



STATE OF MICHIGAN  
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR  
LANSING

JOHN ENGLER  
GOVERNOR

September 5, 2001

The Honorable Spencer Abraham  
Secretary of Energy  
1000 Independence Avenue, SW  
Washington, D.C. 20585

Dear Secretary Abraham:

I have written to you on previous occasions to voice my support for the Department of Energy's evaluation of Yucca Mountain and for continued progress toward the establishment of a centralized repository for our nation's used nuclear fuel. Therefore, I was pleased that the recently released Preliminary Site Suitability Evaluation (PSSE) adds even further scientific support to the suitability of the Yucca Mountain site to host such a repository.

There is broad agreement among national and international scientific organizations that deep geological disposal offers the safest and most economical way to dispose of used fuel from commercial nuclear power plants, as well as high-level radioactive waste from our nation's defense activities. Years of exhaustive scientific investigations, conducted by the Department of Energy, the U.S. Geological Survey, our national laboratories, and others have examined every environmental facet of Yucca Mountain, from hydrology to geology, seismology, and more. These studies have found no evidence that would disqualify the site for a permanent repository.

The Preliminary Site Suitability Evaluation provides further evidence that the site would be safe. The report evaluates the site's expected performance against the rigorous safety standards and dose limits recently established by the Environmental Protection Agency. The report concludes that the Yucca Mountain site would meet, in both the operational and post-operational stages, the stringent dose limits in the final EPA standard and the proposed Nuclear Regulatory Commission regulations for the protection of the public from radiological exposure.

I applaud the fact that this research has been continually reviewed by regulatory, advisory, and scientific peer groups such as the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, the Nuclear Waste Technical Review Board, the Advisory Committee



Secretary Abraham

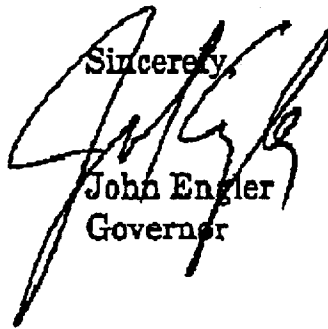
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on Nuclear Waste, and the U.S. Geological Survey. This comprehensive, peer-review approach lends credibility to the conduct of the research and to the conclusions that have been reached.

Twenty years of accumulated scientific evidence clearly shows that a deep geological repository at Yucca Mountain would be safe and secure. It would provide the necessary long-term containment of the waste, while protecting the citizens of the State of Nevada, now and into the distant future, from radiological harm. I urge you, therefore, to recommend the Yucca Mountain site to the President, as provided for by the Nuclear Waste Policy Act.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John Engler', is written over the typed name and title.

John Engler  
Governor

JE/jlf