

BOARD OF
EUREKA COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
P.O. BOX 677
EUREKA, NEVADA 89316

June 20, 2002

Dr. Margaret Chu
Director
Office of Civilian Radioactive Waste Management
U.S. Department of Energy
1000 Independence Ave SW
Washington DC 20585

Dear Dr. Chu:

The Affected Units of Local Government thank you for the time you took to meet with us on May 2. It was an informative meeting, and we look forward to future opportunities to discuss AULG issues with you.

On February 19, 2002, the Yucca Mountain Site Characterization Office held a meeting in Las Vegas to brief the AULGs on the release of the "Final Environmental Impact Statement for Geologic Repository for the Disposal of Spent Nuclear Fuel and High-Level Radioactive Waste at Yucca Mountain, Nye County, Nevada" (EIS).

At that meeting, DOE staff verbally committed to developing a post card to be sent to all citizens who had commented on the EIS, notifying them of the availability of the document and offering them the opportunity to request the portions of the document that they need, in hard copy, CD, or both.

DOE has not developed or sent that post card, and residents of our counties do not have hard copies of the EIS released in February 2002.

It is our understanding that DOE believes they have met their promise to distribute the EIS by providing CDs to those who request them. This is an unacceptable substitute for the paper documents.

In every AULG county, many residents do not have computers or access to one due to the rural nature of our state and the cost of computers and Internet access. The vast distances in our states do not make it practical or convenient for residents to use the single review copy available at the county seat. Similarly, the document is cumbersome to access on the Internet, and often crashes the low-capacity computers that rural residents have.

As an example of how DOE is handling EIS distribution in Idaho, [we are attaching a sample form](#). That form notifies participants that the document is available, and gives them the choice to order the parts that they need. As you can tell, the Idaho postcard was sent recently, two months after the release of the Yucca Mountain EIS.

Why is it that persons who commented on DOE's Idaho document can obtain a hard copy, and persons who commented on DOE's Yucca Mountain document cannot? This is inconsistent.

We believe that it is essential for residents affected by the Yucca Mountain project to have current information about DOE's plans. Especially in the area of transportation, the EIS contains new information not presented in the draft.

For these reasons, we request that DOE make the EIS available in hard copy to anyone who requests one. The postcard system would be an easy way to make the hard copy available and provide the public with options to choose the portions of the FEIS that they need.

We look forward to your prompt reply concerning this important public participation issue.

Sincerely,

Pete Goicoechea
Chairman

Attachment

cc: AULGS
Congressional delegation
Nevada Nuclear Waste Project Office
Bob Lupton, DOE/AULG liaison