



THE SECRETARY OF ENERGY  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20585

WM DOCKET CONTROL  
CENTER

August 13, 1986

WM Record File  
109

WM Project 1  
Docket No. \_\_\_\_\_

PDR

LPDR \_\_\_\_\_

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Honorable ~~Mark O. Hatfield~~  
Chairman  
Committee on Appropriations  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Mr. Chairman:

I have been informed that the Appropriations Committee is considering appropriating \$380 million for DOE activities under the Nuclear Waste Fund, although the Administration's request was for \$769 million.

The Administration has moved vigorously to implement the NWPFA with its highly prescriptive schedules, aimed at beginning to accept HLW and spent fuel for geologic disposal by 1998. The President's selection on May 28, 1986, of three sites for characterization for a geologic repository was a major step forward. To reduce funding as being considered at this crucial juncture will undermine our ability to begin geologic waste disposal by 1998 as required by the NWPFA and by contracts with each of America's nuclear utilities.

Spent fuel and high-level waste from civilian and defense facilities continues to accumulate in 27 or more States. There will never be a better time to move ahead than now. I urge you and your Committee to reconsider and provide the requested funding so we can proceed as directed by the Act.

The time for reconsideration, if needed, is at the time of site selection in 1991 when we know about the acceptability of the sites. To stop or delay characterization activities at this crucial juncture is to turn away from the national commitment represented by the NWPFA. It is important that we proceed now or we may lose forever this opportunity to fulfill a national commitment.

Sincerely,

John S. Herrington

cc: John C. Stennis  
Ranking Minority Member

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