

May 10, 2001

MEMORANDUM TO: Chairman Meserve
Commissioner Dicus
Commissioner Diaz
Commissioner McGaffigan
Commissioner Merrifield

FROM: Dennis K. Rathbun, Director */RA/*
Office of Congressional Affairs

SUBJECT: HOUSE ENERGY AND WATER APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE
HEARING ON DOE FY 2002 BUDGET REQUEST FOR CIVILIAN
RADIOACTIVE WASTE AND ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

On May 9, 2001, the House Appropriations Committee's Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development held a hearing to discuss the Department of Energy's (DOE) FY 2002 budget request for the Offices of Civilian Radioactive Waste Management (OCRWM) and Environmental Management (EM). The DOE witnesses were Lake Barrett, Acting Director, OCRWM, and Carolyn Huntoon, Acting Director, EM. A copy of each of their testimonies is attached.

Mr. Barrett explained that the OCRWM budget request for FY 2002 is \$444.9 million, an increase of \$44.6 million above FY 2001 funding. This increase is to cover prior year shortfalls and to accelerate efforts to submit a license application for a high-level radioactive waste repository to NRC in 2003. \$355.4 million of the request is targeted for activities at Yucca Mountain with \$76 million for Core Science activities. Mr. Barrett reminded the Members that DOE will be submitting a report by June 2001 on alternative means for financing a repository as previously requested by the Subcommittee. He assured Representative Peter Visclosky (D-IN) that DOE would use the entire \$444.9 million request by spending additional funds on Yucca Mountain surface facilities that have been deferred in the past. He also termed the safety record for transportation of nuclear fuel and waste exemplary but pointed out that the weak link is public perception.

Subcommittee Chairman Sonny Callahan (R-AL) asked if DOE had a contingency plan in the event the State of Nevada is successful in denying the next water permit application which expires in April 2002. Mr. Barrett said DOE has initiated litigation to ensure the permit is issued but acknowledged DOE has no alternative plan beyond reporting back to Congress if Nevada is successful in denying the water permit. Representatives Ed Pastor (D-Phoenix, AZ) and John Doolittle (R-Sacramento, CA) asked whether DOE had considered reprocessing as a means of

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