

May 6, 2002

The Honorable Dario Herrera  
Chairman, Board of County Commissioners  
Clark County Government Center  
500 S. Grand Central Parkway  
P.O. Box 551601  
Las Vegas, NV 89155-1601

Dear Mr. Herrera:

I am responding on behalf of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) to your letter of March 29, 2002. In your letter, you expressed a concern that, although NRC would be conducting public meetings on April 8-10, 2002, on the potential repository at Yucca Mountain in Beatty, Tonopah, and Ely, a public meeting would not be held in Clark County.

Although NRC is not holding a public meeting in Clark County at this time, NRC has held numerous public meetings in Las Vegas and other venues within Clark County (Enclosures 1 and 2 are a listing), and we will continue to do so. It is because the vast majority of our public meetings take place in Las Vegas that we have received specific invitations to journey to neighboring towns and counties. Local officials outside of Las Vegas have asked us to present the same information and to provide their citizens with the same access to NRC staff and managers that we have afforded residents in and near Las Vegas. Just last May we responded to such a request from officials in Mesquite. We scheduled these meetings in Beatty, Tonopah and Ely in response to similar invitations from officials in Nye and White Pine counties. These public meetings were similar to meetings held in Clark County.

On March 29, 2002, before we received your letter, NRC published a draft Yucca Mountain Review Plan for public comment. We announced our intent to conduct public meetings in Nevada during the public comment period. At least two of these meetings will be held in Las Vegas, most likely in mid-to-late May.

The Commission fully agrees that its future meetings in Nevada should continue to include an ongoing dialogue with the residents of Clark County. I want to assure you that NRC values public input and welcomes the opportunity to interact with all members of the public in Nevada.

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NRC's duty is to protect public safety and the environment, and we will continue to actively seek the public's views as we fulfill that obligation.

Please contact me if you have any further questions or comments.

Sincerely,

**/RA/**

Richard A. Meserve

Enclosures:

1. Public NRC Meetings held in Clark County, Nevada
2. Recent Public Technical Exchange Meetings held in  
Clark County, Nevada

## **PUBLIC NRC MEETINGS HELD IN CLARK COUNTY, NEVADA**

<b><u>Date</u></b>	<b><u>Subject</u></b>
May 24, 1998	General overview of U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission's (NRC's) role and responsibilities for a potential repository at Yucca Mountain at UNLV, held in conjunction with 8 <sup>th</sup> International Conference on High-Level Radioactive Waste Management, Las Vegas, NV
March 23, 1999	Public meeting to solicit public views on NRC's proposed regulations for Yucca Mountain at UNLV, Las Vegas, NV
June 16, 1999	Follow-up meeting to solicit additional public views on NRC's proposed regulations for Yucca Mountain at UNLV, Las Vegas, NV
November 2, 1999	Facilitated roundtable discussion/workshop on Defense-in-Depth, in NRC's proposed regulations for Yucca Mountain, at the Alexis Park Hotel, Las Vegas, NV
December 7-8, 1999	Facilitated roundtable discussion and evening public meeting on revisions to NRC's spent fuel cask transportation study, Henderson, NV (in Clark County)
February 23, 2000	Licensing Support Network (LSN) Advisory Review Panel meeting in Las Vegas, NV
March 20, 2000	LSN Technical Working Group meeting in Las Vegas, NV
May 4, 2000	Workshop on NRC's licensing process and regulatory review procedures in the Clark County Council Chambers, Las Vegas, NV
January 18-19, 2001	LSN Technical Working Group meetings in Las Vegas, NV
May 23, 2001	Meeting on NRC's hearing process at the Clark County Regional Transportation Commission Bldg, Las Vegas, NV
May 24, 2001	General overview of NRC's regulatory responsibilities for a potential high-level waste repository and for HLW transportation, at Mesquite City Hall, Mesquite, NV (in Clark County) --by request of Mesquite City officials
August 2001	Two follow-up meetings on revisions to NRC's spent fuel cask transportation study, Las Vegas, NV
August 6-8, 2001	LSN Advisory Review Panel and Technical Working Group Meetings in Las Vegas, NV
August 7, 2001	Presentation to Clark County Board of Commissioners on NRC's regulatory program, Las Vegas, NV

**RECENT PUBLIC TECHNICAL EXCHANGE MEETINGS**  
**HELD IN CLARK COUNTY, NEVADA**

<b><u>Date</u></b>	<b><u>Subject</u></b>
August 6-10, 2000	Total System Performance Assessment and Integration
August 16-17, 2000	Unsaturated and Saturated Zone Flow Under Isothermal Conditions
August 29-31, 2000	Igneous Activity
September 12-13, 2000	Container Life and Source Term
October 11-12, 2000	Structural Deformation and Seismicity
October 23-24, 2000	Criticality
October 31-November 2, 2000	Unsaturated and Saturated Zone Flow Under Isothermal Conditions
December 5-7, 2000	Radionuclide Transport
January 8-9, 2001	Thermal Effects on Flow
January 9-12, 2001	Evolution of the Near-Field Environment
February 6-8, 2001	Repository Design on Thermal Mechanical Effects
March 15-17, 2001	Total System Performance Assessment and Integration / Selection of Relevant Features, Events, and Processes
June 21-22, 2001	Igneous Activity
July 24-26, 2001	Preclosure Design
August 2, 2001	Range of Operating Temperatures
September 5, 2001	Igneous Activity
September 18-19, 2001	Range of Operating Temperatures
February 5, 2002	Future Issue Resolution Meetings