

**ENERGY
NORTHWEST**

551253

P.O. Box 968 ■ Richland, Washington 99352-0968

September 27, 2001

RECEIVED

OCT 05 2001

Ms. Carol Hanlon
U.S. Department of Energy
Yucca Mountain Site Characterization Office (m/s #025)
P.O. Box 30307
North Las Vegas, NV 89036-0307

BEST AVAILABLE COPY

Dear Ms. Hanlon:

SUBJECT: Site Suitability Recommendation for Yucca Mountain

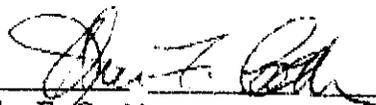
Energy Northwest has watched and supported the Department of Energy's twenty-year effort to conduct site characterization studies of Yucca Mountain as a potential location for the national spent fuel repository. As this process draws to a close, we are impressed with the thorough, comprehensive and objective nature of the study results.

The Department of Energy is now well prepared to make a site suitability recommendation regarding Yucca Mountain. The length and breadth of information gathered over the past two decades clearly supports the suitability of the site. Furthermore, independent peer review of this information also indicates the study results are solid and contain no issues that would disqualify the research or the findings of the study.

Consumers of electricity produced by nuclear power have paid over \$17 billion in the last twenty years to fund development of a national repository. The many delays in establishing such a facility have forced many nuclear operators, including Energy Northwest, to invest additional millions of dollars to build temporary on-site storage for spent fuel. It is time to move forward as a nation to build a permanent repository. It is the right thing to do for the ratepayers; it is the right thing to do for the environment.

The Executive Board of Energy Northwest urges the Department of Energy to make an official recommendation on the suitability of Yucca Mountain based on the science and the facts of this matter. The findings of the study and the research conducted to date should be the sole basis for the decision. We strongly believe that the creation of a safe and reliable national repository is critical to strengthening our nation's energy future, and we urge the Department to make a positive recommendation based on scientific findings of fact.

Respectfully,



John E. Cockburn
Executive Board Chairman



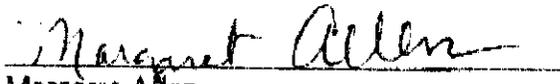
Dan G. Gunkel
Executive Board Vice Chairman

551253

Carol Hanlon
Site Suitability Recommendation for Yucca Mountain
September 27, 2001
Page 2


Robert Graves
Executive Board Secretary

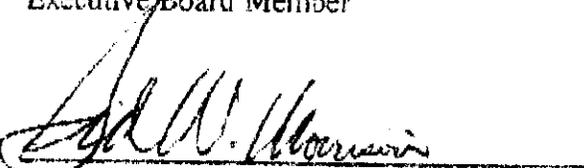

Vera Claussen
Executive Board Assistant Secretary


Margaret Allen
Executive Board Member

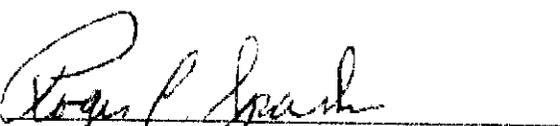

Darrel Bunch
Executive Board Member


Edward E. (Ted) Coates
Executive Board Member


Larry Kenney
Executive Board Member


Sid W. Morrison
Executive Board Member


Amy C. Solomon
Executive Board Member


Roger C. Sparks
Executive Board Member

551253

EXECUTIVE BOARD

RESOLUTION NO. 1209

A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF YUCCA MOUNTAIN AS A NATIONAL REPOSITORY FOR SPENT NUCLEAR FUEL -- ENERGY NORTHWEST

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29
30
31

WHEREAS, the Department of Energy has conducted a lengthy and thorough suitability study of Yucca Mountain as a repository for spent nuclear fuel, and

WHEREAS, the Department has also sought frequent peer reviews of this work by regulatory, advisory and scientific peer groups, and

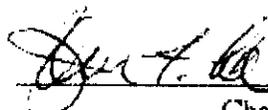
WHEREAS, these peer review groups have found the Department's work to be solid and have found no issues which would disqualify the research or the findings of the study, and

WHEREAS, a decision on site suitability could potentially be influenced by local and national political issues: NOW, THEREFORE,

IT IS RESOLVED that Energy Northwest supports an official recommendation that Yucca Mountain has been found suitable for use as a national repository for spent nuclear fuel, and

IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED that Energy Northwest encourages the Department of Energy to make its decision and official recommendation based on scientific findings and research in order to establish a safe and reliable national repository.

ADOPTED by the Executive Board of Energy Northwest this 27th day of September, 2001.



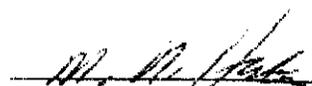
Chairman

ATTEST:

APPROVED AS TO FORM AND LEGALITY:



Secretary



Counsel