



Sustainable Fuel Cycle TASK FORCE

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Sustainable Fuel Cycle Task Force Science Panel

November 18, 2015

Ms. Cindy Blade
Office of Administration,
Mail Stop: OWFN-12-H08,
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission,
Washington, DC 20555-0001.

Ms. Bladey,

The Science Panel of the Sustainable Fuel Cycle Task Force is pleased to provide public comments on the NRC Draft Supplement to the U.S. Department of Energy's Environmental Impact Statement for a Geologic Repository for the Disposal of Spent Nuclear Fuel and High-Level Radioactive Waste at Yucca Mountain, Nye County, Nevada, and NUREG-2184.

As scientists who have independently worked for many decades to support a sound approach for safely managing and disposing of our nation's used nuclear fuel and high level radioactive wastes, it is our view that the decades of world class extensive scientific analyses support the documents conclusion that the environmental impacts of the proposed geologic repository at Yucca Mountain are negligibly small and well within all national and international regulatory environmental standards for up to one million years. Thus we urge the NRC and DOE to move forward to complete the next Yucca Mountain licensing steps.

It is the collective view of our Panel that the need for progress to develop a geologic repository is more critical now than ever. Used nuclear fuel accumulations at both shutdown and operating reactors continues to grow imposing significant societal burdens; disposal of defense high level radioactive waste needs are not being met; and important legal contractual obligations and state agreements are not being achieved. In addition to restarting Yucca Mountain licensing, we note the need for urgent action expressed by the Blue Ribbon Commission (BRC). The BRC did not preclude continuing Yucca Mountain licensing and we believe continuing the Yucca Mountain licensing review is the most reasonable and prudent means to address this issue with a sense of urgency. We strongly believe that both the legally mandated Yucca Mountain licensing process should continue now and that pursuing the BRC recommendations should be added as a parallel enhancement. Thus we urge the NRC and DOE to now be proactive and move forward rather than accept the unrealistic unscientific politically motivated inactions of the past few years.

Yours sincerely for the Science Panel,

Charles Fairhurst, Ph.D.

D. Warner North Ph.D.

Ruth Weiner, Ph.D.

Isaac Winograd, Ph.D.

Wendell Weart, Ph.D.

Eugene H. Roseboom Jr., Ph.D.