



**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF SOUTH CAROLINA  
STATEMENT OF CONCERN TO THE US DEPARTMENT OF  
ENERGY BLUE RIBBON COMMISSION ON AMERICA'S NUCLEAR  
FUTURE -- JANUARY 7, 2011**

**THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF SOUTH CAROLINA**

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**The League of Women Voters of South Carolina (LWVSC) has a long history of leadership in citizen education and action on nuclear issues in South Carolina. Currently, we have concerns regarding public health and safety issues around proposals to store commercial nuclear waste in our state. In addition, we are concerned that such an interim plan might sidetrack the search for a permanent nationwide plan for high-level nuclear waste management.**

**Thirty years ago South Carolina stood almost alone in urging federal funding for the permanent management of defense wastes accumulated at the Savannah River Site (SRS). LWVSC was part of that concerned community. Today we cannot sit by while proposals suggest we also become a storage site for commercial nuclear wastes.**

**Since 1995, the LWV of the United States has opposed congressional efforts to designate Yucca Mountain, Nevada, as a permanent or temporary repository for nuclear waste before studies verified site suitability.**

**The LWVSC is delighted that you on the Blue Ribbon Commission are assessing long-term nuclear waste challenges, and we are hopeful that this is the beginning of a focused national program. Our nation's priority today should be to select a suitable permanent solution, rather than to rush to find a "volunteer" for an imprudent temporary solution.**

**Although not part of the original plan, the current nuclear waste storage at defense and commercial sites has been workable. Transporting spent fuel or defense wastes to temporary storage anywhere is unsafe and unnecessary. An appropriate final solution requires that each affected state and commercial interest maintain the financial and technical vigilance that is required to solve our collective problem.**

**The LWVSC urges our nation's leaders to find an affordable solution to commercial high-level nuclear waste management. However, the League is skeptical that reclaimable reprocessing products would survive a cost/benefit analysis and, moreover, that the large volumes of wastes produced during reprocessing have similar cost/benefit issues, particularly the "higher than Class C" waste "solution" that poses risks and responsibilities for generations to come.**

**Unless there is a site-specific safety issue, high-level waste should remain where it is presently, until a suitable waste management solution is identified and demonstrated. In so doing, the industry as well as the various entities that currently benefit from the nuclear industry will continue to participate actively in finding a solution. South Carolina should not stand alone again in the search for a solution to the nation's commercial nuclear waste problems**

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Suzanne Rhodes".

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*The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy. Membership in the League is open to men and women of all ages.*