

**LOC** INC
**Oak Ridge Reservation
Local Oversight Committee**

October 1, 2001

RECEIVED

Carol Hanlon
U.S. Department of Energy
Office of Civilian Radioactive Waste Management
Yucca Mountain Site Characterization Office
P.O. Box 30307, Mail Stop 025
North Las Vegas, NV 89036-0307

OCT 16 2001

Subject: Possible Site Recommendation for Yucca Mountain and Comments on Yucca Mountain Preliminary Site Suitability Evaluation (PSSE) (DOE/RW-0540)

Dear Ms. Hanlon:

In response to your letter and questionnaire regarding the possible site recommendation for Yucca Mountain, the Oak Ridge Reservation Local Oversight Committee (LOC) offers the following comments.

Members of the LOC have closely followed and provided comment on previous documents concerning the disposition of surplus weapons-grade materials, including highly enriched uranium and plutonium. The Records of Decision for both of these included conversion and fabrication into reactor fuel with subsequent disposition as spent nuclear fuel (SNF). Availability of Yucca Mountain for ultimate disposal of this material is a fundamental element of our nation's nonproliferation strategy.

In addition to DOE's needs, appropriate disposal (or recycling) of SNF is a necessary component of the nuclear industry fuel life cycle. Nuclear power is a key means of reducing U.S. carbon dioxide and other emissions and lessening the potential for global warming. Additionally, nuclear energy is a key component of the President's energy policy, and opening Yucca Mountain to receive spent nuclear fuel is a necessary action to implement this policy.

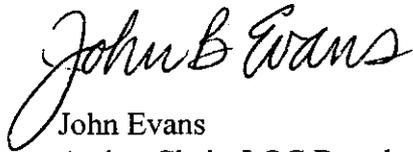
The Yucca Mountain Preliminary Site Suitability Evaluation (PSSE) and other scientific documents produced by the Department provide an adequate basis for finding that the Yucca Mountain site is suitable for development of a repository. Based on this, the Secretary of Energy should proceed to recommend the site to the President at this time.

The LOC is a non-profit regional organization funded by the State of Tennessee and established to provide local government and citizen input into the environmental management and operation of DOE's Oak Ridge Reservation. The Board of Directors of the LOC is composed of the County Executives of Anderson, Knox, Loudon, Meigs,

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Morgan, Rhea, and Roane Counties; the Mayor of the City of Oak Ridge; and the Chairs of the Roane County Environmental Review Board, the City of Oak Ridge Environmental Quality Review Board, and the LOC Citizens' Advisory Panel (CAP). The CAP has up to 20 members with diverse backgrounds who represent the greater ORR region.

Sincerely,



John Evans
Acting Chair, LOC Board

cc: Pat Halsey, FFA Administrative Coordinator, DOE ORO
Spencer Abraham, Secretary of Energy
Representative Zach Wamp
Representative John J. Duncan, Jr.
Representative Van Hilleary
Senator Bill Frist
Senator Fred Thompson
Richard Cheney, Vice President of the United States