



## Department of Energy

Nevada Operations Office  
P. O. Box 14100  
Las Vegas, NV 89114-4100

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Robert R. Loux, Jr.  
c/o Department of Minerals  
State of Nevada  
400 W. King Street  
Carson City, NV 89710

NOV 29 1983

Dear Mr. Loux:

Thank you for your letter of November 7, 1983, regarding the technical workshops with NRC that have been cancelled. I, too, share your concern about their cancellation which, in reality, have only been postponed.

Based on our previous interactions, I am sure that you recognize that these cancellations or postponements were essential if the Environmental Assessment (EA) was to be available on a timely basis. The issuance of the siting guidelines requires that we turn our full efforts to preparing the Environmental Assessment, which is specified in the Nuclear Waste Policy Act. In deference to the request by the states, no significant action has been taken to analyze the Yucca Mountain site against the siting guidelines until they were complete. Since the siting guidelines have been greatly expanded to over 40 pages and in view of the fact that the Environmental Assessment must withstand a judicial review, it is necessary we direct our full technical staff to this document. This effort is further stressed if we are to meet the schedule established to get the Environmental Assessment into the hands of the state. In addition, since the document can be subject to a judicial proceedings, we believe all material covered in the Environmental Assessment must be in published references. Consequently, we must not only write an Environmental Assessment, which is expected to be a voluminous document, but also all the technical references not currently in hand containing the basic data.

Returning to the schedule, I would like to remind you of the agreement that was reached in Carson City on March 23, 1983. Although the Nuclear Waste Policy Act does not require this action, the Department agreed to issue the Environmental Assessment in draft form with a 60 day comment period. We also agreed to public hearings on the document after 45 days in two different cities.

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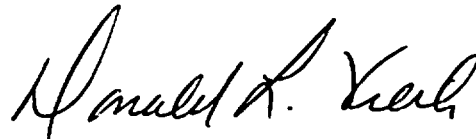
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If the DOE satisfies all other commitments that have been made to the State of Nevada, it is not possible to reschedule the workshops that you have requested. However, it will be possible to satisfy your requirements by assuring them you have access to all the references on the work that is covered in the Environmental Assessment when it is issued. In addition, the two workshops that you requested will be scheduled within 10 working days after the Environmental Assessment is issued in draft form. Scheduling the workshops at this time should have the advantage of allowing the participants to more effectively focus on your questions after having seen how the technical issues are treated.


I believe that you can appreciate the nature of this dilemma and will accept this proposed compromise.



Donald L. Vieth, Director  
Waste Management Project Office

WMPO:DLV-251

cc:

R. L. Morgan, HQ (RW-1) FORSTL  
J. W. Bennett, HQ (RW-20) GTN  
M. W. Frei, HQ (RW-23) GTN  
C. W. George, HQ (RW-3) GTN  
L. D. Ramspott, LLNL, Livermore, CA  
W. W. Dudley, Jr., USGS, Denver, CO  
D. T. Oakley, LANL, Los Alamos, NM  
T. O. Hunter, SNL, 6310, Albq., NM  
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