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NUCLEAR ENGINEERING

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

RE: Yucca Mt. Site Recommendation

Dear Ms. Hanlon:

I have been following the studies at Yucca Mountain for the past 20 years. I have studied the Viability Assessment, the Science and Engineering Report, the Draft Environmental Impact Statement, and the Preliminary Site Suitability Evaluation Report. I have also been teaching a graduate level nuclear engineering course in radioactive waste management for the past 15 years.

Everything I have seen to date reinforces my conclusion that the Yucca Mountain site would be an excellent choice for a high level waste/spent fuel repository, and I recommend that the Secretary of Energy endorse and recommend this site for such a repository.

The geology, hydrology, and seismology of the site are more than adequate to protect the public from the long-term hazards of the emplaced waste. The engineered barrier systems, especially the latest versions, are quite robust and certainly sufficient to protect the public and the environment.

The transportation system for shipping spent fuel to Yucca Mt. has an outstanding safety record and should present no hazard to neighboring states, even with the increased volume of shipments.

Governments, scientific bodies, and science leaders around the world have all endorsed deep geologic disposal as the best permanent solution for high-level waste and spent fuel, and Yucca Mountain appears to be an ideal choice for such a repository.

I would also recommend that the Secretary join forces with those opposing the separate EPA ground water requirements for Yucca Mountain. These separate standards provide no additional protection to the general public and could prove to be an extra burden and an extra cost to the repository with no additional benefit.



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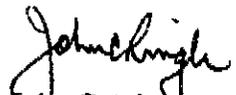
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I also favor the feature that the repository will remain open for a reasonable period of time after waste emplacement begins. This allows to corrective action to be taken, if necessary, although I seriously doubt that this will be necessary. This feature also allows the spent fuel to be retrieved in the future for recovery of uranium and plutonium, which I believe will be an option that our near-future generations will exercise.

Please convey my support to the Secretary for the recommendation of Yucca Mountain as a waste repository site.

Sincerely,



John C. Ringle, Ph.D.
Professor Emeritus, Nuclear Engineering



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