



# United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20245

IN REPLY REFER TO:  
Environmental Services  
Staff (204)

MAR 16 1983

WM Record File	408...
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ROM, Cressell	

Mr. R. E. Browning  
Acting Director, Division of  
Waste Management  
Office of Nuclear Material  
Safety and Safeguards  
Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Washington, D. C. 20555

WM Record File 101.4  $\pm$  102.4

Rec'd 3/21/83  
WM Project WM-K  
Docket No. \_\_\_\_\_  
PDR   
LPDR

Dear Mr. Browning:

The Bureau of Indian Affairs is presently working on the identification of interested Indian tribes relevant to the Department of Energy's (DOE) potentially acceptable sites for nuclear waste repositories. We are also working on criteria for the Secretary to qualify a tribe as substantially and adversely affected by a proposed DOE site. The DOE potentially acceptable sites and corresponding interested Indian tribes are listed on page 2 of the enclosed letter dated February 25, 1983 addressed to the Bureau Area Directors concerned.

We would appreciate your coordination of technical and tribal matters with our Environmental Services Staff (Code 204), Attn: Mr. Frank Khattat. Legal matters should be coordinated with the Associate Solicitor, Indian Affairs, Attn: Mr. Mike Cox at the U.S. Department of Interior, Washington, D. C. These coordinations will aid the tribes and BIA area and field offices concerned in order that the notification and consultation process required under the Nuclear Waste Policy Act may take place in a timely manner.

Sincerely,

  
Director, Office of Trust  
Responsibilities

Enclosure

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PDR WASTE  
WM-10 PDR

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NTS- 00132  
BWIP- 00377



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BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20245

IN REPLY REFER TO:

Environmental Services  
Staff (204)

FEB 25 1983

## Memorandum

To: Navajo, Portland, Phoenix and Eastern Area Directors

From: Deputy Assistant Secretary - Indian Affairs (Operations)

Subject: Notification of Interested Tribes of P.L. 97-425 "Nuclear Waste Policy Act of 1982"

Mr. Ralph Reeser, Director of Congressional and Legislative Affairs, in a memorandum dated January 13, 1983, sent you a copy of Public Law 97-425 "Nuclear Waste Policy Act." Section 2(2) of this Act defines "affected Indian tribe" as follows:

"The term 'affected Indian tribe' means any Indian tribe —

(A) within whose reservation boundaries a monitored retrievable storage facility, test and evaluation facility, or a repository for high-level radioactive waste or spent fuel is proposed to be located;

(B) whose federally defined possessory or usage rights to other lands outside of the reservation's boundaries arising out of congressionally ratified treaties may be substantially and adversely affected by the locating of such a facility; Provided, That the Secretary of the Interior finds, upon the petition of the appropriate governmental officials of the tribe, that such effects are both substantial and adverse to the tribe;"

Based on current information submitted by the Department of Energy, none of DOE's "potentially acceptable sites" are located within the boundaries of any Indian reservation. However, Section 2(2)(B) of the definition may be applicable to the Indian tribes listed below. At this time and until a final determination is made, these tribes are designated as "interested Indian tribes." For this reason, please review the list of potentially acceptable sites submitted by DOE, and after consultation with the Tribal Council of the designated "interested Indian tribes", as well as the Regional or Field Solicitor, we would appreciate receiving your recommendation not later than March 16, 1983, of which tribe(s) in your area should be considered an "affected Indian tribe." Based on

your recommendation, the Secretary will have to consider whether or not a tribe is substantially and adversely affected by a proposed site. When making your recommendation, please consider whether a site will adversely affect public health, safety, and the environment for the respective reservation. The DOE's potentially acceptable sites and corresponding interested Indian tribes are listed below.

DOE Potentially Acceptable Sites

Designated Interested Tribes

Hanford, Washington

Yakima, Unatilla, Nez Perce,  
Coeur D'Alene

Salt Valley, Utah

Uintah & Ouray

Elk Ridge, Utah

Navajo

Gibson Dome, Utah

None Proposed

DOE Nevada Test Site

Las Vegas and Moapa River Indian  
Reservations

Gulf Interior Region  
(Richton Dome and Cypress  
Creek Dome Sites)

Choctaw

Permian Basin, Dalhart  
and Palo Duro Areas, Texas

None Proposed

Gulf Interior Region  
(Vacherie Dome Site)

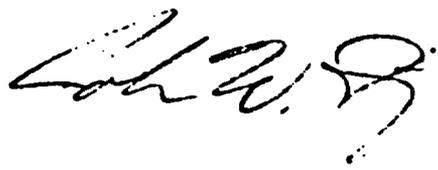
None Proposed

In order for you to inform the tribes of the details involved, we have prepared an orientation package to be sent to each Tribal Council and Agency Superintendent. Each package contains the following items:

1. A copy of Public Law 97-425 and remarks of the President at the signing ceremony of the Law.
2. DOE proposed "General Guidelines for Recommendation of Sites for Nuclear Waste Repositories."
3. A set of maps of proposed DOE sites.
4. Bureau of Indian Affairs Fact Sheet on the Nuclear Waste Policy Act.
5. Notice of public hearings on the siting guidelines to be conducted throughout the country in March 1982.

Please mail a copy of this package as soon as possible in order that the interested tribes can be informed of planned hearings for item 2 of this package which are scheduled between March 2 through 14, 1983.

If you have any questions, please write or call the Central Office Environmental Services Staff (Code 204) on FTS 343-2257 or 343-4541.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "L. W. B.", is located to the right of the contact information.

Attachments