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November 2, 2007

Mr. Edward Sproat, Director  
Office of Civilian Radioactive Waste Management  
U.S. Department of Energy  
1000 Independence Avenue, SW  
Washington, D.C. 20585

RE: Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Alignment, Construction, and Operation of a Rail Line to a Geologic Repository at Yucca Mountain, Nye County, NV. (DOE/EIS-0250F-S2D and DOE/EIS-0369D).

Draft Supplement to the Final Environmental Impact Statement for a Geologic Repository for the Disposal of Spent Nuclear Fuel and High-Level Radioactive Waste at Yucca Mountain, Nye County, NV. (DOE/EIS-0250F-S1D).

Dear Mr. Sproat:

I am writing to request that DOE extend the deadline for comments on the above-referenced National Environmental Policy Act documents for an additional 60 days. In conducting our initial review of the two EISs, it became apparent that the documents are lengthy, highly complex and contain hundreds of references that provide the bases for the documents' information, analyses, findings, and conclusions. The 90 day comment period provided for in the Federal Register Notice announcing the availability of the draft EISs is not sufficient for the Agency, affected local governments and tribes, and the public to review, understand and comment on these two documents. The currently specified comment period is also considerably shorter than the 180 days afforded for comments on the Draft Yucca Mountain EIS issued in 1999.

I would also point out that, in carefully reviewing the draft EISs and associated references over the past three weeks, we discovered that many of the referenced documents were not available on-line or in electronic format for ready access by reviewers. I understand DOE has been working to correct this situation, but we and the public have already lost over three weeks of review time while DOE searches for the missing references and attempts to make them accessible.

It is imperative that DOE afford sufficient time for affected parties and the public to review the two draft EIS documents and formulate comments. Extending the comment period by an additional 60 days appears more than justified given the size and complexity of the documents and the need to obtain and review important reference material.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert R. Loux", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Robert R. Loux  
Executive Director

RRL/cs

cc Nevada Local Governments/Tribes  
Nevada Congressional Delegation