

June 7, 2001

Mr. Lake Barrett, Acting Director
Office of Civilian Radioactive Waste Management
U.S. Department of Energy, Headquarters
1000 Independence Avenue, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20585

Dear Mr. Barrett:

I am responding to your letter to Chairman Meserve of May 7, 2001, describing the U.S. Department of Energy's process for its evaluation of the Yucca Mountain site. The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff has begun its reviews of the Supplement to the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) and the Yucca Mountain Science and Engineering Report (YMS&ER) issued on May 4, 2001. In that regard, the NRC anticipates that it will be able to complete its review of the supplement to the DEIS within the established public comment period. Further, the NRC intends to complete its review of the YMS&ER and submit its preliminary sufficiency comments to the Department of Energy (DOE) by October 1, 2001, in accordance with your request.

However, you indicated that the DOE plans to issue, within the next few months, additional information in a Supplemental Science and Performance Analysis Report and Preliminary Site Suitability Evaluation which the Secretary of Energy will use in considering a possible site recommendation. The timing of release and nature of information provided in these documents, could affect the timely submission of NRC's preliminary sufficiency comments. Therefore, we ask that the additional information be provided to the NRC as soon as possible.

If you have any questions or comments, please contact me.

Sincerely,

/RA/

William D. Travers
Executive Director for Operations

cc: See enclosed list

Letter to L. Barrett from William D. Travers: __June 7, 2001_____

cc:

R. Loux, State of Nevada	R. Massey, Lander County, NV
S. Frishman, State of Nevada	J. Pitts, Lincoln County, NV
L. Barrett, DOE/Washington, DC	M. Baughman, Lincoln County, NV
A. Brownstein, DOE/Washington, DC	A. Funk, Mineral County, NV
S. Hanauer, DOE/Washington, DC	J. Shankle, Mineral County, NV
C. Einberg, DOE/Washington, DC	L. Bradshaw, Nye County, NV
J. Carlson, DOE/Washington, DC	M. Murphy, Nye County, NV
N. Slater, DOE/Washington, DC	J. McKnight, Nye County, NV
L. Desell, DOE/Washington, DC	B. Price, Nevada Legislative Committee
E. Turner, DOE/Washington, DC	D. Weigel, GAO
D. Kim, DOE/Washington, DC	W. Barnard, NWTRB
S. Gomberg, DOE/Washington, DC	D. Bechtel, Clark County, NV
A. Gil, YMPO	E. von Tiesenhausen, Clark County, NV
R. Dyer, YMPO	L. Lehman, T-Reg, Inc
S. Brocoum, YMPO	R. Holden, NCAI
R. Clark, YMPO	A. Collins, NIEC
S. Mellington, YMPO	R. Arnold, Pahrump County, NV
C. Hanlon, YMPO	J. Larson, White Pine County
T. Gunter, YMPO	R. Clark, EPA
K. Hess, BSC	F. Marcinowski, EPA
D. Krisha, BSC	R. Anderson, NEI
S. Cereghino, BSC	R. McCullum, NEI
M. Voegele, BSC/SAIC	S. Kraft, NEI
S. Echols, Winston & Strawn	J. Kessler, EPRI
J. Curtiss, Winston & Strawn	D. Duncan, USGS
J. Meder, Nevada Legislative Counsel Bureau	R. Craig, USGS
A. Kalt, Churchill County, NV	W. Booth, Engineering Svcs, LTD
G. McCorkell, Esmeralda County, NV	N. Rice, NV Congressional Delegation
L. Fiorenzi, Eureka County, NV	T. Story, NV Congressional Delegation
A. Johnson, Eureka County, NV	J. Reynoldson, NV Congressional Delegation
A. Remus, Inyo County, CA	S. Joya, NV Congressional Delegation
M. Yarbrow, Lander County, NV	J. Pegues, City of Las Vegas, NV

Mr. Lake Barrett, Acting Director
Office of Civilian Radioactive Waste Management
U.S. Department of Energy, Headquarters
1000 Independence Avenue, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20585

June 7, 2001

Dear Mr. Barrett:

I am responding to your letter to Chairman Meserve of May 7, 2001, describing the U.S. Department of Energy's process for its evaluation of the Yucca Mountain site. The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff has begun its reviews of the Supplement to the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) and the Yucca Mountain Science and Engineering Report (YMS&ER) issued on May 4, 2001. In that regard, the NRC anticipates that it will be able to complete its review of the supplement to the DEIS within the established public comment period. Further, the NRC intends to complete its review of the YMS&ER and submit its preliminary sufficiency comments to the Department of Energy (DOE) by October 1, 2001, in accordance with your request.

However, you indicated that the DOE plans to issue, within the next few months, additional information in a Supplemental Science and Performance Analysis Report and Preliminary Site Suitability Evaluation which the Secretary of Energy will use in considering a possible site recommendation. The timing of release and nature of information provided in these documents, could affect the timely submission of NRC's preliminary sufficiency comments. Therefore, we ask that the additional information be provided to the NRC as soon as possible.

If you have any questions or comments, please contact me.

Sincerely,

/RA/

William D. Travers
Executive Director for Operations

cc: See enclosed list

DISTRIBUTION: (G20010191)

EDO r/f NMSS r/f NMSS Dir. r/f DWM r/f W Travers C Paperiello
S Reiter J Craig E Merschoff K Cyr ACNW CNWRA OGC
OCA OIG C Poland P Tressler SECY-LTR-01-0249

Document Name: S:\DWM\HLWB\JAC3\barrett_letter_507.wpd

ADAMS Accession No: ML011370488

*See Previous Concurrence Revised for EDO's signature per Commission comments 6/7/01.

OFC	HLWB*	HLWB*	HLWB*	TECH ED*	DWM*	OGC*
NAME	J Ciocco JK	N K Stablein NKS	B Reamer NKS for CWR	E Kraus EK	J Greeves JG	S Treby ST
DATE	5/14/01	5/14/01	5/14/01	5/14/01	5/14/01	5/16/01
OFC	NMSS	DEDMRS	EDO			
NAME	M Virgilio	C Paperiello	W Travers			
DATE	5/23/01	5/24/01	6/07/01			

OFFICIAL RECORD COPY

ACNW: YES NO Delete file after distribution: Yes No

1) This document should/should not be made available to the PUBLIC. / /
(Initials) (Date)

2) This document is/is not related to the HLW program. If it is related to HLW, it should/should not be placed in the LSS.
/ /
(Initials) (Date)