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Date: Tue, Sep 6, 2005 12:36 PM
Subject: State of Nevada's Comment on Location of Pre-License Application Presiding Officer Board Case Management Conference

In an Order dated August 24, 2005, the Pre-License Application Presiding Officer Board ("the PAPO Board") announced its intention to hold a Case Management Conference at 9:00 a.m. local time, on Thursday, September 29, 2005. In its Order, the PAPO Board solicited brief comments as to whether the conference should be held in Rockville, Maryland, or in its hearing room at Building One, Pacific Enterprise Plaza, 3250 Tupper Lane, Las Vegas, Nevada. In that regard, the State of Nevada ("Nevada") respectfully submits that the following considerations militate in favor of holding the conference at its customary location in Rockville, Maryland:

DOCKETED
 USNRC
 September 6, 2005 (12:36pm)
 OFFICE OF SECRETARY
 RULEMAKINGS AND
 ADJUDICATIONS STAFF

1. While no subject matter addressed by the PAPO Board is insignificant, the scope of the September 29 hearing, in accordance with the Board's August 24 order, is quite narrow and focused, and not likely to be of broad general interest to the public.
2. NRC's staff counsel, DOE's counsel (both in-house and outside counsel), Nevada's counsel, and NEI's counsel are located within a relatively short distance of the Rockville, Maryland location. This is likewise true of all three Administrative Judges responsible for the conference and most of the headquarters of the public interest groups who have participated in prior case management conferences.
3. To the extent the media has customarily covered the PAPO Board conferences, the primary Las Vegas media have local representatives in Washington, D.C., as do, of course, the national media.
4. The substantial expenditure of time and of financial resources for the judges and the numerous counsel for the respective parties to travel to Las Vegas for what promises to be a narrow and brief conference, would be better saved for a case management conference of much broader interest and longer duration than the one anticipated for September 29.

Respectfully submitted,

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