

August 14, 2007

**UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION**

BEFORE THE PRE-LICENSE APPLICATION PRESIDING OFFICER BOARD

In the Matter of)	Docket No. PAPO-00
)	
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY)	ASLBP No. 04-829-01-PAPO
)	
(High Level Waste Repository:)	
Pre-Application Matters))	

**THE DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY’S RESPONSE TO THE COMMENTS
OF OTHER PARTICIPANTS ON THE PROPOSED
THIRD CASE MANAGEMENT ORDER**

On August 7, 2007, the Pre-License Application Presiding Officer (PAPO) Board issued an Order providing that any potential party that filed comments on the Proposed Third Case Management Order (PTCMO) could file a response to the comments filed any other potential party. This is Department of Energy’s (DOE) response to the comments of the State of Nevada and the Staff of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

1. Nevada comment on Definition of NNPI (Part I, Paragraph D, Page 1). Nevada’s proposed definition of NNPI generally tracks the definition that DOE proposed, with two exceptions. DOE believes that its proposed definition fulfills the objective behind Nevada’s proposed definition while obviating those two issues.

First, Nevada’s proposed definition continues to use the phrase “in the possession of or under the control of” the Naval Nuclear Propulsion Program. As explained in DOE’s comments, that phrase might be construed in a way that excludes derivative documents that reflect NNPI but that are prepared by other participants (which documents thus may not be “in the possession of

or under the control of’ the Naval Nuclear Propulsion Program). Nevada seemingly agrees that the protections and restrictions of the PTCMO should extend to derivative documents created by other participants that reflect NNPI. DOE’s proposed definition would eliminate any possible contrary argument. Alternatively, the Board could include a statement in the definitional section to the effect that the categories of SUI extend to documents prepared by participants that reflect SUI obtained in the course of the licensing proceeding.

Second, Nevada’s definition describes the Naval Nuclear Propulsion Program as a component of the Department of Defense (DOD) when it is more accurately described as a joint program of DOE and the Department of the Navy.

2. Nevada and NRC Staff comments on Definition of OUO (Part I, Paragraph E, Page 2).

The comments of Nevada and the NRC Staff on this definition corroborate the rationale for DOE’s proposed definition. Rather than trying to describe in the PTCMO all of the various categories of information that might qualify as OUO information, employing a definition that refers to FOIA Exemptions 2 and 3 without elaboration avoids these debates and encompasses whatever information qualifies under those exemptions, and no more. Also, the current proposed definition includes a sentence that excludes SGI, NNPI and UCNI from the scope of OUO information for purposes of the TCMO. DOE’s proposed definition, therefore, will not create confusion by potentially encompassing these other categories of SUI.

3. Redaction obligation (Part III, Paragraph B, Page 7). Nevada relies on a faulty premise in objecting to DOE’s comment to modify the redaction obligation by “good faith diligent effort” standard. Nevada treats the redaction obligation as a condition of LSN certification. The Subpart J regulations, however, do not require production of redacted documents as a condition of certification. Those regulations require that a bibliographic header only be made available for

privileged and other protected documents. 10 CFR § 2.1003(a)(4). Under Nevada's view, DOE could not make its LSN certification if a single SUI document in its LSN collection remains unredacted, even though the document could be obtained in unredacted form through a protective order in the interim. The Board previously recognized that the participants' certification obligations (including those of DOE) are subject to a good faith standard. *See* Order Granting Nevada Motion to Strike, LBP-04-20, 60 NRC ____ (Aug. 31, 2004) at 16. The Board should adhere to that view for the special situation posed by security sensitive information at the time of DOE's certification and adopt DOE's proposed language.

