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October 2, 2001

Ms. Carol Hanlon
S&ER Products Manager
US Department of Energy
Yucca Mountain Site Characterization Office
PO Box 30307, M/S 025
North Las Vegas, NV 89036-0707

Subject: Comments on Yucca Mountain Site Suitability Evaluation

Dear Ms. Hanlon,

We are pleased to be able to provide positive comments on the suitability of Yucca Mountain as the US high level waste repository.

The availability of a safe repository for spent nuclear fuel is a vital, basic element of the nuclear power program that supplies nearly a quarter of the US electrical power. Nuclear energy itself is an environmentally more desirable form of energy than power generated by fossil fuels and its use should be expanded in the future. Extensive investigations of the Yucca Mountain Site have qualified its safety and it is now time to close the fuel cycle loop and license this site for permanent spent fuel storage.

Geologic and seismic evaluations have found the site a safe storage space combined with the use of highly engineered and tested storage containers. Transportation casks and transportation methods have also been put through rigorous testing and found satisfactory. Independent peer review groups have reviewed the results of the investigations and agreed with their conclusions that the site will provide a safe storage space.

The alternative of the ever growing inventory of spent fuel stored at the reactor sites in pools and dry casks, while providing storage with significant safety margins, are not as desirable as the underground storage facility that would be provided by Yucca Mountain with even greater safety margins in a less populated, geologically stable area.

We strongly recommend that the Secretary of Energy approve and assist in licensing and opening the Yucca Mountain site for permanent spent fuel storage.

Sincerely,

Alfred A. Strasser
President