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The State of Nevada
Executive Chamber

Robert List
Governor

May 20, 1981 - 01

Capitol Complex
Carson City, Nevada 89710

Mr. Mahlon E. Gates
Acting Assistant Secretary
for Nuclear Energy
United States Department of Energy
Washington, D. C. 20535

WM Record File
102.3

WM Project 11
Docket No. _____
PDR
LPDR

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(Return to WM, 623-SS)

Dear Ink:

I am in receipt of your recent letter regarding continuing geologic investigations of potential storage sites for radioactive materials.

Before addressing the issue at hand, I want to take this opportunity to express my continuing opposition to the storage of radioactive materials in this state. From a national and regional perspective, Nevada has "pulled its shift" in the nuclear area. As you know, Nevada has and continues to serve as a major weapons testing center; the state has accepted low-level radioactive waste from across the country; and is now serving as a site of various storage and disposal experiments regarding high-level radioactive wastes. The present terminal isolation and retrievable storage studies which are underway go well beyond what Nevada should be reasonably expected to endure.

On top of the foregoing activities, USDOE now intends to undertake a screening study to identify those areas which have the best geologic and hydrologic conditions for the storage of radioactive materials in the Basin and Range Geologic Province. It appears to me that this is another step to designate Nevada as a nuclear storage and disposal site. I want you to clearly understand that I am opposed to that course of action.

Because it appears to me that USDOE will pursue its investigation despite Nevada's objections, I have designated a representative to participate with USGS and USDOE in the evaluation of geologic and hydrologic conditions in the Basin and Range Geologic Province. Mr. John Schilling, Director of the Nevada Bureau of Mines and Geology will represent this state. Mr. Schilling can be contacted at the Nevada Bureau of Mines and Geology, University of Nevada-Reno, Reno, Nevada 89557, telephone (702)784-6691. I would

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