Respectfully submitted,

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

By Original Signed by Michael R. Shebelskie

Donald P. Irwin
Michael R. Shebelskie
Kelly L. Faglioni
HUNTON & WILLIAMS LLP
Riverfront Plaza, East Tower
951 East Byrd Street
Richmond, Virginia 23219-4074
Telephone: (804) 788-8200
Facsimile: (804) 788-8218

Of Counsel:
Martha S. Crosland
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY
Office of General Counsel
Department of Energy
1000 Independence Avenue, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20585

Dated August 14, 2007

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NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY)	ASLBP No. 04-829-01-PAPO
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(High-Level Waste Repository: Pre-Application Matter))	

**THE DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY'S RESPONSE TO
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THIRD CASE MANAGEMENT ORDER
CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I certify that copies of the foregoing THE DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY'S RESPONSE TO THE COMMENTS OF OTHER PARTICIPANTS ON THE PROPOSED THIRD CASE MANAGEMENT ORDER in the above captioned proceeding have been served on the following persons on August 14, 2007 by Electronic Information Exchange.

**U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Atomic Safety and Licensing Board Panel
Mail Stop - T-3 F23
Washington, DC 20555-0001
Thomas S. Moore, Chair
Administrative Judge
E-mail: PAPO@nrc.gov
Alex S. Karlin
Administrative Judge
E-mail: PAPO@nrc.gov
Alan S. Rosenthal
Administrative Judge
E-mail: PAPO@nrc.gov &
rsnthl@comcast.net
G. Paul Bollwerk, III
Administrative Judge
E-mail: PAPO@nrc.gov
Anthony C. Eitreich, Esq.
Chief Counsel
E-mail: PAPO@nrc.gov
James M. Cutchin
E-mail: PAPO@nrc.gov**

**Bethany L. Engel
E-mail: PAPO@nrc.gov
Jonathan Rund
E-mail: PAPO@nrc.gov
Susan Stevenson-Popp
E-mail: PAPO@nrc.gov
Bradley S. Baxter
E-mail: bxh@nrc.gov
Daniel J. Graser
LSN Administrator
E-mail: djg2@nrc.gov
ASLBP HLW Adjudication
E-mail:
ASLBP_HLW_Adjudication@nrc.gov**

**U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Office of the Secretary of the Commission
Mail Stop - O-16 C1
Washington, DC 20555-0001
Hearing Docket
E-mail: hearingdocket@nrc.gov
Andrew L. Bates**

E-mail: alb@nrc.gov

Adria T. Byrdsong

E-mail: atb1@nrc.gov

Emile L. Julian, Esq.

E-mail: elj@nrc.gov

Evangeline S. Ngbea

E-mail: esn@nrc.gov

Rebecca L. Gütter

E-mail: rl@nrc.gov

U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission

Office of Congressional Affairs

Mail Stop -O-17A3

Thomas R. Combs

E-mail: trc@nrc.gov

U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission

Office of Public Affairs

Mail Stop - O-2A13

David McIntyre

E-mail: dtm@nrc.gov

U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission

Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards

Mail Stop - T-7 F3

Washington, DC 20555-0001

Jeffrey A. Ciocco

Email: jac3@nrc.gov

U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission

Office of the General Counsel

Mail Stop - O-15 D21

Washington, DC 20555-0001

Karen D. Cyr, Esq.

General Counsel

E-mail: kdc@nrc.gov

David A. Cummings, Esq.

E-mail: dac3@nrc.gov

Gwendolyn D. Hawkins

E-mail: gxh2@nrc.gov

Janice E. Moore, Esq.

E-mail: jem@nrc.gov

Trip Rothschild, Esq.

E-mail: tbr@nrc.gov

Andrea L. Silva

E-mail: alc1@nrc.gov

Harry E. Wedewer, Esq.

E-mail: hew@nrc.gov

Mitzi A. Young, Esq.

E-mail: may@nrc.gov

Marian L. Zobler, Esq.

E-mail: mlz@nrc.gov

OGCMailCenter

E-mail: OGCMailCenter@nrc.gov

Egan, Fitzpatrick, Malsch & Cynkar, PLLC

Counsel for the State of Nevada

The American Center at Tysons Corner

8300 Boone Boulevard, Suite 340

Vienna, VA 22182

Robert J. Cynkar, Esq.

E-mail: rcynkar@nuclearlawyer.com

Joseph R. Egan, Esq.

E-mail: eganpc@aol.com

Charles J. Fitzpatrick, Esq.

E-mail: cfitzpatrick@nuclearlawyer.com

Jack Kewley

E-mail: jkewley@nuclearlawyer.com

Martin G. Malsch, Esq.

