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State of Nevada Senate

Sixty-Seventh Session
January 6, 1984

Dr. Philip S. Justus
Senior On-Site Licensing Representative
Division of High-Level Waste Management
Office of Nuclear Material Safety & Safeguards
Nuclear Regulatory Commission
301 East Stewart
Las Vegas, NV 89101

Dear Dr. Justus:

Your presentation to the members of the Nevada Legislature's Committee on High-Level Radioactive Waste on November 12, 1983, concerning the activities of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) at the proposed Yucca Mountain repository site was very informative and greatly appreciated.

There were several items, in response to questions, concerning which you were going to provide additional information. According to staff notes, the questions and information requested are:

1. What is the overall mission of the NRC, and what is the agency's specific role in licensing a high-level radioactive waste repository?
2. What are the responsibilities and liabilities of the Federal Government for any problems that may occur on the repository site after it has been sealed?
3. If the Federal Government does not accept responsibility and liability for any problems that may occur on the repository site after it has been sealed, who is responsible and liable?
4. Which Federal agency is responsible for regulating military radioactive waste - the NRC, the Department of Energy, the Environmental Protection Agency, the Department of Defense, or other?

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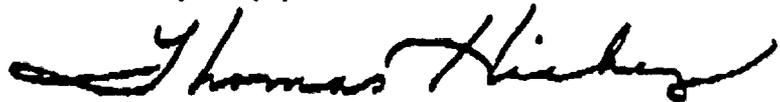
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5. Is military high-level nuclear waste to be placed in the repository?
6. If military high-level nuclear waste is to be placed in the repository, will the military be required to meet the same standards as those set for civilian high-level nuclear waste?
7. If the military nuclear waste is to be placed in the repository, will there be any problems in placing military and civilian radioactive waste in the same repository?
8. Will the amount of radiation exposure to workers at the repository be the same as that allowed workers on the Nevada Test Site?
9. What is the standard for the amount of exposure allowed, and how was it established? If there is a different level of allowed exposure proposed for the repository and the Nevada Test Site, why?

Please provide the answers to these questions to John Meder, Staff to the Committee, in writing, so that he may distribute them to the Committee members.

Thank you for your assistance in providing the requested information to the Committee. If you have questions regarding any of these matters, please call Mr. Meder (toll free) in Carson City at 384-2225.

Very truly yours,



Senator Thomas J. Hickey
Chairman, Nevada Legislature's
Committee on High-Level
Radioactive Waste

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