On February, 4, 2010, the Department of Energy (“DOE”) submitted information in response to questions from the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (“NRC”) Construction Authorization Board posed at the January 27, 2010, Case Management Conference. The questions concern the President’s Fiscal Year 2011 budget as it relates to the Yucca Mountain repository and to this licensing proceeding, DOE’s plans and responsibilities for its Licensing Support Network (“LSN”) collection, and various technical details related to archiving the LSN collection. The Board at the Case Management Conference appeared to contemplate responses from the parties (Tr. at 366-367), but did not subsequently set a time for such responses. The Nuclear Energy Institute (“NEI”) submits this response nonetheless.

DOE has now separately indicated its intent to withdraw the pending application for construction authorization for the Yucca Mountain repository, and moved for a stay of this proceeding pending its withdrawal motion. U.S. Department of Energy’s Motion to Stay the Proceeding, February 1, 2010. NEI consented to that stay request. On February 2, 2010, the Board issued an order suspending discovery pending resolution of the stay request.

NEI is not in a position to comment on the technical details of the DOE filing of February 4, 2010, addressing the LSN and DOE’s archiving plans. Moreover, DOE’s answers
remain ambiguous regarding certain important issues, such as the retrievability of the LSN collection. ("DOE will work with [National Archives and Records Administration (‘NARA’)] to ensure that the format of its archived LSN records comply with retrievability requirements of the Federal records Act and NARA regulations.")

NEI’s position is that Yucca Mountain technical information, records, documents, and the LSN constitute an important and irreplaceable resource and, potentially, an important project legacy — funded by electric ratepayers through Nuclear Waste Fund fees. NEI will address appropriate terms and conditions on any license withdrawal in connection with the forthcoming DOE motion. In the meantime, in response to the vague nature of DOE’s present plans as submitted on February 4, 2010, the Board should act immediately to assure that DOE and all parties continue to maintain and preserve all Yucca Mountain technical information, records, documents, and the LSN in status quo, until a final NRC decision on the DOE motion to withdraw the license application is issued.

Respectfully submitted,

Ellen C. Ginsberg
General Counsel
Michael A. Bauser
Deputy General Counsel
Nuclear Energy Institute
1776 I Street, N.W., Suite 400
Washington, DC  20006
(202) 739-8140

/s/ signed electronically by
David A. Repka
Rachel Miras-Wilson
Winston & Strawn LLP
1700 K Street, N.W.
Washington, DC  20006
(202) 282-5726

COUNSEL FOR THE NUCLEAR ENERGY INSTITUTE

Dated in Washington, D.C.
this 16th day of February 2010
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

In the Matter of

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY (High-Level Waste Repository)

Docket No. 63-001-HLW

ASLBP No. 09-892-HLW-CAB04

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that copies of the foregoing “Reply of the Nuclear Energy Institute to the Department of Energy’s Answers to Board Questions” have been served upon the following persons on this 16th day of February 2010 by Electronic Information Exchange.

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

Construction Authorization Board (CAB) 04
Thomas S. Moore, Chair
Administrative Judge
tsm2@nrc.gov
Paul S. Ryerson
Administrative Judge
psr1@nrc.gov
Richard E. Wardwell
Administrative Judge
rew@nrc.gov
Anthony C. Eitreim, Esq., Chief Counsel
ace1@nrc.gov
Daniel J. Graser, LSN Administrator
dig2@nrc.gov
Zachary Kahn, Law Clerk
zsk1@nrc.gov
Erica LaPlante, Law Clerk
eal1@nrc.gov
Matthew Rotman, Law Clerk
matthew.rotman@nrc.gov
Katherine Tucker, Law Clerk
katie.tucker@nrc.gov
Joseph Deucher
jhd@nrc.gov
Andrew Welkie
awx5@nrc.gov
Jack Whetstine
jgw@nrc.gov
Patricia Harich
patricia.harich@nrc.gov
Sara Culler
sara.culler@nrc.gov

