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October 3, 2001

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

Dear Ms Hanlon:

As vice president of CP&L's Brunswick Nuclear Plant, I respectfully provide on behalf of the Brunswick site the following comments on the preliminary site suitability evaluation (PSSE) of Yucca Mountain and its use as a permanent repository for spent nuclear fuel and high level radioactive waste.

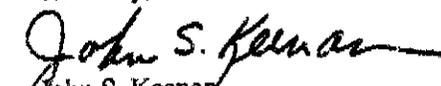
Based on my more than 30 years of experience in the nuclear energy industry and my review of the extensive analyses of the Yucca Mountain site, it is readily apparent to me that Yucca Mountain is the safest, best-suited location in the country for a national nuclear waste repository. I strongly encourage the Department of Energy to proceed with recommending the site to the President.

The United States must manage in an environmentally responsible manner the waste products of nuclear energy, nuclear weapons, as well as nuclear medicine and research. It is a responsibility that is owed to all Americans – both today and in the future – to safely dispose of these materials in a location that will best protect public health and safety. The body of scientific evidence gathered by the DOE for the better part of two decades clearly supports the approval of Yucca Mountain as the country's underground disposal facility for used nuclear fuel and radioactive waste.

The decision on developing the Yucca Mountain repository should be based on sound science. While I believe the current methods used to temporarily store used nuclear fuel at the nation's power plants are safe and secure, the public uneasiness following the terrorist events of September 11 gives increased emphasis to the need for a single, federally controlled underground disposal facility for nuclear waste.

Based on my experience in the nuclear energy industry and my review of the PSSE, there are no technical or scientific issues that should prevent Yucca Mountain from serving as our nation's permanent repository for nuclear waste. It is therefore critical that the DOE continue to request adequate funds from Congress to keep the program on track, and that our country's leaders move without delay to approve and develop the national repository.

Sincerely,


 John S. Keenan
 Brunswick Plant Vice President

c: Secretary Spencer Abraham, U.S. DOE

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