



Department of Energy

Washington, DC 20585

August 6, 1999

Ms. Charlotte Abrams
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Two White Flint North
11555 Rockville Pike
Rockville, MD 20852-2738

Dear Ms. Abrams:

Enclosed for your review and comment is the U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE) *Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for a Geologic Repository for the Disposal of Spent Nuclear Fuel and High-Level Radioactive Waste at Yucca Mountain, Nye County, Nevada* (DOE/EIS-0250-D).

This EIS assesses the potential environmental impacts of the Proposed Action to construct, operate and monitor, and eventually close a geologic repository at Yucca Mountain in Nye County, Nevada, for the disposal of commercial and DOE spent nuclear fuel and high-level radioactive waste. The Proposed Action includes the transportation to Yucca Mountain of spent nuclear fuel and high-level radioactive waste from 72 commercial nuclear generating sites and five DOE facilities. The EIS also provides information on the potential environmental impacts of a No-Action Alternative, under which there would be no development of a geologic repository at Yucca Mountain. Under the No-Action Alternative, DOE would end site characterization activities at Yucca Mountain, and commercial and DOE sites would continue to store spent nuclear fuel and high-level radioactive waste.

Members of the public are invited to provide written and oral comments at 16 public hearings (Enclosure 1). Each hearing will include a brief overview presentation on the Draft EIS, a question and answer session, and an opportunity to provide comments for the record. Individuals may schedule a time to provide oral comments at the hearings by calling 1-800-967-3477.

Other options for submitting comments on the Draft EIS are as follows:

- Mail comments to:

Ms. Wendy R. Dixon, EIS Project Manager
M/S 010
U.S. Department of Energy
Office of Civilian Radioactive Waste Management
Yucca Mountain Site Characterization Office
P.O. Box 30307
North Las Vegas, NV 89036-0307

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- Fax comments to: 1-800-967-0739.
- Comment over the internet via the Yucca Mountain Project website <http://www.ymp.gov>.

DOE will consider all comments transmitted or postmarked by February 9, 2000. Comments submitted after this date will be considered to the extent practicable.

Additional copies of the Draft EIS may be obtained by contacting the EIS Project Manager at the address or phone number given on the previous page. The Draft EIS is also available on the internet via the DOE National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) website <http://tis.eh.doe.gov/NEPA>, the Yucca Mountain Project website <http://www.ymp.gov> under the listing *Environmental Impact Statement*, and at 38 public reading rooms across the country.

If you require further information, please contact me at (202) 586-4600 or Ms. Wendy Dixon, EIS Project Manager, at (702) 794-5564.

Sincerely,



Carol M. Borgstrom
Director
Office of NEPA Policy and Assistance

Enclosures:

1. Draft EIS Public Hearings
2. *Draft EIS for a Geologic Repository for the Disposal of Spent Nuclear Fuel and High-Level Radioactive Waste at Yucca Mountain, Nye County, Nevada (DOE/EIS-0250-D)*

Draft
Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)
Public Hearing Locations

The U.S. Department of Energy will publish the dates, times, and specific locations of the public hearings in the Federal Register and appropriate local news media. Recipients of this package will be notified in writing as soon as the above information becomes available. In addition, this information will be available on the Yucca Mountain web site at <http://www.ymmp.gov>, under the listing Environmental Impact Statement, and through the toll-free information line at 1-800-967-3477.

Nevada Hearings

Pahrump (Nye County), Nevada
Goldfield (Nye County), Nevada
Caliente (Lincoln County), Nevada
Las Vegas (Clark County), Nevada
Austin (Lander County), Nevada
Crescent Valley (Eureka County), Nevada
Amargosa Valley (Esmeralda County), Nevada
Reno (Washoe County), Nevada
Ely (White Pine County), Nevada

Regional Hearings

Washington, DC
Atlanta, Georgia
Denver, Colorado
Boise, Idaho
Salt Lake City, Utah
Lone Pine, California
St. Louis, Missouri