E-mail: mmalsch@nuclearlawyer.com

Susan Montesi

E-mail: smontesi@nuclearlawyer.com

Nakita Toliver

E-mail: ntoliver@nuclearlawyer.com

Nuclear Energy Institute

1776 I Street, NW, Suite 400

Washington, DC 20006-3708

Michael A. Bauser, Esq.

Associate General Counsel

E-mail: mab@nei.org

Ellen C. Ginsberg, Esq.

E-mail: ecg@nei.org

Rod McCullum

E-mail: rxm@nei.org

Steven P. Kraft

E-mail: spk@nei.org

Ann W. Cottingham

E-mail: awc@nei.org

**U.S. Department of Energy
Office of General Counsel**

1000 Independence Avenue, S.W.
Washington, DC 20585

Mary B. Neumayr, Esq.

E-mail: mary.neumayr@hq.doe.gov

Martha S. Crosland, Esq.

E-mail: martha.crosland@hq.doe.gov

Angela M. Kordyak, Esq.

E-mail: angela.kordyak@hq.doe.gov

U.S. Department of Energy

1000 Independence Avenue, S.W.
Washington, DC 20585

Eric Knox

**Associate Director, System Operations
and External Relations, OCRWM**

E-mail: eric.knox@hq.doe.gov

Dong Kim

LSN Project Manager, OCRWM

E-mail: dong.kim@rw.doe.gov

U.S. Department Of Energy

Office of General Counsel

1551 Hillshire Drive
Las Vegas, NV 89134-6321

George W. Hellstrom

E-mail: george.hellstrom@ymp.gov

Hunton & Williams LLP

**Counsel for the U.S. Department of
Energy**

Riverfront Plaza, East Tower
951 East Byrd Street
Richmond, VA 23219

W. Jeffery Edwards, Esq.

E-mail: jedwards@hunton.com

Kelly L. Faglioni, Esq.

E-mail: kfaglioni@hunton.com

Melissa Grier

E-mail: mgrier@hunton.com

Donald P. Irwin, Esq.

E-mail: dirwin@hunton.com

Stephanie Meharg

E-mail: smeharg@hunton.com

Edward P. Noonan, Esq.

E-mail: enoonan@hunton.com

Audrey B. Rusteau

E-mail: arusteau@hunton.com

Michael R. Shebelskie, Esq.

E-mail: mshebelskie@hunton.com

Patricia A. Slayton

E-mail: pslayton@hunton.com

Belinda A. Wright

E-mail: bwright@hunton.com

White Pine County

City of Caliente

Lincoln County

Jason Pitts

E-mail: idt@idtservices.com

**Lander County Nuclear Waste Oversight
Program**

315 South Humboldt St.

Battle Mountain, NV 89820

Deborah Teske, Administrator

E-mail: dteske@landercounty.com

**Intertech Services Corporation
(for Lincoln County)**

P.O. Box 2008

Carson City, NV 89702-2008

Dr. Mike Baughman

E-mail: bigboff@aol.com

Environment Protection Agency

Ray Clark

E-mail: clark.ray@epa.gov

Public Citizen

215 Pennsylvania Ave, SE

Washington, DC 20003

Michele Boyd, Legislative Representative

Critical Mass Energy and Environment

E-mail: mboyd@citizen.org

Senator Harry Reid

Attn: Sandra Schubert

Room 528 Hart Senate Office Building

United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510-2803
Email: sandra_schubert@reid.senate.gov

Abby Johnson
617 Terrace St.
Carson City, NV 89703
E-mail: abbyj@gbis.com

National Congress of American Indians
1301 Connecticut Ave. NW - Second floor
Washington, DC 20036
Robert I. Holden, Director
Nuclear Waste Program
E-mail: robert_holden@ncai.org

Ross, Dixon & Bell
2001 K Street N.W.
Washington D.C. 20006-1040
William H. Briggs
E-mail: wbriggs@rdblawn.com

Churchill County (NV)
155 North Taylor Street, Suite 182
Fallon, NV 89406
Alan Kall
E-mail: comptroller@churchillcounty.org

State of Nevada (NV)
100 N. Carson Street
Carson City, NV 89710
Marta Adams
E-mail: maadams@ag.state.nv.us

