioactive toxins, the decline in available health services, nuclear waste transportation dangers, economic factors, environmental consequences, and the impact on water quality and supply. People attending our events will learn how to become more involved and how to influence their elected officials and the media.

You'll know we're in town when you see the mock nuclear waste transportation cask mounted on a 20' trailer. Dates and towns are listed on the opposite page. Don't forget to check the CA website at www.citizenalert.org for any last minute changes in schedules or additional details. Also, be reading, watching or listening to your local media.

We'll be kicking off our tour on Monday, Sept. 6 in the small town of Rachel at the Little A'Le'Inn Restaurant, in Rachel, population 70, not including aliens. It's located on State Highway 375, adjacent to the Nevada Test Site and the world famous Area 51. Go to www.dreamlandresort.com for directions.

Buy Into the Future

**Your \$\$\$\$ Can Help Make
"Back to Our Routes" a Great Success!**

▲ Between **Sept. 6 and Oct. 22**, Citizen Alert will be holding **Town Hall Meetings** for major discussions on Yucca Mountain and Nevada's environmental future.

▲ This is a major underaking to reawaken citizen **opposition to the Yucca Mountain Nuclear Waste Dump** and to give Nevadans the ammunition to fight for a safe future for their families and for future generations.

▲ We'll visit **25 communities** across the length and breadth of the State.

▲ We'll cover **2,500 miles**.

▲ Our expenses include **truck rental costs** (for a 3/4 ton pickup) used for hauling our signature **"mock" nuclear waste cask**, and for the team's **food, gas and lodging** expenses.

▲ It will cost Citizen Alert **\$10,000** to conduct **"Back to Our Routes"**

▲ This equals **\$4 per mile** for a major drive to stop nuclear waste from coming to Nevada.

▲ Here's the number of miles your \$\$\$ will buy ...

\$20	buys	5 miles
\$40	buys	10 miles
\$100	buys	25 miles
\$200	buys	50 miles
\$400	buys	100 miles
\$1,000	buys	250 miles

Just think! The Department of Energy wants to spend billions of your tax dollars to ship nuclear waste from all over the nation to Nevada.

If your can't afford a cash donation, maybe you could provide accommodations for up to four crew members when "Back to Our Routes" arrives in your community
(See Itinerary, opposite page)

If you can help, call 702-796-5663

Peace Cranes Project— Northern Nevadans deliver message to elected officials

By John Hadder

Citizen Alert and the Reno Anti-War Coalition teamed up in the fall of 2003 to fold 5,000 origami "Peace Cranes" to commemorate Martin Luther King birthday events in 2004. These paper Peace Cranes are an international symbol for nuclear disarmament and world peace. Our goal was to complete 1,000 for each member of Nevada's congressional delegation. Organizers wanted to send a tangible message to our elected representatives in Congress that we want to see an end to nuclear weapons development, which continue to erode efforts to foster world peace. We chose August 9, 2003, the 58 year anniversary of the nuclear weapon bombing of Nagasaki, to commence our project.

Over the following five months leading up to January 15, hundreds of people mobilized to make peace cranes from across the Truckee Meadows, in Carson City, and in Gardnerville. We used traditional origami paper, magazine ads—even ROTC recruitment flyers in the tradition of swords to plowshares. In accordance with the Japanese legend, with each thousand cranes we sent the wish for Nuclear Disarmament and World Peace, so no child ever again suffers from war.

People wishing to see the Peace Cranes panels will find them on display in Senator Reid's Reno office.

On January 15, 2004, Citizen Alert and the Reno Anti-War Coalition, on behalf of Northern Nevadans, held a press conference to present the folded peace cranes to Senators Harry Reid and John Ensign and Representative Jim Gibbons. We were honored to have a representative from Senator Reid's office as well as many other members of the community in attendance. The folded cranes looked quite impressive, mounted on two-panel wooden frames, each with 1,000 cranes strung across in vertical lines. After the conference, we delivered the panels to the offices of Senators Reid and Ensign and Representative Gibbons. We also provided a plaque requesting the cranes be displayed as an artistic reminder to work for peace and justice at home and abroad.

People wishing to see the Peace Cranes panels will find them on display in Senator Reid's Reno office as well as a smaller version in Senator Ensign's office. Plans are underway to also present Representatives Shelly Berkley and Jon Porter with peace crane panels soon for display in their offices.

