November 1, 2007

Nevada Commission on Nuclear Projects
1761 College Parkway, Suite 118
Carson City, Nevada 89706

Dear Chairman Richard Bryan, Executive Director Robert Halstead and Nuclear Project Commissioners:

This is to praise your hard work to help Nevada avoid being used as a million-year dumping ground for high-level, toxic nuclear waste; and to submit a constructive recommendation for inclusion in today's Agenda Item 5 discussions concerning Congressional and Administration actions on the Yucca Mountain Repository.

Our new, bipartisan, Nevada-wide Citizen Action Network, NevadansCAN has an Energy Security Action Committee with a large number of highly educated and exceptionally experienced volunteer Nevadans who have been working for decades on nuclear power policy issues. If allowed, we can be of significant material value to the Commission, NV Leaders and Nevadan Citizens.

We are a bipartisan group that appreciates how every American could be affected or benefitted by decisions concerning Yucca Mountain. We are acutely aware that only 24% of Nevada residents were born here, and that average citizens know very little about how they could benefit from nuclear power technologies. Even less is known about unique economic opportunities from implementing a different Yucca Mountain option.

In short, NevadansCAN is uniquely qualified to help do whatever is needed to help our governments and our citizens to better understand nuclear power policy issues, and how to deal with so-called “toxic waste” issues that positively resolve the decades-long impasse between Nevada leaders and the federal government.

Our recommendation is to stop fighting fellow Americans and the federal government. Declare victory and negotiate in good faith to turn the so-called nuclear “waste liability” planned for a million-year Yucca Mountain dump into a “recycling asset” that can change the highly valuable used material into reusable nuclear plant fuel and not waste it, as we are doing with so many other important, recyclable materials.

NevadansCAN has a created a comprehensive plan for this Nuclear Recycling Option, and we respectfully request to brief the full Commission at an early date on what we are advising The Congress to consider.

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NevadansCAN Energy Security Action Committee’s 20 Questions Supporting Recycling Nuclear By-Products challenges the scientific credibility and sincerity of political objections to opening of the Yucca Mountain Repository and an adjoining National Nuclear Recycling Center. Each question in this list is intended to be respectfully asked by non-expert individuals at public events and will sometimes contain purposeful, overlapping points.

1. Isn’t it true Nevada citizens have been denied the truth concerning the major economic, energy choice and national security benefits to them from hosting a National Nuclear Recycling Center in addition to a Repository?

2. Isn’t it true that false claims are being routinely delivered to the public by many Nevada elected leaders based on old/inaccurate public opinion polls and scientific data with the intent of undermining the opening of the Yucca Mountain Repository and an adjoining Nuclear Recycling Center?

3. Isn’t it true it is not economically feasible to implement a Yucca Mountain Repository without a parallel Reprocessing/Reprocessing Plant? Why doesn’t Nevada negotiate for the billions of federal funds needed to build such a plant to enjoy the jobs, profits and benefits? Couldn’t a portion of the profits derived from reprocessing and selling recycled fuel rods back to operational nuclear plants be paid as cash dividends to Nevada citizens similar to the Alaskan pipeline deal?

4. Isn’t it true that our citizens are being denied from knowing the full truth about the tens of billions of national taxes and citizen energy rate payments being unfairly collected for decades by Government officials who have blocked the opening of YM as the national repository and recycling center for nuclear by-products?

5. Isn’t it also true that it would be impossible to build only one, isolated dump site, and that from 3 to 10 additional permanent nuclear dump sites would be required for future spent rods if such a flawed, million-year dumping policy was ever implemented?

6. Isn’t it true that there is no valid health, water, or transportation impact or negative Nevada visitor opinion data supporting the political oppositions to opening up a Nevada Nuclear Repository and a Nuclear Recycling Center on the NNSS in this century?
7. Isn't it true that all claimed concerns about opening a million-year nuclear waste dump in Yucca Mountain can be eliminated by simply constructing and operating a Recycling Center and converting used nuclear fuel rods into new fuel rods and safely return them to refuel the nuclear power plants originating the used rods?

8. Isn't it true that so-called "spent" fuel rods contain 95% to 97% recyclable/reusable Uranium materials that cannot be considered true "waste"? Plans to "dump" them must be considered totally wasteful behavior!

9. Isn't it also true that the only feasible and economical plan for handling hundreds of tons of used fuel rods containing 95-97% recyclable minerals is to recycle and reuse them in current reactors and/or burn them up/consume them in new generation, "fast and/or fast breeder" and other advanced reactors?

10. Isn't it true that some such advanced "fast/fast breeder" reactors can be sealed, can internally "burn up/consume" all recycled nuclear materials, create no external emissions, and not have to be opened and refueled for up to 30 years?

11. Isn't it true that sealed, buried underground, walk-away-safe, advanced reactors could be installed in existing land areas to replace massive, above ground reactors, coal, and gas heat generators to stop generation of accumulated by-products and harmful emissions?

12. Isn't also true that some advanced nuclear reactors could be built to be sealed, buried underground to protect against tampering and terrorism, release no harmful emissions, be walk-away-safe, and reliably and cheaply produce electricity 24 hours, 7 days a week, for 365 days a year without refueling for up to 30 years?

13. Isn't it true that over 38 states have been forced to unnecessarily hold huge stockpiles of spent nuclear fuel rods costing tens of billions of dollars to fellow American tax payers due to apparent conflicts of financial interests by some politicians who favor solar, wind and fossil fuel alternatives over clean and carbon-free nuclear power?

14. Isn't it true that Nevada politicians blocking YM as a nuclear recycling center are causing the federal government to waste tens of millions of tax dollars for having to pay states for legal settlements for failing to open YM?
15. Isn't it true that about 38 other states are being forced to accumulate thousands of tons of dangerously-located spent fuel rods near oceans, great lakes and rivers where they are highly vulnerable to natural disasters and terrorism attacks that could create national toxic, radio-active clouds? And, with winds causing distribution of a deadly combination of widespread radio-active fallout, does NV not have a duty to help avoid/revent it?

16. Isn't it true that tens of millions of other state American electricity customers are being forced by misguided Nevada political policies to pay unnecessarily (a) for the acquisition, improvements and maintenance of unneeded secure storage space, (b) for construction and open storage of thousands of unneeded used fuel rod storage casks, and (c) for holding spent fuel rods at highly vulnerable power plant sites instead of routinely shipping the used rods to a lawfully-ordered repository and recycling plant site?

17. Isn't it true that U.S. companies are vulnerable to losing their nuclear technical edge and must have access to the finest Small Modular Reactor technologies and fuels at minimum costs to compete in global markets being led now and likely to be dominated by such as nations as China, Russia, France, India, Japan, UK and South Korea?

18. Isn't it true that millions of state and federal taxes are being unwisely/wastefully spent by Nevada politicians to create unreasonable and dangerous delays in opening the National Yucca Mountain Repository and a National Nuclear Security Site Recycling Center?

19. Isn't it true that Nevada businesses, citizens and government will massively benefit from turning Nevada into a 21st Century National Carbon-Free Energy Center? Are such actions highly likely to be followed by public-private ventures to implement a National Carbon-Free Energy Laboratory, a Carbon-Free Energy R&D Center, Small Modular Reactor Systems Manufacturing Park, and Carbon-Free Energy Farm Production Center?

20. Isn't it true that politicians and major businesses will deserve the public and social media ridicule and condemnation received if they continue to block federal opportunities to implement a National Nuclear Repository and National Nuclear Recycling Plant in Nevada and forego all of the massive, directly-related subsequent business opportunities?