UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

June 19, 2002

OFFICE OF THE
SECRETARY

Ms. Debbie S. Smith
Barry County Bd. of Commissioners
220 W. State Street
Hastings, MI 49058

Reference: Yucca Mountain Repository

Dear Ms. Smith:

Thank you for the Resolution sent to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission regarding the Yucca Mountain Repository. Your correspondence has been forwarded to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission Staff for appropriate consideration. A copy of your correspondence and this reply are also being placed in Agency records on the Yucca Mountain Repository.

Sincerely yours,

Emile L. Julian
Assistant for Rulemakings
and Adjudications

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BARRY COUNTY

Board of Commissioners

220 W. State St. Hastings, MI 49058
Ph. (616) 948-4891 Fax (616) 948-4884

02-12
04-23-02

RESOLUTION

In Support of the Establishment of a Permanent Repository for High-Level Nuclear Waste by Opening Yucca Mountain, NV

WHEREAS: the Barry County Board of Commissioners passed the following resolution to urge Michigan U.S. Senators and members of Congress to support the efforts of the U.S. Department of Energy and the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission to establish a permanent repository for high-level nuclear waste by opening Yucca Mountain, NV; and

WHEREAS: over the past four decades, nuclear power has become a significant source for the nation's production of electricity and Michigan is among the majority of states that derive energy from nuclear plants; and

WHEREAS: since the earliest days of nuclear power, the great dilemma associated with this technology is how to deal with the waste material that is produced. This high-level radioactive waste material demands exceptional care in all facets of its storage and disposal, including the transportation of this material; and

WHEREAS: in 1982, Congress passed the Nuclear Waste Policy Act of 1982, this legislation requires the federal government, through the U.S. Department of Energy to build a facility for the permanent storage of high-level nuclear waste. This act, which was amended in 1987, includes a specific timetable to identify a suitable location and to establish the waste facility. The costs for this undertaking are to be paid from a fee that is assessed on all nuclear energy produced; and

WHEREAS: in accordance with the federal act, Michigan electric customers have paid $405.8 million into this federal fund for construction of the federal waste facility; and

WHEREAS: there are serious concerns that the federal government is not complying with the timetables set forth in federal law. The U.S. Department of Energy, working with the Nuclear Regulatory Commission must not fail to meet its obligation as provided by law, there is too much at stake.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that we call upon Michigan's elected officials to support the U.S. Department of Energy and the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory commission in their effort to fulfill their obligation to establish a permanent repository at Yucca Mountain, NV for high-level nuclear waste.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this resolution be transmitted to the U.S. Department of Energy, the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission and Michigan's U.S. Senators and members of Congress.

Jeffrey S. MacKenzie, Chair
Barry County Board of Commissioners

Debbie S. Smith, Clerk
County of Barry