John Hadder is Citizen Alert's Northern Nevada Coordinator and also teaches chemistry at the University of Nevada, Reno. John is also a theatre enthusiast and he will be appearing in the Nevada Shakespeare Company's fall production of "Julius Ceaser."

Sadako and the Peace Cranes

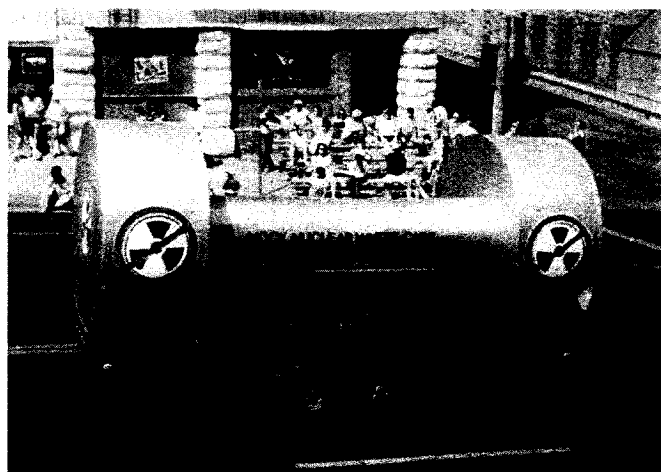
On August 6th, 1945, two-year-old Sadako Sasaki and her family were exposed to radiation when the atom bomb fell on Hiroshima. Although the bomb did not kill the Sasaki family that day, they were to feel its effects later. Sadako grew up seemingly strong and healthy. She became a swift runner, the fastest on her school relay team.



On a fateful day when she was 12, she felt dizzy and strange. Weeks later she collapsed while running. After 10 years, the bomb had caught up with her—Sadako had leukemia, known then as "the atom bomb disease."

A good friend of Sadako's reminded her of the Japanese legend that if she folded a thousand paper cranes, the gods might grant her wish to be well again. She was only able to complete 644 cranes before she died. But her effort inspired her classmates to finish her thousand cranes. They went on to raise money from school children all over the world to build a statue to honor Sadako. Her spirit is forever captured in a statue that stands in Hiroshima's Peace Park on top of a granite pedestal. It shows Sadako holding a golden crane in her outstretched arms with a plaque that reads: "This is our cry, this is our prayer, peace in the world."

Citizen Alert's Mock Waste Cask



Citizens Be Forewarned—Our mock waste cask will be traveling the state in September and October for our "Back to Our Routes" tour. It's a reminder to people that if nuclear wastes are shipped to Yucca Mountain, deadly nuclear wastes will travel everywhere in our state and in our nation. And should an accident occur for any reason, millions of people in hundreds of communities are potentially at risk.

News From the North

Students Weigh In On Nuclear Issues

By John Hadder

For a second year, Citizen Alert sponsored the Yucca Mountain Perspectives Essay Contest and the Discover the Beauty Within Art Contest. The two top Essay Contest winners participated in DC Days, four days of training, education and political advocacy. DC Days is sponsored by the Alliance for Nuclear Accountability (ANA), a network of over 30 grassroots and national organizations working to protect human health and the environment from the countless problems resulting from production of all things nuclear.

Our winning essayists, Uptin Saidii and Brittainy Kelly, had a great time in Washington D.C. this spring. Uptin had traveled before to our nation's capital and tried to pack in as much lobbying as he could. "It was an awesome experience where I was able to experience first hand not only lobbying on Capital Hill, but government in general," he said. "Having the opportunity to effect change and voice my opinions was incredible." Uptin will be attending George Washington University this fall, so we will be looking him up next year when we're in D.C.

This was Brittainy's first visit to the Capital. When time permitted, she took in as much of the city as possible. She was particularly moved by her visit to the Holocaust Museum.

The students were accompanied by Peggy Maze Johnson and Nancy Haworth Scott from CAs Las Vegas office, and John Hadder and student intern Erica Borum, from our Reno office, as well as Brittainy's father, David Schneider.

The hundreds of entries we received from all over the Washoe School District for our Discover the Beauty Within contest, were marvelously diverse in style and concept. The 12 winners, three in each of four grade categories, were judged as best reflecting Nevada's unique beauty and diversity, clearly communicating "Nevada is Not a Wasteland." Winning entries were on display at many of the county public libraries from November 2003 through June of 2004. Contest winners also had the opportunity to meet with Senator John Ensign when he visited Reno in January at an event hosted by Carol Quinn at McQueen High School.

