Mr. Robert R. Loux, Executive Director
Agency for Nuclear Projects
Office of the Governor
State of Nevada
1802 N. Carson Street, Suite 252
Carson City, Nevada 89701

Dear Mr. Loux:

This is in response to your letter of May 31, 2000, expressing concern about the Department’s plans for release of the Site Recommendation Consideration Report.

The Department’s present plans are to release the Site Recommendation Consideration Report (SRCR) for public review in advance of holding public hearings in the vicinity of Yucca Mountain on a possible site recommendation, as required under section 114(a)(1) of the NWPA. The Department decided to issue the SRCR, a report not required by the NWPA, to better inform the public of certain data and information that would form the bases for a possible recommendation of the Yucca Mountain site for development as a repository, and thereby facilitate public comment during the hearing process. Of course, members of the public, including the State of Nevada, its various representatives, and any other governmental or non-governmental entities, may comment during the public hearing process on the SRCR itself, or any other information or issues they deem pertinent to the Department’s consideration of the Yucca Mountain site for development as a repository.

If the Secretary ultimately decides to recommend approval of the Yucca Mountain site to the President, the Governor and the legislature of Nevada will be provided with notice of the Secretary’s decision at least 30 days before the actual recommendation is submitted to the President and made available to the public. I view this process as fully consistent with the Department’s obligations under section 114 of the NWPA, and want to stress that the Department welcomes the views and comments of the Governor and the legislature of Nevada throughout this process, and will respond to any such comments in accordance with section 114(a)(1)(F) of the NWPA. In addition, the Final Environmental Impact Statement would accompany any Secretarial recommendation to the President and respond to the public comments received on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.
Thank you for the opportunity to clarify the Department's position. If you have any further questions or concerns regarding this matter, please feel free to contact me at (202) 586-6842.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Ivan Itkin, Director
Office of Civilian Radioactive
Waste Management