

PDR



The Under Secretary of Energy  
Washington, DC 20585

March 13, 1997

10 CFR 960

The Honorable Bob Miller  
Governor of Nevada  
Capitol Complex  
Carson City, Nevada 89710

97 MAR 19 P2:59

Dear Governor Miller:

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This responds to your December 24, 1996 letter to the former Secretary O'Leary regarding the Department's proposal to amend the "General Guidelines for the Recommendation of Sites for Nuclear Waste Repositories."

Thank you for taking the time to review the notice and communicate your views. I understand that the State also expressed its position at the public hearing on this proposal. The Department has recently extended the comment period for this rulemaking until April 16, 1997. Your letter, hearing statement, and any further comments you submit will be made part of the record for this rulemaking and will be carefully considered before a final response to comments on the rulemaking is published in the Federal Register.

Sincerely,

Thomas P. Grumbly

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per Sue Fridley

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The Under Secretary of Energy  
Washington, DC 20585

March 13, 1997

The Honorable Richard H. Bryan  
United States Senate  
364 Russell Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510-2804

Dear Senator Bryan:

This responds further to your letter of February 3, 1997, to the Acting Secretary, stating your opposition to the Department's proposed rule to amend its "General Guidelines for the Recommendation of Sites for Nuclear Waste Repositories" published in the Federal Register on December 16, 1997. You requested that the Department extend the comment period for an additional 120 days and arrange for a comprehensive series of hearings on the subject at the earliest possible date.

To accommodate interested parties, the Department had already extended the original 60-day comment period by 31 days. We believe that an additional 120 days is not needed to give interested persons an opportunity for meaningful comment. But recognizing the importance of this program, especially to the citizens of the State of Nevada, we have decided to provide a second extension of an additional 30 days, until April 16, 1997, thus providing a combined comment period of 120 days. We are considering your request for additional hearings and will inform you of our decision before the comment period closes.

Your letter opposing the rulemaking will be made part of the record and will be carefully considered before a final response to comments on the rulemaking is published in the Federal Register.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Thomas P. Grumbly".

Thomas P. Grumbly