

American Electric Power, Inc.
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The Honorable Spencer Abraham
Secretary of Energy
Forrestal Building
1000 Independence Ave, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20585

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October 17, 2001

Dear Secretary Abraham:

I am writing regarding the critical need to permanently dispose of spent nuclear fuel from our nation's nuclear energy powerplants. American Electric Power (AEP) owns and operates the Donald C. Cook Nuclear Plant Units 1 and 2, which are located in Bridgman, Michigan. The Cook plants have 1,500 employees and the electrical output of over 2,110,000 kilowatts provide reliable and low cost electricity to over 2.7 million customers in Indiana and Michigan. AEP takes great pride in meeting our obligation to provide safe, reliable and low cost electric power to our customers. I believe it is high time for the federal government to take seriously its obligation to provide a safe, secure and permanent repository for our nation's spent nuclear fuel.

To date, the Department of Energy (DOE) has spent the better part of two decades and over \$7 billion studying Yucca Mountain. While significant scientific results have been achieved on this issue, past delays have put the federal repository program off schedule by more than a decade.

The federal government's failure to meet its obligation to dispose of this fuel exposes U.S. taxpayers to a potential liability of \$80 billion. We owe it to the American taxpayer and our nation's utility companies to stand by our commitment to deal with the used nuclear fuel issue. For example, the Cook Nuclear Plant Units 1 and 2 are licensed to 2014 and 2017. While we have begun preparation for a license renewal application with the NRC, we have only spent fuel pool capacity until 2012. The time to deal with this issue is this year.

Formulation of effective energy policy is urgent and essential to our nation's future. Sound energy policy cannot continue to ignore the issue of nuclear waste disposal. We are all in agreement that any decision on Yucca Mountain must be based on sound science. To date, all studies have resulted in

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Member of the Board
President and
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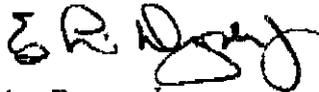
projections showing that the proposed repository at Yucca Mountain will be able to safely contain the radioactive material for 10,000 years or longer. I am unaware of any technical or scientific issues that will prevent Yucca Mountain from serving as a permanent repository. It is therefore imperative that a decision be made on Yucca Mountain this year.

I have taken the liberty of enclosing a copy of AEP's comments for the Federal Register on possible site recommendations for Yucca Mountain for your review.

You are in a key position to keep this important issue on schedule to ensure the timely movement of used fuel from the nation's nuclear facilities. I therefore urge you to make used nuclear fuel disposal one of your highest priorities.

I look forward to working with you on this and other issues in the months ahead.

Sincerely,



E. Linn Draper, Jr.
Chairman, President & CEO

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