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October 12, 2001

Ms. Carol Hanlon
U. S. Department of Energy
Yucca Mountain Site Characterization Office (M/S #025)
P. O. Box 30307,
North Las Vegas, NV 89036-0307

**AMERICAN ELECTRIC POWER COMPANY COMMENTS ON
THE POSSIBLE SITE RECOMMENDATION FOR YUCCA MOUNTAIN**

Dear Ms. Hanlon:

American Electric Power Company (AEP), the owner of Donald C. Cook Nuclear Plant Units 1 and 2, is pleased to submit comments to the Department of Energy (DOE) on the possible Site Recommendation for Yucca Mountain (66 Federal Register 23,013 - May 7, 2001, 66 Federal Register 43,850 - August 21, 2001, and 66 Federal Register 45,845 - August 30, 2001).

A repository for commercial used nuclear fuel is essential to keeping nuclear power as a part of the United States energy policy. Currently operating plants must consider the long-term disposition of their used nuclear fuel as a part of their operating licenses. As such, the storage of used nuclear fuel is a factor in the continued operation of today's nuclear fleet. Additionally, any business decision to build new nuclear plants must take into account long-term storage or treatment of used nuclear fuel.

The DOE has spent two decades and nearly \$7 billion to characterize the Yucca Mountain site as a possible location for a repository for commercial used nuclear fuel to fulfill the federal government's obligation to remove used nuclear fuel from reactor sites. The results of that characterization, presented in the Preliminary Site Suitability Evaluation, indicate that Yucca Mountain is, from a scientific and engineering perspective, a suitable location for such a repository. Now that this determination has been made, there is no scientific reason to delay the development of the federal repository.

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U. S. Department of Energy

The Secretary of Energy should recommend to the President that Yucca Mountain be developed as the site for the commercial used nuclear fuel repository.

AEP supports the detailed comments made by the Nuclear Energy Institute in their letter of September 25, 2001, on this subject.

Sincerely,



A. C. Bakken III
Site Vice President

/dmb

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