

May 30, 2003

The Honorable Harry Reid
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Reid:

I am responding on behalf of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) to your letter of April 17, 2003, which expressed your strong support for the State of Nevada's recent "Petition to Establish Procedures" for the Yucca Mountain licensing hearing. The NRC has the State's Petition under consideration now and hopes to respond in the near future. The views you express in your letter supplement the State's arguments and will be considered along with the State's petition.

The Commission agrees that the licensing hearing on the Yucca Mountain application will be a complex proceeding on a controversial project. As an independent agency, the NRC will ensure that the proceeding in this important matter is conducted with independence, competence, and fairness.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Nils J. Diaz

Identical letter sent to:

The Honorable Harry Reid
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable John Ensign
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Shelley Berkley
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Jim Gibbons
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Jon Porter
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515