

December 9, 2005

Mr. Conrad F. Golich

(b)(6)

Dear Mr. Golich:

Senator John McCain has forwarded to the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) your note, dated November 4, 2005, which addresses potential technical solutions for safe management of high-level radioactive waste (HLW). We appreciate your sincere interest in our Nation's energy policy.

By statute, **NRC's** role is that of an independent regulator of any U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) proposal to construct and operate a geologic repository for disposal of HLW at Yucca Mountain, Nevada. NRC assures protection of public health and safety and the environment by thorough consideration of the DOE license application, if filed, as well as by enforcement of NRC regulations and relevant statutory requirements. NRC's role is separate and distinct from that of DOE, which is charged with developing, constructing, and managing any repository for disposal of HLW.

Because of the well-defined and separate roles of the NRC and DOE, information about the potential technical solutions you propose should be sent directly to DOE. Therefore, we will forward a **copy** of this letter, along with the supporting **materials** you have provided, to the DOE Office of Civilian Radioactive Waste Management (OCRWM) at the following address:

U.S. Department of Energy
Office of Civilian Radioactive Waste Management
1000 Independence Avenue, S.W.
Washington, DC 20588

Thank you for expressing your concerns about issues related to safe disposal of HLW.

Sincerely,

/RA/ for E. W. Brach for J. Strosnider

Jack R. Strosnider, Director
Office of Nuclear Material Safety
and Safeguards

cc: Senator John McCain
DOE OCRWM

ML053410472

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Exemption 6

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HLWRS r/f	RidsNmssOd	MYoung	
RSchmidt	RidsEDOMailCenter	NMSS r/f	KCyr
MRodgers	RidsOGCMail	SECY-LTR-050579	SBurns
EDO r/f	HLWRS Staff	RidsOCAMail	RidsRgn4MailCenter

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OFC	HLWRS	HLWRS	HLWRS	HLWRS	HLWRS
NAME	GStirewalt	JKotra	KStablein	ECollins	CWReamer
DATE	12/6/05	12/7/05	12/7/05	12/7/05	12/7/05
OFC	OGC	TECH ED	NMSS		
NAME	JMoore	E. Kraus	JStrosnider		
DATE	12/7/05	12/7/05	12/9/05		

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