



UNITED STATES
 NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
 REGION IV
 611 RYAN PLAZA DRIVE, SUITE 1000
 ARLINGTON, TEXAS 76011

May 12, 1983

Mr. Bunting, Mr. Meeb, Wayne Kern

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WAC From Wayne Kern OSP

MEMORANDUM FOR: John T. Collins, Regional Administrator
 FROM: Gary Sanborn, Regional State Liaison Officer
 SUBJECT: STATE OF UTAH'S HIGH LEVEL WASTE ACTIVITIES

As part of a trip to Salt Lake City, Utah, to meet with state officials and Utah's State Liaison Officer to the NRC, I attended a public hearing conducted by the Department of Energy in relation to DOE's consideration of two locations in Utah as possible sites for a high level radioactive waste repository. Prior to attending the public hearing, I met with four state officials involved in Utah's high level waste activities.

The officials I met with were: Gary Tomsic, Chairman of the state's High Level Waste Policy Group; Juline Christofferson, Physical Resources Coordinator, Office of the Governor; Hank Welch, Technical Coordinator, High Level Nuclear Waste; and Sheila Conway, Policy Coordinator, High Level Nuclear Waste.

The most important outcome of the meeting was a strong expression on the part of these state officials in developing a formal working relationship with the NRC in the high level waste area. Specifically, the state is interested in participating, to the extent possible, in the NRC's oversight of the DOE activities at this stage of the process. For example, NRC is currently charged with concurring in DOE's siting guidelines. The state of Utah, which has voiced some objections to the process that DOE is following, would like to have some input in the NRC's concurrence process, if possible.

At least part of the state's interest in working with the NRC staff at this stage follows some general discussions with Commissioner Asselstine at a meeting in Austin, Texas, in late March. According to Utah officials, Commissioner Asselstine invited the states represented at the meeting to share their views with the NRC staff. Utah would like to do so, but as part of a more formal process than is currently in place.

I have communicated the state's interests to both NMSS and to the Office of State Programs. I will keep you advised of any developments in this area.

For your information, I have attached a copy of the remarks made by Mr. Tomsic on behalf of Governor Matheson at DOE's public hearing on May 4 in Salt Lake City.

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 PDR WASTE
 WM-16 PDR

WM Record File

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John T. Collins

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I would add that similar public hearings are taking place this month in two other states in Region IV - Texas and Louisiana.



Gary Sanborn
Regional State Liaison Officer

Attachment:
As stated

cc w/attachment:
G. Wayne Kerr, OSP
H. Miller, NMSS
R. Doda