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WARREN A. BISHOP
Chair

STATE OF WASHINGTON

NUCLEAR WASTE BOARD

DOCKETED
USNRC

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June 28, 1985

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Mr. Samuel J. Chilk, Secretary
Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D.C. 20555

OFFICE OF SECRETARY
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BRANCH

RE: In re Petition of the States of Nevada and Minnesota
for the Adoption of a New Regulation for the Imple-
mentation of 40 CFR 191.
Nuclear Regulatory Commission Docket No. 60-21

Dear Mr. Chilk:

The state of Washington, like the petitioner Nevada, is a state that has been notified under the Nuclear Waste Policy Act (NWPAA) that a potentially acceptable site for a repository has been identified within its boundaries. Washington, again like Nevada, avers that it may become affected for purposes of "site characterization" under Section 113 of the NWPAA.

This comment in support of the petition of Nevada and Minnesota is submitted because of Washington's interest in protecting the future health and safety of its citizens.

The adoption by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission of the "assurance requirements" regulations proposed by Nevada and Minnesota will buttress substantively the environmental protection elements of the NWPAA's repository program. Further, it will remove impediments to the much-needed adoption by the United States Environmental Protection Agency, under Section 121(a) of the NWPAA, of standards for protection of the general environment from radioactive materials from repositories. In this regard, we associate with the analysis contained in the two states' petition.

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission is urged to adopt a regulation governing the implementation of proposed 40 CFR 191 as set forth in Section 1 of the petition of Nevada and Minnesota.

Thank you for taking our comments into account.

Sincerely,

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PDR PRM
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Donald Provost for
Warren A. Bishop
Chairman
Nuclear Waste Board

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Acknowledged by card