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AGENCY FOR NUCLEAR PROJECTS**

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August 24, 2005

Mr. Stephen Johnson, Administrator  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20460-0001

Re: Request for Comment Period Extension and Additional Public Meeting

Dear Mr. Johnson:

In reviewing the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) August 22nd, 2005 Federal Register Notice, "Public Health and Environmental Radiation Protection Standards for Yucca Mountain, NV" (Docket ID No. OAR-2005-0083), I note that EPA has provided for only a 60 day comment period and just two public meetings in Nevada, both of which are in the southern part of the state (one in Nye County and the other in Las Vegas). At the meeting Nevada officials attended with EPA representatives on July 12, 2005 in Las Vegas, it was requested that the comment period for the draft Yucca Mountain standard be at least 180 days. EPA was further advised that the Agency must plan to hold public hearings on the draft standard in both the northern and southern parts of the state.

The promulgation of a radiation health protection standard for the proposed Yucca Mountain nuclear waste repository is a matter of great concern to the people and government of Nevada. It is imperative that a sufficient amount of time be allowed for the public and others to review the complicated and highly technical draft standard and supporting documentation and formulate comments. In addition, state officials and

people in northern Nevada must also be afforded the opportunity to participate in and provide comments at a public meeting. I am, therefore, requesting that EPA extend the comment period on the proposed standard to a full 180 days and schedule at least one additional public meeting in northern Nevada, preferably in the Reno/Sparks area.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert R. Loux". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

Robert R. Loux  
Executive Director

RRL/cs

cc Governor Guinn  
Nevada congressional delegation  
Affected local governments and tribes