

**ATTORNEY GENERAL
NEVADA DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE**

100 North Carson Street
Carson City, Nevada 89701-4717

BRIAN SANDOVAL
Attorney General



ANN WILKINSON
Assistant Attorney General

September 15, 2004

Mr. Gregory Friedman
Inspector General
United States Department of Energy
1000 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20585

Re: Silica Dangers at Yucca Mountain

Dear Mr. Friedman:

I want to call your attention to a complaint that was filed in federal district court in Las Vegas on September 1 by a group of private attorneys. A copy of the complaint is enclosed. I have reviewed the lawsuit and believe it raises grave issues of possible malfeasance and deliberate violations of law by Department of Energy contractors who dug several miles of tunnels at the proposed Yucca Mountain nuclear waste repository site, with the result that thousands of people working or visiting in the tunnels apparently were exposed to potentially life-threatening levels of silica and other carcinogenic dusts. Some of the workers have already contracted silicosis. I was particularly struck by the extensive number of documentary citations that were compiled in the complaint, most taken from DOE or contractor records. It clearly warrants a thorough investigation by your office, which I assume is already underway.

The State of Nevada will also be closely following this matter to determine if it warrants action by state authorities.

Sincere regards,

BRIAN SANDOVAL
Attorney General

Enclosure
By Facsimile (202-586-7851) and United States Mail