

EDO Principal Correspondence Control

FROM: DUE: 10/19/00 EDO CONTROL: G20000479
DOC DT: 09/29/00
FINAL REPLY:

Representative Shelley Berkley

TO:

Chairman Meserve

FOR SIGNATURE OF : ** PRI ** CRC NO: 00-0622

Chairman

DESC:

ROUTING:

Request for Extension of Comment Period for DEIS
for Interim Private Storage of High-Level Nuclear
Waste in Skull Valley, Utah

Travres
Paperiello
Miraglia
Norry
Craig
Burns/Cyr
Lohaus, STP
Merschhoff, RIV

DATE: 10/06/00

ASSIGNED TO: CONTACT:

NMSS

Kane

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS OR REMARKS:

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
CORRESPONDENCE CONTROL TICKET

Date Printed: Oct 06, 2000 10:58

PAPER NUMBER: LTR-00-0622 **LOGGING DATE:** 10/06/2000
ACTION OFFICE: EDO

AUTHOR: SHELLY BERKLEY
AFFILIATION: REP
ADDRESSEE:

SUBJECT: REQ THE PUBLI COMMENT PERIOD BE EXTENDED, AND THAT ADDL PUBLIC HEARINGS BE HELD FOR THE NRC'S DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT FOR INTERIM PRIVATE STORAGE OF HL NUC WASTE IN SKULL VALLEY, UTAH

ACTION: Signature of Chairman
DISTRIBUTION: RF, SECY/RAS, OCA TO ACK

LETTER DATE: 09/29/2000
ACKNOWLEDGED: No
SPECIAL HANDLING:

NOTES:

FILE LOCATION: ADAMS

DATE DUE: 10/23/2000 **DATE SIGNED:**

EDO --G20000479

SHELLEY BERKLEY
1ST DISTRICT, NEVADA

1505 LONGWORTH BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
202-225-5965

2340 PASEO DEL PRADO
SUITE D106
LAS VEGAS, NEVADA 89102
702-220-9823

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-2801

September 29, 2000

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Mr. Richard A. Meserve
Chairman
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
One White Flint North
11555 Rockville Pike
Rockville, Maryland 20852-2738

Dear Mr. Meserve,

I am writing to request that the public comment period be extended, and that additional public hearings be held, for the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's (NRC) Draft Environmental Impact Statement for interim private storage of high-level nuclear waste in Skull Valley, Utah.

As you are aware, only three hearings have been held regarding the proposed interim private fuel storage of high-level nuclear waste in Skull Valley. It is *imperative* that the NRC allows states that will be impacted by this proposal to have an opportunity to hold public hearings. Transportation of high level nuclear waste is a critical issue concerning the health and safety of all Americans, and the NRC should not disregard the views of citizens in states where the waste would travel through.

I am also concerned that temporarily storing nuclear waste in Skull Valley, Utah would serve as a stepping stone to permanent storage at Yucca Mountain. It would be unacceptable to the citizens of the State of Nevada to allow the nuclear waste to be permanently stored at Yucca Mountain simply because the waste has already been shipped to an interim site in a neighboring state.

Additionally, I have strong reservations about the "return to sender" policy of this proposal that would transport the nuclear waste back to its original location if its containers did not meet the required safety specifications. Under this provision, nuclear waste originating in California has the potential to travel across southern Nevada up to four times, continuously jeopardizing the health and safety of southern Nevada. This is an unacceptable and unconscionable solution to our nation's nuclear waste problem.

Once again, I urge you to extend the comment period, allowing everyone a fair chance to participate in this important decision, and to hold additional public hearings not only in southern Nevada, but across the United States in regions where the waste would travel through.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



SHELLEY BERKLEY
Member of Congress

SB:kh