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Urich, Missouri 64788

Lake H. Barrett, Acting Director
Office of Civilian Radioactive Waste Management
United States Department of Energy
Washington, DC 20585

RECEIVED

SEP 19 2001

Dear Mr. Barrett:

This letter is in response to your August 28, 2000 letter concerning public comment on the scientific documents on the Yucca Mountain high level radioactive waste repository. Your "Suggested Topics for Public Comment on Yucca Mountain" is attached and I have numbered the bullets starting with #1 for the top bullet. Each comment below is directed to address the suggested comments.

Comment #1: As a geologist and student of history, I do not believe there can be any degree of certainty to a repository (of this nature) life over 50 years. That said, the scientific documents provided on the Yucca Mountain site have been adequate. What can be done to improve the certainty is a good question, since this is a new design long term monitoring of the site with funds for maintenance should be built into any final decision document.

Comment #2: Yes, the site should be recommended to the President at this time. A high level radioactive waste repository is desperately needed in the United States and Yucca Mountain appears to be a good candidate.

Comment #3: The state of Nevada appears to be against the implementation of a high level radioactive waste repository in their state. Placing a repository of this nature in a state should be coordinated and agreed upon with the state. The Civil War was fought over state rights and internal strife reduces the strength of a country.

Comment #4: A lesser design for an interim high level radioactive waste storage site is not a good idea. Perhaps, Yucca Mountain could be called an interim high level radioactive waste storage site and in 50 to 100 years when technologies and science advance, a more permanent solution to high level radioactive waste could be found.

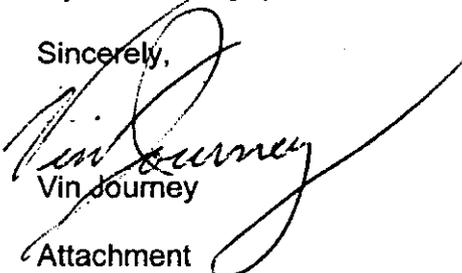
Comment #5: At this time, Yucca Mountain appears to be the best alternative to managing high level radioactive waste. At a minimum, the casts designed for use at the repository maybe required for storage of radioactive materials at current storage facilities.

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Comment #6: There is risk associated with a repository of this nature. No structure in the United States has been built to endure without maintenance. Also, the Yucca Mountain repository is not a "throw away" site like WIPP. Long term monitoring and maintenance must be built into any decision.

If you have any questions about my public comments please contact me.

Sincerely,



Vin Journey

Attachment

Suggested Topics for Public Comment on Yucca Mountain

- #1 • Please provide your views concerning whether the Yucca Mountain Preliminary Site Suitability Evaluation (PSSE) and other scientific documents produced by the Department provide an adequate basis for finding that the Yucca Mountain site is suitable for development of a repository. If you believe that certain aspects of the PSSE are inadequate, please detail the basis for this belief and indicate how the documentation might be made adequate with respect to these aspects.
- #2 • If the Secretary determines that the scientific analysis indicates that the Yucca Mountain site is likely to meet the applicable radiation protection standards established by the Environmental Protection Agency and Nuclear Regulatory Commission, do you believe that the Secretary should proceed to recommend the site to the President at this time? If not, please explain.
- #3 • Are there any reasons that you believe should prevent the President from concluding that the Yucca Mountain site is qualified for the preparation and submission of a construction license application to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission?
- #4 • If you believe that the Secretary should not proceed with a recommendation to develop a repository at Yucca Mountain, what mechanism should be utilized to meet the Department's legal obligation to begin accepting spent nuclear fuel and high level radioactive waste?
- #5 • If you believe that the Secretary should not proceed with a recommendation to develop a repository at Yucca Mountain, what measures should the Nation consider for assuring safe disposal of spent nuclear fuel and high level radioactive waste?
- #6 • Please provide any other comments concerning any relevant aspect of the Yucca Mountain site for use as a repository, or that are otherwise relevant to the consideration of a possible recommendation by the Secretary.