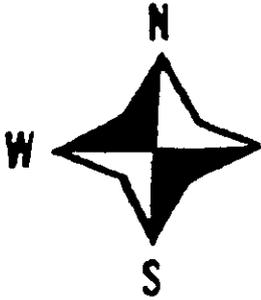


OCT 25 1999

EIS000180



Educational Directions

5357 Spencer - Las Vegas, NV 89119
(702) 798-5003

September 18, 1999

Ms. Wendy R. Dixon, EIS Project Manager
Yucca Mountain Site Characterization Office
U S Department of Energy
P O Box 30307 Mail Stop 010
North Las Vegas, NV 89036-0307

Dear Wendy:

Appreciated receiving the Draft of the EIS and have been reviewing it as time has allowed. Having been involved in nuclear education since the early 1950s and active here in Nevada with the YM project and the NTS CAB I have been distressed by the lack of understanding demonstrated by our political leaders and much of the public. In an effort to try and improve the concept of nuclear issues I have, along with my educational column, devoted some pieces to the Yucca Project and other nuclear matters. The most recent that came out last week is enclosed

As many of your DOE associates already know I am a strong supporter of the Yucca study and project and am willing to be of assistance to your efforts. Two recent items of excitement for me include having an article that I proposed being requested by the editor of RADWASTE Magazine, was being asked to be editor of EAGLE WINGS a publication of Eagle Alliance, which is dedicated to expanding an awareness of nuclear technologies.

Just wanted you to know that you have my support and very much appreciate your efforts.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Richard G. Telfer'.

Richard G. Telfer

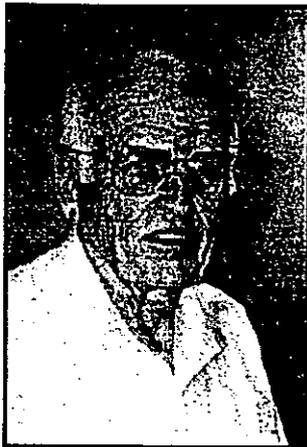
cc/ Carole Borgstrom

Money grab hampers nuclear research

By Richard G. Telfer

Once again Congress is staying true to form by diverting funds specifically designated for the study of Yucca Mountain and related nuclear issues. Recent considerations, by the Congress, for the reduction of funds for the important project here in Nevada could result in the layoff of as many as 1,000 employees engaged in the Yucca Mountain study. Not only would this create a financial hardship on countless families but would have an impact on the Las Vegas economy.

Many new to Nevada may be unaware of the fact that rate payers across the nation, whose electricity is being generated by



Richard G. Telfer

delays can be attributed to cutbacks

nuclear energy, pay a percentage into the nuclear waste fund which for several years has amounted to in excess of \$600 million a year. Unfortunately for the Yucca project, Congress has been appropriating about 50 percent of the millions collected for the project. No one seems to be accountable for the remaining dollars. Some say it is in escrow but none of it ever seems to be available for this important study. We can only conclude it is being used for a pork project somewhere.

Constant complaints are heard about the slowness of the Yucca studies taking place approximately one hundred miles northwest of Las Vegas. The proposed nuclear repository has been blocked by law suits, political leaders, antinuclear groups and the media. Much of the blame on the delays can be attributed to the cutbacks by Congress' refusal to see that every dollar collected from the user fee is used in total, so designated by law for this nationally important project.

rapidly filling storage

Consider the potential plight of the millions of rate payers who may be without cleanly generated nuclear electricity if relief isn't soon available for the rapidly fill-

4 cont.

dump. Scientifically designed, the facility could serve as a warehouse for the high level radioactive materials while scientists continue to develop meaningful methods of converting this valuable resource into other usable forms.

Ten thousand years has been given as the length of time for the safe burial of what some have deemed "waste." At the onset, the spent fuel rods should not be considered total waste. Because of the remaining potential value of the material, it should not be buried and the key thrown away.

The Department of Energy is reviewing several approaches to recover the remaining valuable resources. During the production of electricity only 20 percent of the materials contained in the assemblies was consumed leaving much available for other uses.

A recent seminar at UNLV focused on the Transmutation of Nuclear Materials as being one method of converting the material unused during the production of electricity. Much study remains to be done but the potential for gaining from what is referred to as waste is great.

Needed are letters, faxes and E-Mails to our representatives in Washington urging them not to withhold funds available, so designated, for the continued study

of Yucca Mountain. If you have not visited the mountain, tours are available from time to time that provide an outstanding opportunity to view first hand the dynamics of this mammoth project. Watch the newspapers for tour schedules or call the Yucca Mountain Information Office. Regardless of your attitude regarding the potential for using Nevada as a site for spent high level radioactive materials, you owe it to yourself to become better informed about what is taking place in our state. Make your own decisions rather than letting the media or your political leaders contaminate your thinking.

ing on-site storage of the spent fuel assemblies. Today approximately 20 percent of all electricity produced in the United States is from nuclear facilities. Unlike coal fired generators, nuclear facilities do not add to the green house effect.

3 Nevadans might say, "What do I care about those other people, it's their problem not mine." Not really, high electricity demands during our hot summer months here in Las Vegas often forces Nevada Power to purchase much needed electricity from sources that use nuclear power for a generating source. We do benefit from nuclear generated electricity. Think how uncomfortable we would be without such power to run our air conditioners.

The press and politicians constantly refer to Yucca Mountain as a "dump." The proposed repository would be anything but a

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