

STATE OF KANSAS

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OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

October 11, 2001

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

Dear Secretary Abraham,

As you know, the State of Kansas and the rest of the nation still face a critical need to permanently dispose of used fuel from nuclear energy plants. While significant scientific results have been achieved, past delays have put the federal repository program more than a decade behind schedule. This delay may lead to additional increased taxes for our nation's citizens. We can avert the problem by acting decisively.

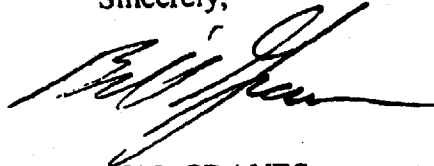
Kansas has only one nuclear plant, but consumers who use the energy from that plant have committed more than \$170 million into the Nuclear Waste Fund for permanent disposal of used fuel. The owners of that plant report that 387 metric tons of used nuclear fuel are being stored at the plant site.

Over \$7 billion has been spent over 15 years in studying Yucca Mountain. These studies have shown that the proposed repository will be able to safely contain the radioactive materials for 10,000 years or longer. The scientific evidence supports going forward with a repository at Yucca Mountain. Scientists have found no reason to doubt that the remote and arid mountain site is well suited for disposing of used nuclear fuel. It appears that this option is more secure than continued storage at many sites across the country.

It is imperative that we make progress on the evaluation of Yucca Mountain. Critical milestones must be met this year including the issuance of the Site Recommendation Consideration Report and ultimately, a recommendation from the President that the site is suitable. Action on the part of the Department of Energy is a key component in maintaining a diverse energy supply, maintaining secure domestic energy sources, and meeting our clean air goals.

I encourage you to make used nuclear fuel disposal one of your highest priorities.

Sincerely,

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

BILL GRAVES
Governor

cc. Carl M. Koupal, Western Resources
General Greg Gardner, Kansas Air National Guard
Kansas Congressional Delegation