

EDO Principal Correspondence Control

FROM: DUE: 10/29/03 EDO CONTROL: G20030625
DOC DT: 09/23/03
FINAL REPLY:

Senator Tom Daschle

TO:

Chairman Diaz

FOR SIGNATURE OF : ** PRI ** CRC NO: 03-0687

Chairman Diaz

DESC:

Request Assistance with South Dakota Governor
Rounds -- Proposed Underground Laboratory

ROUTING:

Travers
Norry
Paperiello
Kane
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Cyr, OGC

DATE: 10/20/03

ASSIGNED TO: CONTACT:
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SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS OR REMARKS:

Ref. G20030514.

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ACTION OFFICE: EDO

AUTHOR: Tom Daschle

AFFILIATION: SEN

ADDRESSEE: Nils Diaz

SUBJECT: Followup letter to So. Dakota Governor Mike Rounds ltr requesting assistance in establishing the So Dakota Scientific and Technological Facilities Authority

ACTION: Signature of Chairman

DISTRIBUTION: RF, OCA to Ack

LETTER DATE: 09/23/2003

ACKNOWLEDGED No

SPECIAL HANDLING:

NOTES: -Chairman's Correspondence -

FILE LOCATION: ADAMS

DATE DUE: 10/31/2003

DATE SIGNED:

THOMAS DASCHLE
SOUTH DAKOTA

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September 23, 2003

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Chairman Nils Diaz
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, DC 20555

Dear Chairman Diaz:

I am writing to follow up on a letter that South Dakota Governor Mike Rounds sent to you requesting assistance in establishing the South Dakota Scientific and Technological Facilities Authority, and to support his request for any assistance that could be provided by the commission.

In May, the National Science Foundation deemed that the Homestake Mine in Lead, South Dakota would be the best site for the establishment of a world-class underground laboratory. For years I have supported the establishment of such a project in South Dakota and believe that we are making substantive progress in accomplishing this goal. There are still obstacles that must be overcome, but important progress has been made. The coming months will be crucial to this project, and I am optimistic that, in the end, a world-class research facility will be established at the Homestake Mine.

The creation of the laboratory is a daunting task to say the least, but the benefit to be gained far outweighs the drawbacks. The knowledge that we as a people could gain from this project is truly extraordinary, and I believe it is imperative that the federal government do everything possible to ensure the success of this effort. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission has unique experience and understanding that would greatly benefit the Authority as it goes about its business of establishing the research laboratory, and the results would benefit the people of South Dakota, the NRC and the entire scientific community. Therefore, as the Authority begins its work to ensure the establishment of a research facility at the site of the former Homestake mine, I urge you to work cooperatively with them in this important effort to advance our understanding of the world around us.

Thank you for consideration of this request. I look forward to hearing from you soon.

With best wishes, I am

Sincerely,


Tom Daschle
United States Senate

TAD/bew

CHAIRMAN REC'D
03 OCT 17 AM 9:58