U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
 Office of the General Counsel
 Mail Stop O-15D21
 Washington, DC 20555-0001
 Margaret J. Bupp, Esq.
mjb5@nrc.gov
Michael G. Dreher, Esq.
michael.dreher@nrc.gov
Karin Francis, Paralegal
kxf4@nrc.gov
Adam Gendelman, Esq.
adam.gendelman@nrc.gov
Joseph S. Gilman, Paralegal
jsg1@nrc.gov
Daniel W. Lenehan, Esq.
daniel.lenehan@nrc.gov
Andrea L. Silvia, Esq.
al1@nrc.gov
Mitzi A. Young, Esq.
may@nrc.gov
Marian L. Zobler, Esq.
mlz@nrc.gov
OGC Mail Center
OGCMailCenter@nrc.gov

U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
 Office of Commission Appellate Adjudication
 Mail Stop O-16C1
 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
Counsel for Clark County, Nevada
Jennings, Strouss & Salmon
1700 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Suite 500
Washington, DC  20006-4725
Elene Belte, Legal Secretary
ebelete@jsslaw.com
Alan I. Robbins, Esq.
arobbins@jsslaw.com
Debra D. Roby, Esq.
droby@jsslaw.com

Counsel for Eureka County, Nevada
Harmon, Curran, Speilberg & Eisenberg, LLP
1726 M. Street N.W., Suite 600
Washington, DC  20036
Diane Curran, Esq.
dcurran@harmoncurran.com
Matthew Fraser, Law Clerk
mfraser@harmoncurran.com

Nuclear Waste Advisory for Eureka County, Nevada
1983 Maison Way
Carson City, NV  89703
Abigail Johnson, Consultant
eurekanrc@gmail.com

Counsel for Churchill, Esmeralda, Lander, and Mineral Counties, Nevada
Armstrong Teasdale, LLP
1975 Village Center Circle, Suite 140
Las Vegas, NV  89134-6237
Jennifer A. Gores, Esq.
jgores@armstrongteasdale.com
Robert F. List, Esq.
rlist@armstrongteasdale.com

Mineral County Nuclear Projects Office
P.O. Box 1600
Hawthorne, NV  89415
Linda Mathias, Director
yuccainfo@mineralcountynv.org

Eureka County, Nevada
Office of the District Attorney
701 S. Main Street, Box 190
Eureka, NV  89316-0190
Theodore Beutel, District Attorney
theutel.ecda@eurekanv.org

Eureka County Public Works
PO Box 714
Eureka, NV  89316
Ronald Damele, Director
rdamele@eurekanv.org

For Eureka County, Nevada
NWOP Consulting, Inc.
1705 Wildcat Lane
Ogden, UT  84403
Loreen Pitchford, Consultant
lpitchford@comcast.net

Esmeralda County Repository Oversight Program-Yucca Mountain Project
PO Box 490
Goldfield, NV  89013
Edwin Mueller, Director
muellered@msn.com

For City of Caliente, Lincoln County, and White Pine County, Nevada
P.O. Box 126
Caliente, NV  89008
Jason Pitts, LSN Administrator
jayson@idtservices.com
Counsel for Joint Timbisha Shoshone Tribal Group
Godfrey & Kahn, S.C.
One East Main Street, Suite 500
P. O. Box 2719
Madison, WI  53701-2719
Julie Dobie, Legal Secretary
dobie@gklaw.com
Steven A. Heinzen, Esq.
heinzen@gklaw.com
Douglas M. Poland, Esq.
dpoland@gklaw.com
Hannah L. Renfro, Esq.
renfro@gklaw.com
Jacqueline Schwartz, Paralegal
jschwartz@gklaw.com

Counsel for Joint Timbisha Shoshone Tribal Group
Godfrey & Kahn, S.C.
780 N. Water Street
Milwaukee, WI  53202
Arthur J. Harrington, Esq.
aharrington@gklaw.com

/s/ signed electronically by 
David A. Repka
Winston & Strawn LLP
1700 K Street, N.W.
Washington, DC  20006
(202) 282-5726

COUNSEL FOR THE NUCLEAR
ENERGY INSTITUTE

Dated in Washington, D.C.
this 16th day of February 2010