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September 5, 2001

SEP 19 2001

Mr. Lake Barrett
Acting Director
Office of Civilian Radioactive Waste Management
Department of Energy
Washington, DC 20585

Subject: Yucca Mountain Site Suitability Evaluation

Dear Mr. Barrett

Having been a nuclear power professional for 20 years, and being well informed regarding high-level waste issues, I send this letter to document my endorsement of the reference subject. I am the senior officer of a high-level nuclear waste firm currently involved in creating on-reactor-site storage capability for a number of electric utility clients. As a result, I am very much aware of both the technical issues as well as the regulatory process that leads to final approval of a facility such as a repository. I have absolute confidence in the work that has been done and anticipate that the Nuclear Regulatory Commission review process for final implementation will provide the reasonable assurance necessary to protect the health and safety of the public. I believe that this reasonable assurance is provided for both the near and long term as it relates to the creation of Yucca Mountain as our nations repository. The President can rest assured that he has my, and my firm staff's, full support as he moves forward with this recommendation.

As indicated within your letter, the exhaustive studies completed at Yucca Mountain have been meticulous and technically sound. The evaluation of long-term confinement as well as the study of both natural phenomenon and water intrusion have covered the full range of technical concerns and have produced a product that is more than adequate. The probabilistic studies completed provide reasonable assurance concerning the risks present now and in the future. As such, sound scientific basis exists to proceed to the site application phase. The regulatory limits established by both governing federal bodies regarding radiation exposure are exceptionally conservative and represent a far smaller risk to the public than risks accepted everyday as part of normal life. Furthermore, as I am certain you are aware, the limits represent small fractions of the radiation doses received by individuals during the normal course of life. In spite of these realities, the establishment of the facility at Yucca Mountain will be done in such a manner as to ensure compliance with the required limits. These facts should be more than adequate to remove all technical concerns from consideration.

In closing, the issues for proceeding with the Yucca Mountain Project are not technical but political in nature. I urge the President, and the Congress, to proceed with haste through the thorough

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regulatory approval process. Should our firm, and our experience in high-level waste issues, be of any service in these matters, you have only to call upon us. If you have questions, or further requests for support or aid, please feel free to call me at (205) 620-5787 ext. 101.

Very truly yours,



David W. Bland
President

Cc President George Bush
Senator Richard Shelby
Senator Jeff Sessions
Representative Spencer Bachus