Lander, Churchill and Mineral County
P. O. Box 33908
Reno, NV 89533
Loreen Pitchford, LNS Administrator for Lander
E-mail: lpitchford@comcast.net

Talisman International, LLC
1000 Potomac St., NW
Suite 300
Washington, D.C. 20007

Patricia Larimore
E-mail: plarimore@talisman-intl.com

Inyo County (CA) Yucca Mtn Nuclear Waste
Repository Assessment Office
Chris Howard
GIS/LAN Administrator
Inyo County
163 May St.
Bishop, CA 93514
E-mail: choward@inyowater.org

Nuclear Waste Technical Review Board
Victoria Reich
E-mail: reich@nwtrb.gov

White Pine County (NV) Nuclear Waste Project Office
959 Campton Street
Ely, NV 89301
Mike Simon, Director
(Heidi Williams, Adm. Assist.)
E-mail: wpnucwst1@mwpower.net

Inyo County (CA) Yucca Mtn Nuclear Waste
Repository Assessment Office
P.O. Drawer L
Independence, CA 93526
Andrew Remus, Project Coordinator
E-mail: aremus@qnet.com

Nye County (NV) Department of Natural Resources & Federal Facilities
1210 E. Basin Road, Suite 6
Pahrump, NV 89048
David Swanson
E-mail: dswanson@nyecounty.net

Nye County (NV) Regulatory/Licensing Adv.
18160 Cottonwood Rd. #265
Sunriver, OR 97707
Malachy Murphy
E-mail: mrmurphy@cmc.net

Nuclear Waste Project Office

1761 East College Parkway, Suite 118
Carson City, NV 89706

Robert Loux

E-Mail: bloux@nuc.state.nv.us

Steve Frishman, Tech. Policy Coordinator

E-mail: steve.frishman@gmail.com

Nevada Nuclear Waste Task Force

Alamo Plaza, 4550 W. Oakley Blvd., Suite
111

Las Vegas, NV 89102

Judy Treichel, Executive Director

E-mail: judyntwtf@aol.com

**Yucca Mountain Project, Licensing
Group,**

DOE/BSC

Jeffrey Kriner

E-mail: jeffrey_kriner@ymp.gov

**Lincoln County (NV) Nuclear Oversight
Prgm**

100 Depot Ave., Suite 15; P.O. Box 1068
Caliente, NV 89008-1068

Lea Rasura-Alfano, Coordinator

E-mail: jcciac@co.lincoln.nv.us

**Mineral County (NV) Board of County
Commissioners**

P.O. Box 1600

Hawthorne, NV 89415

Linda Mathias, Administrator

Office of Nuclear Projects

E-mail: mineral@oem.hawthorne.nv.us

Eureka County (NV) Yucca Mtn Info Ofc

P.O. Box 990

Eureka, NV 89316

Laurel Marshall, Program Coordinator

E-mail: ecmarshall@eurekanv.org

**Counsel to Eureka County and Lander
County, Nevada**

1726 M Street N.W., Suite 600

Washington, D.C. 20036

Diane Curran

E-mail: dcurran@harmoncurran.com

**Clark County (NV) Nuclear Waste
Division**

500 S. Grand Central Parkway

Las Vegas, NV 89155

Irene Navis

E-mail: iln@co.clark.nv.us

Engelbrecht von Tiesenhausen

E-mail: evt@co.clark.nv.us

Fredericks & Peebles, LLP

Counsel for Timbisha Shoshone Tribe

1001 Second Street

Sacramento, CA 95814

Darcie L. Houck, Esq.

dhouck@ndnlaw.com

John M. Peebles

jpeebles@ndnlaw.com

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

By Original Signed by Michael R. Shebelskie

Donald P. Irwin
Michael R. Shebelskie
Kelly L. Faglioni
HUNTON & WILLIAMS
Riverfront Plaza, East Tower
951 East Byrd Street
Richmond, Virginia 23219-4074
Telephone: (804) 788-8200
Facsimile: (804) 788-8218
Email: dirwin@hunton.com

Of Counsel:

Martha S. Crosland
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY
Office of General Counsel
Department of Energy
1000 Independence Avenue, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20585