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OCT 15 2001

2 While scientists and government leaders investigate recycling of used fuel and other advanced methods for treating radioactive waste, it is clear that there will still be a need for a repository for the radioactive byproducts of these processes.

1 Legislation enacted in 1982 provided that in exchange for payments into the Nuclear Waste Fund by electricity consumers, the Department of Energy would begin taking spent fuel from utilities by January 31, 1998. That date came and went. Although three federal courts have reaffirmed that DOE has a legal obligation to accept spent fuel, it has accepted none. And, this is despite the fact that consumers of electricity generated by nuclear energy have committed \$16 billion to the Nuclear Waste Fund to pay for the repository.

Members should submit comments to the following DOE address. The comment period has been extended through October 12, 2001 although no definite deadline has been established as of the distribution of this message.

TO: Carol Hanley
S&ER Products Manager
U. S. Department of Energy
Yucca Mountain Site Characterization Office
P.O. Box 30307 M/S 025
North Las Vegas, NV 89036-0707
Fax number: 1-800-967-0739

More information is available on the ANS web site and the Yucca Mountain Project web site. Go to <http://www.ans.org/pi/documents/1000316569.html> for ANS information and www.ymp.gov/ for YMP information. Cf specific interest is <http://www.ymp.gov/new/fieldhearingpr.htm> that provides information on the September 28th order by Secretary of Energy Spencer Abraham for DOE field hearings in all Nevada counties and http://www.ymp.gov/timeline/psse/comment_pssa.htm provides a format for commenting on the scientific and technical aspects of the site.

A press release issued by Secretary of Energy Spencer Abraham is located at <http://ymp.gov/new/pssepr.htm> on the Yucca Mountain Project web site. Other information is published in the Federal Register notice, 66FR 45845, August 30, 2001.

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989 603 7355
Subject Approve Yucca Mountain 1

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ANS is preparing a statement that will be submitted to DOE. A letter from Mr. Mike Barrett, Acting Director of OCRWM, was sent to the American Nuclear Society outlining the current status of the evaluation and listing suggested topics on which to comment. The letter is located at <http://www.ans.org/pi/documents/1000316569-invitation.pdf> on the ANS web site.

Comments from nuclear professionals are important in this decision-making process by the Secretary of Energy. The following information is provided for ANS members and others who would like to comment on the evaluation.

THE YUCCA MOUNTAIN PROJECT

7 For about two decades, there have been in-depth scientific studies of Yucca Mountain. The studies have covered hydrology, geology, seismology and more.

8 Throughout these studies, teams of scientists have found no evidence that would disqualify Yucca Mountain as a site for a permanent repository for high level radioactive waste.

7 This research has been continually reviewed by regulatory, advisory and scientific peer groups.

6 Earlier reports, such as those from the National Academy of Sciences and the DOE's draft environmental impact statement, have presented a strong case for the development of a repository as the safest and most economical way to dispose of used fuel rods from commercial nuclear power plants and radioactive waste from government use.

5 Storing high level radioactive waste at one location is a better option than continuing to accumulate used fuel at more than 70 sites around the country.

4 The proposed repository would have specially engineered containers for holding high level radioactive waste materials and a robust combination of engineered and natural barriers to protect the environment.

3 The transportation casks for fuel rods, designed and built to withstand rigors, have been put through exhaustive testing, withstanding even the destructive forces of a speeding locomotive. Since the mid-1960s, an outstanding safety record has been compiled with about 3,000 shipments of used fuel