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October 18, 2001

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Honorable Spencer Abraham
U.S. Department of Energy
1000 Independence Ave SW, Forrestal Bldg
Washington, DC 20585

Dear Secretary Abraham:

I am writing to express my opinion that the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) should proceed with the recommendation to President George W. Bush that the Yucca Mountain site is suitable to develop a geologic repository for spent nuclear fuel, high-level radioactive waste, and other materials.

The decision to proceed to the next step in the process to license, construct, and operate the proposed repository will provide significant nation-wide benefits by ensuring the continued operation of our nation's fleet of nuclear power plants. You are well aware of the facts surrounding electricity generated by nuclear plants, and the benefits that come from this source. Nuclear power plants produce no controlled air pollutants, such as sulfur and particulates, or greenhouse gases. The use of nuclear energy in place of other energy sources helps to keep the air clean, preserve the earth's climate, avoid ground-level ozone formation and prevent acid rain.

A decision on Yucca Mountain must be based on sound science. After more than 20 years of study, I believe that DOE has all the scientific and technical information necessary to proceed to the next step. There are no technical or scientific issues that should prevent Yucca Mountain from serving as a permanent repository.

Public health and safety standards for Yucca Mountain also must be based on sound science. Controversy over standards that lack scientific basis, as proposed under the previous administration, should not be permitted to stand in the way of a decision.

I urge you to make used nuclear fuel disposal one of your highest priorities.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey D.E. Jeffries, PhD, PE

→ xc: Carol Hanlon, OCRWM, 1-800-967-0739