We'll launch this year's contests on September 30, on Nevada is Not a Wasteland Day. Then, on Nevada Day, Sunday, October 31, winning entries will be announced at a reception at the McKinley Arts and Cultural Center, 925 Riverside Drive, Reno.



Citizen Alert in D.C.—Left to right: Peggy Maze Johnson; John Hadder; Brittainy Kelly, essay contest winner; her father, David Schneider; Nevada Senator John Ensign; Nancy Haworth Scott; and Erica Borum. The group met with Senator Ensign and many other legislators in the nation's capital for discussions about why Yucca Mountain was a poor choice for nuclear waste storage. It was part of the Alliance for Nuclear Accountability's annual workshop and advocacy program. This year's event coincided with the publication of Citizen Alert's Groundwater Contamination Report titled "We Breathe the Same Air—We Drink the Same Water." The report resulted in considerable press coverage, both nationally and locally.

When school begins in the fall, Citizen Alert will notify teachers about the 2004/2005 contests.

To learn more about these events, visit Citizen Alert's website for photos, copies of the students essays, other comments regarding DC Days, and a link to the ANA.

Be A **NUCLEAR ISSUES** Education Booster!

Your donations will help us develop educational materials and acquire resources, conduct outreach, will support our Mock Nuclear Waste Cask expenses, and fund the Art and Essay contests and DC Days. On a bare-bones budget, Citizen Alert spends about \$1,000 for four days to cover one student's lodging, food, and visits to historical sites.

May we introduce . . .

. . . Nancy Haworth Scott, Development Director

It's a great honor to be working for Citizen Alert. Before settling in Henderson, Nevada, two years ago, my husband, Bill, and I had lived in San Luis Obispo, California. I knew about the Yucca Mountain issue because of the Diablo Canyon Nuclear Power Plant, which was built in spite of massive opposition in the community. The nuclear waste issue is particularly galling to people there, many of whom never wanted any to be generated in the first place!

Everything I do at Citizen Alert—writing, fund raising, publicity—is a natural extension of all I care about and have done in one form or another for years. I have worked in the field of public relations, primarily for educational institutions in California, for over 25 years. And I have always been active in community groups and local political campaigns.

I started my career at my alma mater, California State University, Long Beach, shortly after graduation. I was what was known as “an older student.” Our sons, Gregory and Bradley, were both in high school by the time I finished at CSULB. It was that time in life when, in bygone times, women looked forward to leisurely pursuits. Not me! I was ready to use all my hard-won knowledge. One of my professors, who knew how I enjoyed writing, steered me into the field of public relations. I have loved being one of its practitioners. I'm so glad it has led me to Citizen Alert and for this opportunity to work on one of the most profound issues of our time—nuclear waste. How do we convince people to stop making it? How do we take care of what we've already made? These are the questions we all must work to find answers for.

. . . Patricia “Trish” Swain, Web Page Designer

I am old enough to look back on several careers. I was a reporter/editor/journalist for many years. I worked for Funk & Wagnalls Dictionaries, Crowell Collier Encyclopedias, the Coconut Grove Village Post, and various other New York and Miami publications. I wrote some freelance feature articles for the Miami Herald in addition to doing research for Dade County, in Florida, and for the VA hospital here in Reno, where I live. And I have also taught English at Truckee Meadows Community College and at the University of Nevada, Reno.

I earned my M.A. in school counseling at University of Nevada, Reno in 1983. This led to 19 years as a school counselor. During those years I worked with an alternative high school, with the adult education program, and then with elementary schools. I taught counseling classes at TMCC, and facilitated community groups. This year, I retired from the school district and now design and maintain web sites through my home-based business, WebSight.

The world of computers opened up to me in 1989 when my daughter, who was a program manager at Microsoft, nagged me

into getting my first Windows computer. I was an instant addict. My first web design class was in 1997. During my sabbatical leave from the school district in 1998-99, I spent my time taking computer classes at TMCC.

As a seeker for social justice and peace throughout my adult life, it is a privilege to help Citizen Alert further its goals.

. . . Judy Henry Huber, Education Coordinator

I'm a new volunteer at Citizen Alert. Although my husband and I have lived in Las Vegas for 10 years, and have been involved with community events through work—he works as a lighting tech for Cirque du Soleil's “O,” I work as a stagehand for the MGM—we hadn't made time to become more active in our community until now.

