

April 12, 2000

The Honorable Sandy Green
Eureka County Commission
Board of County Commissioners
P.O. Box 614
Eureka, Nevada 89316

Dear Ms. Green:

I was pleased to meet with you and the other county representatives on March 6, 2000. At that meeting, you provided me a letter requesting an enhanced role for the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) On-Site Representatives' (OSRs') office in Las Vegas, Nevada. In that letter, you identified three elements that should be considered in enhancing NRC's presence in Nevada: 1) answering technical and regulatory questions; 2) providing linkages to resources within the NRC; and 3) participating in public meetings.

The Commission considers the office in Las Vegas to be an important avenue for the affected units of local governments (AULG) and other parties to communicate with the NRC. This office is occupied by three staff members and is routinely supplemented by technical experts from our Headquarters office. This constant on-site presence, coupled with NRC Headquarters' assistance on detailed technical matters, is designed to ensure a highly effective and efficient means of involvement. The OSRs issue a bi-monthly report documenting their activities and any visiting staff members' activities. These reports are widely distributed to keep interested parties such as the AULG informed in a timely fashion.

Nevertheless, the fact that you and other County representatives have expressed some concern about the role of the OSRs suggests that improvements can be made. In May, the NRC staff is planning a public meeting in Nevada to more fully discuss its role in the potential Yucca Mountain licensing process. Topics for discussion will include the licensing review process and inspection support. NRC will be represented by members of our technical staff from Headquarters and from NRC's regional office in Arlington, Texas, and the Atomic Safety and Licensing Board. We would propose that the role and responsibilities of the OSRs be discussed at that meeting. This approach would provide an excellent opportunity for the local citizens to gain an understanding of our regulatory process and inform the NRC staff of ways it can better facilitate public involvement. The staff expects to provide more information on the time and location of the meeting, along with an agenda, later this month.

The Commission's goal is to provide timely and complete information to all interested parties concerning NRC activities related to the potential DOE repository at Yucca Mountain. Ensuring

that our Las Vegas office is providing an effective avenue for local citizens and governments to contact the NRC is key to achieving that goal.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Richard A. Meserve

April 12, 2000

The Honorable Cheryl Lyngar
Lander County Commission
351 Humbolt Street
Battle Mountain, Nevada 89820

Dear Ms. Lyngar:

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/RA/

Richard A. Meserve