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November 19, 1999

E. William Brach, Director
Spent Fuel Project Office
Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington DC 20555-0001

RE: Modal Study

Dear Mr. Brach:

Recently Eureka County, Nevada, received an invitation to participate in public meetings regarding a study on spent nuclear fuel cask responses to severe transportation accidents. We were aware that the NRC was considering reopening this issue because we participated in an NRC meeting in June in Las Vegas on the proposed NRC Yucca Mountain regulations, where it was announced.

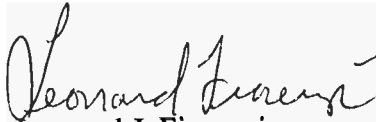
At that meeting, Eureka County's nuclear waste advisor, Abby Johnson, commented to the NRC staff that it is important to schedule meetings so that all stakeholders can participate, and that the Department of Energy's Draft Environmental Impact Statement hearings are a top priority for Nevada affected counties. She also urged the NRC to coordinate scheduling meetings with other federal agencies to avoid conflicts.

We appreciate the invitation to participate in the upcoming meetings related to the modal study. However, we are extremely dismayed that the Nevada meeting was scheduled on December 8, between the Austin, Nevada, DOE Environmental Impact Statement official public hearing on December 7 and the Crescent Valley, Nevada, (Eureka County) hearing on December 9. It will not be possible for us to attend the meeting in Henderson on December 8 due to these previous commitments, and the travel distances involved.

We are concerned that the meeting was scheduled for the convenience of the NRC rather than to ensure that all involved parties could participate. The scheduling gives the appearance that the NRC does not want the participation of Nevada counties that may be directly affected by rail transportation to Yucca Mountain. Questions about cask safety and accidents are asked frequently by residents of Eureka County. We regret that we will not be able to learn more and provide our point of view to NRC at the December 8 meeting.

Please inform us of future meetings.

Sincerely,



Leonard J. Fiorenzi

Nuclear Waste Program Director

cc: Chip Cameron, NRC
Lynn Deering, NRC ACNW
Abby Johnson, Eureka County
Vicki Drenan, Crescent Valley
AULGs