



The State of Nevada
Executive Chamber

Robert List
Governor

Capital Complex
Carson City, Nevada 89710

Handwritten notes: 102.3, JBM, Sarmier, Bunting, MacD., Ubell, Bill.

June 14, 1987

Record File 102.3

WM Project 11
Docket No. _____
PDR
LPDR

2104 [redacted]
Las Vegas, NV 89102

Distribution: _____

(Return to WM, 623-SS)

Dear [redacted]

There is a silent menace threatening the citizens of our state today, and as your Governor I will continue to fight the battle against it. I am talking about the storage of nuclear waste in our state.

Frankly, some people have criticized my outspoken opposition, and I feel the need to communicate directly with you. Since becoming your Governor, my concerns about this issue have multiplied tremendously, leading me to believe that the storage of the nation's nuclear garbage in Nevada is a threat to our citizens and to our tourist industry.

During the 19-year history of the Beatty facility, incidents involving the shipping of illegally packaged containers have been numerous. I will never forget my visit to Beatty in May 1979, where I witnessed a shipment that had caught fire and burned at the side of the heavily-used Highway 95 because someone did not care enough to ensure that the material was properly packaged. In direct violation of Nevada law and federal regulations the shipment endangered all Nevadans along the route. I resent such flagrant disregard for our citizens' safety.

Secondly, no one has been able to assure us that the material is not seeping into the ground-water system. For example, we know that there is an unknown quantity of a highly radioactive material that will last for thousands of years buried at the Beatty site. We have no idea, due to poor records, where or how much is buried, and whether the containers will safely hold the material.

I am concerned that the level of security has not always been adequate. For example, radioactive materials such as hand tools have been removed from the site by individuals. We also were horrified to learn that an unknown amount of waste was actually buried outside of the fence

Now we have a new threat -- the federal government is considering the Nevada Test Site as a possible location for the storage of high-level nuclear waste. The time has come for other states to carry some of the load, and for other solutions to be pursued.

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WM-11 PDR

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Nevadans, in good faith, cooperated in the 1950's and 60's during above-ground nuclear testing -- only to learn of the horrors of the aftermath despite assurances that all safety precautions had been taken and no danger existed. Today we know differently.

As your Governor, it's my responsibility to be concerned about the health and safety of you and your family. In good conscience, I cannot stand idly by without protesting Nevada's serving as a nuclear garbage dump for the other 49 states.

Another area of concern to me is that Nevada's economic life blood now depends on tourism. Do you think that tourists would continue spending their family vacations in a place that could be hazardous to their health?

These inexcusable events have resulted in my determination to close the Beatty facility. Due to legal entanglements, the effort is currently in the courts, but I will not give up. In the meantime, I have placed stringent inspection procedures on all shipments to the facility, resulting in the flow of material dropping to a small fraction of what it was in 1979.

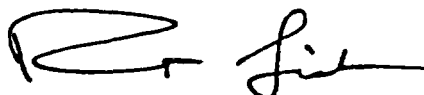
In regard to storing high-level waste on the Nevada Test Site, I have repeatedly voiced my opposition, and will continue to do so. We cannot allow the federal government to once again ram-rod dangerous and undesirable activity down our throats.

As your Governor, I have a solid record of stepping forward and speaking out for all Nevadans. I will continue to do so -- even though it sometimes is not the popular thing to do. Nothing should have a higher priority than the health of you and your children.

I am steadfast in my resolve to close the Beatty radioactive waste site and to fight the establishment of a high-level storage facility on the Nevada Test Site. You deserve no less.

I ask for your support in my continuing efforts, for it is critical to my success.

Sincerely,



Robert List
Governor