

EIS000139

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Courthouse Annex  
953 Campton St.  
Ely, Nevada 89301  
(775) 289-8841  
(775) 289-8842

White Pine County  
Board of County Commissioners

August 30, 1999

Mr. Cash Jaszczak, Liaison  
Yucca Mountain Project Office  
1261 Town Center Drive  
Las Vegas, Nevada 89134

Dear Mr. Jaszczak:

I want to thank you for taking time to visit with me at the Nevada League of Cities and Municipalities Meeting held in Fallon, Nevada recently. I appreciated your openness and directness in our discussion of Yucca Mountain issues. I visited with Mrs. Debra Kolkman, Director of the White Pine Nuclear Waste Project Office after I returned home. In our discussion, we came up with the following suggestions:

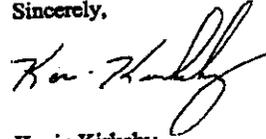
- 1. ▶ First and foremost, we have noticed in all of the materials we have browsed through thus far, it appears that intermodal transportation is the most effective and efficient way of transporting both low-level and high-level radioactive materials. We definitely would like to see the DOE seriously consider and push, if possible, the intermodal option preferably out of Caliente, Nevada.
- 2. ▶ DOE has made great strides in communicating with the Affected Units of Local Government (AULG) concerning site characterization decisions and its future license application. We both believe the recent AUG meeting held in Las Vegas was the most open, concise meeting we have attended thus far. We applaud the DOE and its contractors for this effort and hope future meetings can be conducted in this manner.
- 3. ▶ Is it possible DOE could devise Internet or Telecourse Classes for both teachers and students in rural areas to help them understand what you are doing at Yucca Mountain? To help them understand the geology of the mountain, the safety systems in place and defense in depth?
- ▶ Does Yucca Mountain Project have informational materials that could be handed out to the public such as posters that could help inform residents about what is being done?
- 4... With the recent closure of BHP Copper (the largest employer in the County), the economy of White Pine County will be significantly impacted. The 463 jobs that were lost due to the closure

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are equivalent to losing 100,000 jobs in the Las Vegas Valley. Unfortunately, White Pine County is one of the poorest counties in the State, and the closure of the mine will put an added burden on residents to become creative to minimally fund necessary public services such as police and fire protection. If high-level radioactive waste eventually goes through White Pine County, we will definitely not be able to train necessary personnel to help protect our residents.

We appreciate this opportunity to give you our thoughts and ideas on how the DOE can help affected governments deal with this highly-controversial issue. Please feel free to contact Mrs. Kolkman at (775) 289-2033, or myself at (775) 289-8841.

Sincerely,



Kevin Kirkeby  
White Pine County Commissioner

cc: Governor Kenny Guinn