

HARRY REID  
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United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-2803

August 28, 2001

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Honorable Spencer Abraham  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of Energy  
1000 Independence Avenue, SW  
Washington, D.C. 20585

Dear Secretary Abraham:

I request that you provide video conferencing at the September 5, 2001 public hearing on the possible recommendation by the Secretary of Energy to the President of the Yucca Mountain Site in Nevada for development as a spent nuclear fuel and high-level nuclear waste geologic repository. Remote video sites should be provided around the State of Nevada for interested members of the public, local governments, and other affected parties to participate in the hearing and to comment on this very important decision which impacts all citizens of the state. Remote sites should be included at a minimum in Reno, Elko, and Carson City.

The information in the *Yucca Mountain Preliminary Site Suitability Evaluation* is technical in nature and there is intense public interest and concern about the Yucca Mountain project. Fifteen days notice of the Las Vegas public hearing does not provide adequate time for review and travel arrangements to be made by citizens and public officials to attend the hearing in person. All three scheduled public hearings are being held in the vicinity of Yucca Mountain. However, the entire state will be affected by future decisions concerning Yucca Mountain. These are the last public hearing scheduled before the Secretary of Energy's recommendation to the President.

I look forward to your timely response to this request and to working with you and your staff on this important issue. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me or Jack Hess (202-224-0492) of my staff.

Sincerely,



HARRY REID  
United States Senator

cc: Mr. Lake Barrett

HR:jh

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