Thirteen months ago, when our first child, Emily, was born, I decided to cut back to part time hours and also to go back to school full time. As an Education major, with a concentration in Environmental Studies, I wanted to find an organization that would let me combine those studies and be involved with fun people. And I also wanted to set an example for our daughter showing that to truly belong to a community, you need to get involved with it and work with others to make it a stronger, better place to live.

Now, at Citizen Alert, I have been encouraged to jump right in! I've been asked to help develop a K-12 Curriculum to present to our schools. It will focus primarily on the dangers of nuclear waste, but will also touch on water conservation, recycling, and other environmental concerns. An exciting challenge, to be sure! I'm looking forward to being involved with Citizen Alert for a long time.

Volunteer Show Case

We wish to thank all our volunteers for the many hours of service they donate to keep Citizen Alert going. Our volunteer staff is a varied group turning out to help in all sorts of ways. For example, Lois Sheridan, now retired from a career in sales, helped us put together information packets for the 2004 Women's Summit and staffed our table the whole day. Homer Johnson, a local teamster, a self-described “activist *extraordinaire*,” is lending his carpentry skills to help us refurbish our “Mock” Waste Cask (and he creates buttons on demand).

JoAnn Bingham, retired from nursing and a specialist in infection control, along with her husband, Chauncey, have been working on our media project, a compilation of all news coverage on Citizen Alert and on current environmental topics, Yucca Mountain in particular. JoAnn is also our chief data base manager. Chauncey is a retired educator and also helps us with Internet research.

Adrienne Thompson has been working with Hal Nelson on our filing. Hal, along with his work as our “Back to Our Routes”

Field Organizer, has revamped CA's entire filing system including sorting through several years' of materials and has archived loads of documents. This has been an ongoing project. Andrea Hackett got us going on this effort earlier this year. She brought her many years of experience as a Boeing management trainer to bear on CA's files and organizing Peg's office.

Recently Judy Huber has joined our volunteer team and is working on our K-12 curriculum (see facing page). Cristi Barker, Great Basin Mine Watch, helped us construct shelving units for our storage room. Logynn Madysen, a recent UNLV grad in Environmental Sciences, volunteered time to help with the initial phase of Back to Our Routes.

Angele and Bob Florisi of Mac Clinic have not only set CAs computers humming, they have donated items and tracked down much needed equipment at bargain prices. They, too, have volunteered time, especially to network our three work stations.

Erica Borum, in Reno, a long-time volunteer, most recently came to our aid as a DC Days advisor to our Essay Contest winners. Erica is graduating from the University of Nevada, Reno, this year with a master's degree in Environmental Science. Joe Ferguson is another UNR student in the Environmental Science graduate program and a steadfast volunteer. Joe put together information on depleted uranium for Earth Day 2003, helps maintain the mock waste cask, and helps in the office. Danielle Johnson, a UNR undergraduate in environmental science, has helped with art related projects, and staffed Citizen Alert tables many times.

It would be impossible for Citizen Alert to carry out its work without our volunteers. Our hats are off to all of them!

Our Water — Our Future

By Jo Anne Garrett

A striking example of solidarity is unfolding this summer as citizens of all stripes across Nevada become aware of our limited water supply. Las Vegas residents are asked to cut down on their water use; Reno struggles to plan for future supplies; and rural counties face an invasion of pipelines for transferring groundwater south.

With Nevada's Congressional delegation sponsoring a bill to designate such pipelines, public awareness blossomed across the state, and the Nevada Ad Hoc Water Network quickly came into being. A rapidly growing group of knowledgeable individuals and organizations are working powerfully together. The particular experience and background of each Network member is invaluable in assembling in-depth information and communicating it broadly, as well as in designing effective political action to maximize public participation.

This lively interest and cooperative approach from all over the state is especially welcome—even critical—in White Pine County, the main target of water exportation. Since 1989, when they initiated a self-imposed Water Defense Tax, the citizens of this county have been preparing to keep the spare but hospitable Great Basin landscape safe from water-hungry developers.

When water speculator Vidler Water Corporation came on the scene offering to "help" the County manage its water, White Pine sent it packing. Lincoln County officials, however, made a deal, agreeing to partner with Vidler in developing its water. Though this public-private partnership for profit was ruled illegal by Nevada's Attorney General, Vidler persuaded the legislature in 2003 to legitimate the partnership as a water district.

