LINCOLN COUNTY, NEVADA VIEWS REGARDING HOW NRC SHOULD CONTINUE THE YUCCA MOUNTAIN LICENSING PROCESS

I. Introduction.

On August 13, 2013, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit granted a writ of mandamus against the NRC, and directed the agency to “promptly continue with the legally mandated licensing process” associated with the captioned matter. Since that decision was issued, the Commission has received new filings in the proceeding. In an Order issued August 30, 2013, the Commission invited all participants in the Yucca Mountain licensing proceeding to provide by September 30, 2013 their views as to how the agency should continue with the licensing process. In addition, the August 30, 2013 Secretarial Order invited the participants to include their responses to the Nye County and Nevada motions within their views.

Lincoln County, Nevada is one of 10 Units of Affected Government designated by the Secretary of Energy pursuant to the Nuclear Waste Policy Act, as amended. On December 22, 2008, Lincoln County filed its corrected request to participate as an Interested Governmental Participant pursuant to 10 C.F.R. § 2.315(c). The Commission granted Lincoln County’s request to participate as an Interested Governmental Participant on January 15, 2009. On June 22, 2009,
Lincoln County filed its intent to participate in the following admitted contentions with the
Atomic Safety Licensing Board:

CLK-NEPA-003
CAL-NEPA-005
CAL-NEPA-020
NEI-SAFETY-001
NEI-SAFETY-002
NEI-SAFETY-004
NEI-NEPA-001
NEV-NEPA-001
NEV-NEPA-002
NEV-NEPA-003
NEV-NEPA-004
NEV-NEPA-005
NEV-NEPA-006
NEV-NEPA-008
NEV-NEPA-010
NEV-NEPA-013
NEV-NEPA-014
NEV-NEPA-015
JTS-NEPA-007
WHI-NEPA-001
WHI-NEPA-002
WHI-NEPA-003
WHI-NEPA-004

By this filing, Lincoln County reaffirms its intent to participate in the aforementioned
admitted contentions as an Interested Government Participant and offers its views as to how
the NRC should continue with the licensing process as well as its views on the related Nye
County and State of Nevada motions.

II. Views as to How the NRC Should Continue With the Yucca Mountain Licensing
Process

Lincoln County believes that the following actions should be taken by the NRC (in
order of priority) as a means to continue with the Yucca Mountain licensing process and
otherwise comply with the August 13, 2013 decision of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the
District of Columbia Circuit which granted a writ of mandamus against the NRC:

1. Lift the respective NRC and ASLB suspensions of the licensing proceeding.
2. Issue a final, un-redacted version of the Safety Evaluation Report (SER) for the Yucca Mountain Project.
3. Schedule a case management conference for the purpose of restarting the licensing process.

In preparation for said case management conference, the NRC and assigned ASLB should request admitted parties, including interested governmental participants, in the proceeding to describe their continuing commitment to adjudicate and/or participate in admitted contentions and related financial capacity to participate in the licensing process. Decisions by NRC regarding what licensing activities should be undertaken (i.e. reinstitution of Phase I discovery) could then follow the case management conference. To facilitate participation by Nevada parties in the proceeding, the case management conference should be held at a location (i.e. a rented hotel conference room) in Las Vegas, Nevada.

Due to limitations in currently available funding to NRC, DOE state, tribal, and local government parties to the licensing proceeding, each of the aforementioned actions can and should be taken by NRC without reinstituting the Licensing Support Network (LSN).

**III. Views Regarding August 23, 2013 Nye County Motion**

Lincoln County generally agrees with the actions requested of NRC in Nye County’s August 23, 2013 motion. Specifically, Lincoln County agrees with Nye County that a) NRC and DOE should not be allowed to use previous improper actions to further delay the licensing proceeding; b) the ASLB should immediately convene a case management hearing; and c) the ASLB should order the immediate issuance of the original unredacted Staff SERs with safety conclusions intact.
IV. Views Regarding August 23, 2013 State of Nevada Motion

Lincoln County disagrees with the State of Nevada’s request that the Licensing Support Network (LSN) be reconstituted. Nevada desires to have the texts of relevant documents electronically accessible and searchable. At the request of the ASLB prior to suspension of the licensing proceeding, Lincoln County and all other parties have converted all relevant documents to a PDF format which is searchable and have provided all such documents to NRC. Placement of these documents on the NRC’s existing ADAMS document archival system would make said documents electronically accessible and searchable without having to bear the expense of reconstituting and maintaining the LSN.

Lincoln County agrees with the State of Nevada that any in-person hearings required by the Licensing Board as part of the restarted proceeding take place in the Las Vegas, Nevada area.

Lincoln County agrees with the State of Nevada that (Lincoln County would add to the extent possible) the restarted proceeding be conducted by CAB 04. As noted in Nevada’s filing, CAB 04 members have extensive and unique experience in addressing the parties and issues in the Yucca Mountain proceeding.

