

EDO Principal Correspondence Control

FROM: DUE: 04/10/02 EDO CONTROL: G20020189
DOC DT: 03/29/02
FINAL REPLY:

Dario Herrera
Clark County Commission

TO:

Chairman Meserve

FOR SIGNATURE OF : ** PRI **

CRC NO: 02-0234

Chairman Meserve

DESC:

ROUTING:

Public Meetings - Yucca Mountain

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

DATE: 04/01/02

ASSIGNED TO:

CONTACT:

NMSS

Virgilio

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS OR REMARKS:

**OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
CORRESPONDENCE CONTROL TICKET**

Date Printed: Apr 01, 2002 10:52

PAPER NUMBER: LTR-02-0234

LOGGING DATE: 03/29/2002

ACTION OFFICE: EDO

AUTHOR: Dario Herrera (Board of County Cmrs.)

AFFILIATION: NV

ADDRESSEE: CHRM Richard Meserve

SUBJECT: Concerns NRC's announcement to hold three public meetings to discuss the safety and security issues surrounding Yucca Mountain

ACTION: Signature of Chairman

DISTRIBUTION: RF

LETTER DATE: 03/29/2002

ACKNOWLEDGED No

SPECIAL HANDLING: SECY to Ack

NOTES: COMMISSION CORRESPONDENCE

FILE LOCATION: ADAMS

DATE DUE: 04/12/2002

DATE SIGNED:

EDO --G20020189



DARIO HERRERA
Chairman

Board of County Commissioners

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March 29, 2002

Richard A. Meserve
Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Chairman
11555 Rockville Pike
Rockville, Maryland 20852

Dear Chairman Meserve:

I was encouraged this week when the NRC announced it would hold three public meetings to discuss the safety and security issues surrounding Yucca Mountain and the transportation of 77,000 tons of the nation's high-level nuclear waste to Southern Nevada, but I was disturbed to learn that Clark County would be left out of these public forums. Clark County is the nation's fastest growing metropolitan area and the area most likely to be negatively effected by dumping nuclear waste in Yucca Mountain.

With Yucca Mountain only 90 miles from the Las Vegas Valley, it would be a mistake to leave its residents out of any discussions of plans that would pose a threat to their health and safety. The combined population of the three proposed meeting locations - Beatty, Tonopah and Ely - is less than 8,000 people. While I wholeheartedly support holding these meetings in Beatty, Tonopah and Ely, I think it is irresponsible and suspicious for the NRC to virtually ignore the views of a million and a half residents in Clark County. How can the NRC say it is committed to hearing the concerns of all Nevadans on Yucca Mountain without holding meetings in Clark County?

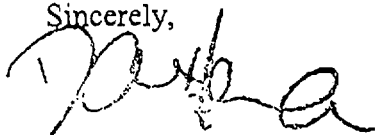
I am writing to ask you to immediately schedule a series of meetings in the Las Vegas Valley so a more accurate representation of Nevada's views can be conveyed to NRC officials. Any public meetings on Yucca Mountain failing to include Las Vegas residents would be a slap in the face to all the people whose health, safety and economy will be put at risk if the Yucca Mountain project is approved.

Southern Nevada residents, like all Nevadans and all Americans, are committed to finding a long-term solution to nuclear waste and they deserve to be included in any discussions addressing the possibility of shipping high-level radio-active waste - the most dangerous substance known to man - down their neighborhood streets.

The Department of Energy has consistently given short shrift to the concerns of Nevada's lawmakers and citizens. DOE Secretary Spencer Abraham spent merely one hour touring the Yucca Mountain site and even less time talking with Governor Guinn and other Nevada officials before making his proposal to President Bush. I hope the NRC will not make the same mistake.

I feel that promptly scheduling a series of meetings to take place over the next two months in Las Vegas so area residents can ask questions and voice their concerns is the best way to get an accurate read on how Southern Nevadans really feel about the dangers of having Yucca Mountain serve as the dumping ground for the nation's nuclear waste. Until this happens, the NRC cannot expect to conduct a respectable or accurate survey of Nevada's attitudes about Yucca Mountain.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. Herrera', written over the word 'Sincerely,'.

Dario Herrera, Chairman
Clark County Commission