

October 12, 2001

Mrs. Teresa Jensen  
928 Keys Drive  
Boulder City, Nevada 89005-1114

Dear Mrs. Jensen:

Thank you for taking the time to inform Chairman Meserve about your concerns regarding the security at nuclear facilities and the Yucca Mountain Project. You raised issues involving the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) and the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE). I will respond to each in turn:

Issue 1

You urge the Commission to increase security at all nuclear facilities.

Response:

In light of the recent terrorist attacks, NRC officials and staff have been working around the clock to ensure adequate protection of nuclear power plants. This has involved close coordination with the Federal Bureau of Investigation, other intelligence and law enforcement agencies, NRC licensees, and military, state and local authorities. Immediately after the attacks, the NRC advised power plants to go to the highest level of security, which they promptly did. The NRC has advised its licensee to maintain heightened security. The agency continues to monitor the situation, and is prepared to make any adjustments to security measures as may be deemed appropriate. In view of the recent unprecedented events, Chairman Meserve, with the full support of the Commission, has directed the staff to review the NRC's security regulations and procedures.

Issue 2

You urge the Commission to cancel any and all attempts to transport and store the waste from nuclear facilities at Yucca Mountain Nevada.

Response:

Your second concern is best directed to the DOE. The Nuclear Waste Policy Act governs the nation's policy for disposal of high-level radioactive waste. This law does not give the Commission the authority to cancel attempts to transport and store the waste from nuclear facilities at Yucca Mountain Nevada. The Act does stipulate that the DOE hold public hearings in the vicinity of Yucca Mountain site. The purpose of the hearings is to inform the residents of the area and receive their comments regarding the possible recommendation of the Yucca Mountain site in Nevada for development as a spent nuclear fuel and high-level radioactive waste geologic repository.

T. Jensen

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The DOE has published a notice of extension of public comment period for the site recommendation consideration process (66 Federal Register 51027). The notice states the comment period is extended to October 19, 2001. The DOE notice indicates that written comments should be addressed to Carol Hanlon, U.S. Department of Energy, Yucca Mountain Site Characterization Office (M/S #205), P.O. Box 30307, North Las Vegas, Nevada 89036-0307. We have forwarded your letter to this address so that the second issue you raised in your letter to Chairman Meserve can be received by the DOE, the appropriate agency under the Nuclear Waste Policy Act.

In closing, I want to thank you again for bringing your concerns to the attention of the Commission. If you have any further questions or comments, please feel free to contact Dr. Bret Leslie of the NRC staff. Dr. Leslie can be reached toll-free, via the NRC operator, at 1-800-368-5642 or via e-mail, at [bwl@nrc.gov](mailto:bwl@nrc.gov).

Sincerely,

/RA/

C. William Reamer, Chief  
High-Level Waste Branch  
Division of Waste Management  
Office of Nuclear Material Safety  
and Safeguards

cc: Carol Hanlon

T. Jensen

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Sincerely,

/RA/

C. William Reamer, Chief  
High-Level Waste Branch  
Division of Waste Management  
Office of Nuclear Material Safety  
and Safeguards

cc: Carol Hanlon

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DOCUMENT NAME: S:\DWM\HLWB\BWL\Response to Jensen G20010399.wpd

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DATE	10/11/01		10/12/01	

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