

March 28, 2001

LETTER FROM FIVE NEW ENGLAND GOVERNORS

The Honorable Spencer Abraham
Secretary of Energy
Washington, DC 20585-1000

RE: Disposition of spent nuclear fuel, GTCC and high-level radioactive waste

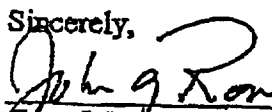
Dear Mr. Secretary:

The Governors of all the New England states with operating or decommissioning nuclear power plants are writing to urge you and your staff to move promptly on the issue of disposition of spent nuclear fuel, greater than class C (GTCC) and high-level radioactive waste. The Yucca Mountain review process should be completed as expeditiously as possible, paying close attention to scientific thoroughness and public confidence in the result. That said, we urge that federal policy for the disposition of spent nuclear fuel, GTCC and high-level radioactive waste be based on the following key principles:

1. Once the review process has been completed for Yucca Mountain, you should expedite the recommendation to the President for siting the permanent federal repository. Recognizing, however, that a U.S. permanent repository is still many years away, we ask that you use your authority to create or use currently lawful options for the interim disposition of spent nuclear fuel, GTCC and high-level radioactive waste.
2. Spent nuclear fuel, GTCC and high-level waste should be stored at facilities that have the specific experience, expertise, and capacity for innovation to handle and manage those materials most effectively for extended periods.
3. Spent nuclear fuel and high-level waste should be stored where there is a comprehensive security infrastructure instead of at isolated sites that have no other security requirements. Federally protected sites like those currently used for foreign reactor and military spent fuel should be made available immediately to accept spent nuclear fuel, GTCC and high-level waste from decommissioning nuclear power plants.

We Governors strongly urge you to explore and adopt innovative solutions and options to address the growing spent nuclear fuel problem created as a byproduct of the nation's use of nuclear energy. The New England States require an expeditious resolution that avoids the undesirable -- and, ultimately, untenable -- long-term storage of spent nuclear fuel, GTCC and high-level waste at fully decommissioned nuclear plant sites.

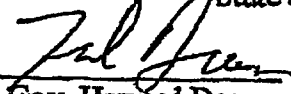
Sincerely,


Gov. John Rowland
State of Connecticut


Gov. Angus King
State of Maine


Gov. Argeo Paul Cellucci
State of Massachusetts


Gov. Jeanne Shaheen
State of New Hampshire


Gov. Howard Dean
State of Vermont

cc: NE Congressional delegates