

COMMITTEE TO BRIDGE THE GAP
1637 BUTLER AVENUE, SUITE 203
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90025
(310) 478-0829

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CONTACT: Daniel Hirsch
(310) 478-0829

**Committee to Bridge the Gap Releases Letter to Interior Department
and Report on Contamination at Beatty, Nevada, Nuclear Dump**

The Committee to Bridge the Gap, a Los Angeles-based public interest group fighting the proposed Ward Valley nuclear waste dump, today released a letter to Deputy Interior Secretary John Garamendi and a report on the radioactive contamination at US Ecology's twin facility at Beatty, Nevada. Last October, Bridge the Gap revealed that a U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) researcher had uncovered evidence that the Beatty facility had already leaked, despite claims that it would take thousands of years for any migration to occur. The USGS scientist failed to disclose the data for more than a year, leading to charges of a cover up and calls for an investigation. The disclosure caused the Interior Department to ask USGS to prepare an evaluation of the significance of the allegedly suppressed data.

Among the revelations in the letter and report released today:

- **The USGS "independent" evaluation of the new data about leakage at the Nevada dump is being prepared largely by the same USGS staffer, David Prudic, who is alleged to have failed to disclose the information in the first place.** Prudic had previously claimed that virtually no moisture movement had occurred at either the Beatty or Ward Valley sites in the last tens of thousands of years, claims clearly called into question by Prudic's own data showing radioactive leakage at Beatty within the last 30 years.
- **The California Department of Health Services (DHS), which has tried to explain away the Nevada leakage by saying there is no similarity with the Ward Valley site, had previously issued formal, legal findings in June 1994 that "the Beatty site provides a good analog for the Ward Valley facility."** Similarly, US Ecology, the company that operated Beatty and wants to open Ward Valley, now denies any relevance to the Beatty contamination. Yet it had previously represented that Beatty

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