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1 See generally In re Aiken County, No. 11-1271 (D.C. Cir. Aug. 13, 2013) (slip op. at 22).

CERTIFICATE OF
SERVICE

I hereby certify that copies of the foregoing LINCOLN COUNTY, NEVADA VIEWS REGARDING HOW NRC SHOULD CONTINUE THE YUCCA MOUNTAIN LICENSING PROCESS dated September 26, 2013, have been served upon the following persons by Electronic Information Exchange and by e-mail. Some participants do not have current digital certificates.

U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Atomic Safety and Licensing Board (ASLBP)
Mail Stop T-3F23
Washington, DC 20555-0001

Construction Authorization Board 04 (CAB04)
Thomas S. Moore, Chair
Administrative Judge
thomas.moore@nrc.gov

Paul S. Ryerson
Administrative Judge
paul.ryerson@nrc.gov

Richard E. Wardwell
Administrative Judge
richard.wardwell@nrc.gov

Anthony C. Eitreim, Esq., Chief Counsel
anthony.eitreim@nrc.gov

U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Office of the General Counsel
Mail Stop O-15D21
Washington, DC 20555-0001
Elva Bowden Berry, Esq.
elva.bowdenberry@nrc.gov
Joseph S. Gilman, Esq.
joseph.gilman@nrc.gov
Daniel W. Lenehan, Esq.
daniel.lenehan@nrc.gov
Megan A. Wright, Esq.
megan.wright@nrc.gov
Mitzi A. Young, Esq.
mitzi.young@nrc.gov

U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Office of Commission Appellate Adjudication
Mail Stop O-7H4M
Washington, DC 20555-0001
OCAA Mail Center
ocaamail@nrc.gov

U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Office of the Secretary of the Commission
Mail Stop O-16C1
Washington, DC 20555-0001
Hearing Docket
hearingdocket@nrc.gov
For White Pine County, Nevada
Kelly Brown, District Attorney
801 Clark Street, Suite 3
Ely, NV 89301
kbrown@mwpower.net

White Pine Co. Nuclear Waste Project Ofc
959 Campton Street
Ely, NV 89301
Mike Simon, Director
wpnucwst1@mwpower.net

Counsel for Inyo County, California
Gregory L. James, Attorney at Law
712 Owens Gorge Road
HC 79, Box
Mammoth Lakes, CA 93546
E-Mail: gljames@earthlink.net

Counsel for Inyo County, California
Law Office of Michael Berger
479 El Sueno Road
Santa Barbara, CA 93110
Michael Berger, Esq.
michael@lawofficemichaelberger.com
Robert Hanna, Esq.
robert@lawofficemichaelberger.com

Inyo Co Yucca Mtn Repository Assessment Ofc
P. O. Box 367
Independence, CA 93526-0367
Cathleen Richards, Associate Planner
crichards@inyocounty.us

Counsel for State of Washington
Office of the Attorney General
P. O. Box 40117
Olympia, WA 98504-0117
Todd R. Bowers, Esq.
toddb@atg.wa.gov
Andrew A. Fitz, Esq.
andyf@atg.wa.gov
Michael L. Dunning, Esq.
michaeld@atg.wa.gov
H. Lee Overton, Esq.
leeo1@atg.wa.gov
Danielle French, Esq.
daniellef@atg.wa.gov

California Energy Commission
1516 Ninth Street
Sacramento, CA 95814
Kevin, W. Bell, Senior Staff Counsel
kwbell@energy.state.ca.us

California Department of Justice
Office of the Attorney General
1300 I Street, PO Box 944255
Sacramento, CA 94244-2550
Michele Mercado, Analyst
michele.mercado@doj.ca.gov

California Department of Justice
Office of the Attorney General
1515 Clay Street, 20th Fl, PO Box 70550
Oakland, CA 94612-0550
Timothy E. Sullivan, Deputy Attorney General
timothy.sullivan@doj.ca.gov

California Department of Justice
Office of the Attorney General
300 S. Spring Street, Suite 1702
Los Angeles, CA 90013
Brian Hembacher, Deputy Attorney General
brian.hembacher@doj.ca.gov

Counsel for State of South Carolina
Davidson & Lindemann, P.A.
1611 Devonshire Drive
P.O. Box 8568
Columbia, SC 29202
Kenneth P. Woodington, Esq.
kwoodington@dml-law.com

Counsel for Aiken County, SC
Haynsworth Sinkler Boyd, PA
1201 Main Street, Suite 2200
P. O. Box 11889
Columbia, SC 29211-1889
Thomas R. Gottshall, Esq.
tgotshall@hsblawfirm.com
Ross Shealy, Esq.
rshealy@hsblawfirm.com