

MAR 21 1984

Mr. Robert R. Loux
Director
Nuclear Waste Project Office
Office of the Governor
Capitol Complex
Carson City, Nv 89710

Dear Mr. Loux:

This is in response to your letter of February 16, 1984 to Chairman Palladino. In your letter, you identified concerns which the State of Nevada has with the U. S. Department of Energy's (DOE) General Guidelines for the Recommendation of Sites for Nuclear Waste Repositories (siting guidelines) and with the NRC staff's comments on the DOE's draft Mission Plan.

With regard to your concerns about the DOE siting guidelines, comments made by the states at the Commission's January 11 meeting or in writing afterwards are being given full consideration by the Commission in formulating its final decision on concurrence.

Regarding our comment on DOE's draft Mission Plan about the need for a free and open exchange between the NRC and DOE staffs prior to the beginning of formal licensing and your related concern about the role of a host state in the licensing process, the NRC considers that state participation in the licensing process is essential and to be most effective should start early. Thus, in June of 1983, when a procedural agreement was struck between NRC and DOE (FR 39701) that established principles to guide NRC/DOE interactions during site investigations and site characterization it provided that potential host states and affected Indian tribes be invited to participate in the technical meetings conducted as part of those interactions. Under this agreement, the State of Nevada participated in a series of NRC/DOE/NNWSI technical meetings held during September and October of 1983. We look forward to continued, active state participation in similar meetings that will be held in the future.

I would appreciate any specific suggestions you may have for making state participation more useful to the state representatives as experience is gained.

Mr. Robert R. Loux

I appreciate receiving your comments and look forward to developing a mutually constructive interface.

Sincerely,

Original Signed by

Robert E. Browning

Mike Bell for

Robert E. Browning, Director
Division of Waste Management
Office of Nuclear Material Safety
and Safeguards

*See previous concurrence page.

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Mr. Robert R. Loux

I appreciate receiving your comments and look forward to your continuing involvement in the licensing process.

Sincerely,

Robert E. Browning, Director
Division of Waste Management

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