



**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF INYO**

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November 1, 2006

Mr. Edward Sproat, Director
Office of Civilian Radioactive Waste Management
United States Department of Energy
1000 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20585

Re: Supplement to the Final Environmental Impact Statement for a Geologic Repository for the Disposal of Spent Nuclear Fuel and High-Level Radioactive Waste at Yucca Mountain, Nye County, Nevada (DOE/EIS-0250F-S1) and Supplement to the Environmental Impact Statement for the Alignment, Construction, and Operation of a Rail Line to a Geologic Repository at Yucca Mountain, Nye County, Nevada (DOE/EIS-0250F-S2 and DOE/EIS-0369).

Dear Mr. Sproat,

I am writing to request an additional scoping meeting be held in Lone Pine, California to allow Inyo County citizens to comment on both the Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement for Yucca Mountain and the Rail Alignment Environmental Impact Statement. In holding a joint scoping meeting in Lone Pine, the Department of Energy (DOE) will comply with its stated policy goal of encouraging credible, effective public participation in its decision-making processes. By responding to comments and questions, DOE can help the public understand the technical aspects of a particular proposal, as well as the broader policy, political, and legal framework within which DOE makes decisions.

I am also writing to request an extension of the comment period for the Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement and the Rail EIS to 90 days. The current 45-day comment period is inadequate to provide meaningful comment by interested governmental entities and the public. A longer comment period will enhance the decision-making process, build credibility, identify issues, enhance mutual understanding, and allow DOE to make better decisions. Furthermore, a longer comment period may allow the public to identify issues and alternatives that DOE might otherwise overlook. A longer comment period will promote substantive communication and improve understanding by affected governmental entities and the public. DOE, in turn, can better understand the effects of its proposed actions on the local community and the environment by listening to those directly affected.

Thank you for considering our request.

Sincerely,

Supervisor Susan Cash, Chairperson
Inyo County Board of Supervisors