



STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
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MICHAEL F. EASLEY
GOVERNOR

October 11, 2001

The Honorable George W. Bush
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

As you know, the State of North Carolina and the rest of the nation face a critical need to permanently dispose of spent fuel from nuclear energy plants. Significant scientific results have been achieved in this effort; yet, delays have put the federal repository program more than a decade behind schedule.

Over the past 15 years, the federal government has spent approximately \$7 billion in studying Yucca Mountain. The electricity consumers of North Carolina have supported this effort with payments of more than \$964 million to the Nuclear Waste Fund for permanent disposal of spent fuel.

Following intense scrutiny and oversight by more than a dozen state and federal organizations, scientists have found no substantial reason to doubt that the remote and arid Yucca Mountain site is well suited for disposing of spent nuclear fuel. Studies indicate that the proposed repository can contain these radioactive materials safely for 10,000 years or longer. The scientific evidence collected to date supports an affirmative decision on Yucca Mountain. It seems clear that this option is far superior to continued temporary storage at 78 separate sites throughout 35 states.

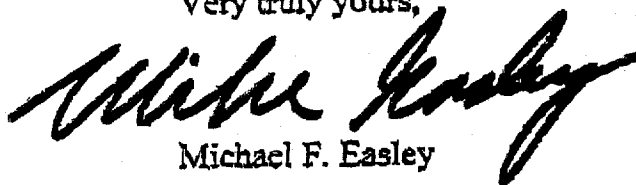
Since the federal government has not met its disposal obligation, North Carolina has accumulated 2,248 metric tons of spent nuclear fuel at its existing nuclear plant sites. In order to move beyond this temporary solution, it is imperative that progress be maintained on the evaluation of the Yucca Mountain site. Critical milestones must be met this year by the Department of Energy, including issuing the Site Recommendation Considerations Report and, ultimately, a recommendation by the Secretary on the suitability of the site.



I urge you to make spent nuclear fuel disposal a key priority for your administration at this critical point in the approval process for Yucca Mountain.

With kindest regards, I remain

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mike Easley", written in a cursive style.

Michael F. Easley

MFE:rht

Cc: Secretary Spencer Abraham
Senator John Edwards
Senator Jesse Helms
Representative Eva Clayton
Representative Bob Etheridge
Representative Walter Jones
Representative David Price
Representative Richard Burr
Representative Howard Coble
Representative Mike McIntyre
Representative Robin Hayes
Representative Sue Myrick
Representative Cass Ballenger
Representative Charles Taylor
Representative Melvin Watt