

CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION

ROBERT A. LAURIE
COMMISSIONER

January 6, 2000

EIS000536

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Ms. Wendy R. Dixon, EIS Project Manager
Yucca Mountain Site Characterization Office
Office of Civilian Radioactive Waste Management
U.S. Department of Energy
P.O. Box 30307, Mail Stop 010
North Las Vegas, NV 89036-0307

Dear Ms. Dixon:

1 The purpose of this letter is to request a 6-month extension on the deadline for public comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (Draft EIS) for a Geologic Repository for the Disposal of Spent Nuclear Fuel and High-Level Radioactive Waste at Yucca Mountain, Nye County, Nevada. The current deadline for comments is February 9, 2000.

California citizens are concerned about the safety of nuclear waste shipments, particularly large quantity, highly radioactive shipments such as spent fuel. The potential transportation and water quality impacts in California from the proposed Yucca Mountain Project are extensive and impact numerous counties in California alone. California has four operating commercial nuclear reactors, three commercial reactors being decommissioned, and is a major generator of spent nuclear fuel. In addition, California has research reactors at five locations throughout the State. Further, under current federal plans, spent fuel from reactors in California is scheduled for transport during the first year that shipments occur. As a result, there are many local jurisdictions statewide that should be provided the opportunity to comment on the potential impacts in their communities from these proposed shipments to Yucca Mountain.

1 (cont.) Because of the large number of local jurisdictions potentially impacted in California, the major issues of concern -- lengthy transportation routes which potentially traverse both rural and highly urbanized areas of the state, and the large number of California agencies (at least 13) with jurisdiction over transportation and water quality impacts -- we request additional time to prepare our comments on the Draft EIS. We also request that public hearings be held in major cities in Northern and Southern California to allow local jurisdictions an opportunity to provide comments regarding potential impacts in their communities from the proposed spent fuel shipments.

Sincerely,

Robert A. Laurie
Commissioner