

NEVADA NUCLEAR WASTE TASK FORCE, INCORPORATED

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RECEIVED

JUL 27 2001

July 3, 2001

Handwritten:
Action to...
cc: Jay...
Civil...
Linda Deell

Lake Barrett, Acting Director
Office of Civilian Radioactive Waste Management
U.S. Department of Energy
1000 Independence Ave. S.W.
Washington, DC 20585

Re: Supplement to the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (SDEIS) for a Geologic Repository for the Disposal of Spent Nuclear Fuel and High-Level Radioactive Waste at Yucca Mountain, Nye County, Nevada (DOE/EIS-0250-D-S)

Dear Mr. Barrett:

1... Last month the Nevada Nuclear Waste Task Force became aware of the Department of Energy's late mailing of copies of the Supplement to the Draft EIS to a select list of individuals and organizations who had requested copies of the document for the purpose of providing public comment. This mailing, dated June 22, 2001, told recipients that the deadline for their comments was August 13, 2001. Because of the new deadline a flurry of confusion was created resulting in telephone calls, e-mails, and faxes to the Task Force and other organizations where people turn for assistance and information regarding public involvement in the Yucca Mountain decision making process. In addition to contacting our offices, people also called the DOE's Yucca Mountain Information Office and in at least two instances they were told that the deadline for comment had been extended to August 13, 2001 for everyone.

The originally announced forty-five day comment period, ending June 25, during the summer vacation period was extremely restrictive and made the submission of comments very difficult or impossible for many people. For that reason, individuals and organizations repeatedly requested an extension of time during the three SDEIS hearings. Following the hearings, DOE announced a very short extension to July 6— about two weeks. On Wednesday, June 27 I had a conversation with you regarding this matter. At that time I told you about the confusion surrounding this public comment period. I also informed you that the Task Force and other organizations had obtained extra copies of the SDEIS and had been distributing them to members of the public who requested them.

This office has received a copy of the Federal Register Notice dated June 29, 2001, submitted by the Department of Energy, announcing the Action: "Notice of comment period for