The presence of a water privateer greatly complicates the task of all Nevadans to safely and intelligently manage our water. Conserving our water has to be the first order of business in assuring a sufficient supply. Vidler's aim, unfortunately, has to be corporate profit, which means selling more water.

This basic conflict of purpose is of great concern to all Nevadans, urban and rural. Working together with one another and re-examining our pretty good water law, we need to decide how to stay in charge of our water, and therefore of our future.

Jo Anne Garrett is past president of Citizen Alert's Board of Directors and continues to serve on the Board.

Volunteer Openings

Citizen Alert needs volunteers to fill the following positions:

- ▲ **Volunteer Coordinator**—someone available from 6 to 12 hours per week. The volunteer coordinator would recruit, interview, schedule and supervise volunteers
- ▲ **Volunteer Data Base Assistant**—someone available from 4 to 8 hours per week. This person would work with Development Director on keeping database current. The work requires a detail minded person with computer skills. Knowledge of MacIntosh Computers and FileMaker Pro would be helpful.
- ▲ **Office volunteers**—for answering phones, organizing reference materials, filing, and copying.
- ▲ **People**—to join our Speaker's Bureau and speak before community organizations about environmental issues, Yucca Mountain in particular. We offer training.
- ▲ **Phone bank volunteers**—are urgently needed now to do follow-up calls for events like our "Back To Our Routes" tour, coming up in September and October and "dialing for dollars."

Your Summer Reading Can Profit Citizen Alert

The Ambushed Grand Jury by Wes McKinley and Caron Balkany, Esq.

A Single Star by Stan Barnett

Savage Dreams: A Journey into the Hidden Wars of the American West by Rebecca Solnit

Summertime—a time for catching up on one's reading. May we suggest the books listed above, all guaranteed page-turners, offering fresh perspectives on nuclear issues. If you order the *Ambushed Grand Jury* or *A Single Star* from our website at www.citizenalert.org, Citizen Alert will receive a donation thanks to the generosity of the authors.

The Ambushed Grand Jury—subtitled: *How The Justice Department Covered Up Government Nuclear Crimes and How We Caught Them Red-Handed*—reads like a novel, although it's the true story from the standpoint of witnesses and grand jurors who expose a government and corporate attempt to conceal the fact of deadly radioactive emissions and wastes in Rocky Flats, Colorado. It was the site of the Rocky Flats Nuclear Weapons Plant. Now there are plans to soon turn the still-poisoned area into the "Rocky Flats Recreational Area." The idea is to use it as a demonstration site for repurposing land contaminated by nuclear wastes. The terrifying reality is there are no funds allocated for the type of cleanup necessary to decontaminate Rocky Flats or similar sites. It just proves there continues to be a certain element within our government utterly dismissive of the harmful effects of radiation - not unlike the ones who told Nevadans it was okay to take the kids out to watch atomic bomb tests and, not to worry, the radioactive fallout was quite harmless.

Citizen Alert has time and again pointed out the risks in transporting nuclear wastes, but we can never make the point so

dramatically as stated in Stan Barnett's book, *A Single Star*. This novel might very well forecast a future disaster. As Kevin Kamps wrote in his review for the WISE/NIRS Nuclear Monitor: "This fast-paced, action-packed political thriller revolves around a train shipment of weapons-grade plutonium and highly radioactive nuclear fuel bound for the U.S. Dept. of Energy's (DOE) Savannah River Site (SRS) that the White House forces down the throat of an unwilling state." Nevadans might easily think of Caliente, Nevada, while reading this suspenseful tale. Kamps' full review is on line at www.citizenalert.org.

Also, worth looking up in your local book store or library, is *Savage Dreams: A Journey into the Hidden Wars of the American West* by Rebecca Solnit, published a few years ago. CA staff have described it as a poignant story. By deftly weaving together the histories of the Nevada Test Site nuclear weapons testing program, the on-going Western Shoshone struggle to keep hold of their lands, and Yosemite National Park's troubled chronicles, Solnit captures the kinds of political, social and personal dilemmas that persist to this very day in the West. Solnit is a past member of CA's Board of Directors.

Reading any or all of these three books will provide readers new insights into the inherent dangers of nuclear programs, whether for weapons or energy, and the environmental consequences of such programs. ▲

**"we breathe the same
Air
we drink the same
Water"**

A CITIZEN ALERT OF NEVADA

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