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advance Copy

March 9, 1989

Mr. Samuel J. Chilk, Secretary Nuclear Regulatory Commission Washington, D.C. 20555

REQUEST FOR ADVISORY COMMITTEE RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS FROM COMMISSIONER CURTISS CONCERNING THE PROPOSED LICENSING SUPPORT SYSTEM (LSS) RULE

Dear Secretary Chilk:

This is a response by the Coalition of Nevada Local Governments that participated on the Negotiating Committee to your memo to Howard Bellman requesting answers to a series of questions posed by Commissioner Curtiss concerning the proposed Licensing Support System (LSS) Rule. The Coalition of Nevada Local Governments is comprised of Clark, Lincoln and Nye counties in Nevada, all designated as "affected local governments" by the Department of Energy (DOE). Affected local government status is a recognition by DOE that these communities may experience considerable impacts from a proposed repository. Our response is a consensus of the group. Commissioner Curtiss, as you noted in your memo, is seeking clarification of a number of issues.

First, the Nevada Coalition of Local Governments wishes to reiterate our testimony provided at the Commission hearing that the negotiating process employed to develop the proposed Rule was extremely productive. The fact that the final proposed Rule was able to achieve near consensus despite the disparate views and interests of all mambers is indeed remarkable and is a testament to the understanding by all parties of the importance of developing a system to facilitate licensing. The LSS appears to offer that support.

The proposed rule, as you are aware, is the culmination of many months of effort by all the members of the LSS Committee. The result of the negotiation process is the proposed Rule. The Coalition of Nevada Local Governments, therefore, feels that the proposed Rule stands for itself.

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To answer the questions as individual parties obviously creates the risk of interjecting personal interpretation to the Rule and thereby provides the potential for eliminating the consensus so carefully developed. Thus the Coalition of Nevada Local Governments feels that the language of the Rule and supplemental information available describing the development of the Rule should stand as submitted to NRC.

In addition to the questions, you have also provided "strawman answers" to address Commissioner Curtiss' concerns. We have reviewed the "strawman answers" and don't find any problems with the responses and, therefore, concur with the answers.

Sincerely,

DENNIS A. BECHTEL

COORDINATOR (REPRESENTATIVE OF THE NEVADA COALITION OF LOCAL GOVERNMENTS)

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