

EDO Principal Correspondence Control

FROM: DUE: 12/18/01

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FINAL REPLY:

Representative John Shimkus

TO:

Chairman Meserve

FOR SIGNATURE OF :

** PRI **

CRC NO: 01-0648

Chairman

DESC:

Yucca Mountain

ROUTING:

Travers
Paperiello
Kane
Norry
Craig
Burns/Cyr
Lohaus, STP
Merschhoff, RIV

DATE: 12/07/01

ASSIGNED TO:

CONTACT:

NMSS

Virgilio

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS OR REMARKS:

**OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
CORRESPONDENCE CONTROL TICKET**

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AUTHOR:	John Shimkus		
AFFILIATION:	REP		
ADDRESSEE:	Richard Meserve		
SUBJECT:	Yucca Mountain Project		
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JOHN M. SHIMKUS
20TH DISTRICT, ILLINOIS

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December 5, 2001

The Honorable Richard A. Meserve
Chairman, Nuclear Regulatory Commission
11555 Rockville Pike
Rockville, Maryland 20852-2730

Dear Chairman Meserve:

First, I would like to thank you for the work you have been doing over the last few months to make sure that our nuclear reactors are kept safe from attacks. As you may be aware, I am from the State of Illinois, which is home to the most nuclear power plants in the nation. So this issue is a concern to many in my state. Another issue of concern is Yucca Mountain. I have had the pleasure of visiting Yucca Mountain in the past and have seen the research and the science that has gone into studying whether this site would be an appropriate nuclear waste repository or not.

Second, I have a couple of requests that I was hoping you, or your staff, could respond to for me. First, I was hoping you could compare your understanding of the Yucca Mountain Project's preparation for a site recommendation (preparing to begin the license preparation process) with that of a typical/comparable nuclear industry facility at the same stage of development, focusing on the level and quality of information assembled at similar stages.

Also, if you could briefly describe the typical practice in the nuclear industry for the siting, construction, and operating phases of a facility, with particular attention to 1) timing of such phases, 2) prerequisite information for entering into and completing each phase, and 3) regulatory/licensing requirements for each phase.

I look forward to hearing your response to these comments. If should have any questions, please feel free to contact me, or my staff, at your convenience.

Sincerely,

John Shimkus
Member of Congress