



The Secretary of Energy
Washington, DC 20585

May 20, 1991

The Honorable Leo Vaughan
Chairman
Esmeralda County Commission
P.O. Box 536
Goldfield, Nevada 89013

Dear Mr. Vaughan:

The Nuclear Waste Policy Act of 1982, as amended (NWPAA), provides that the Secretary of Energy may, at his discretion, designate as "affected" units of local government contiguous to Nye County, Nevada. Pursuant to the NWPAA, the Yucca Mountain candidate site in Nye County is to be characterized to determine if it is a suitable location for the Nation's first high-level radioactive waste repository.

In accord with your request, and under the authority provided by the NWPAA, I hereby designate Esmeralda County as an affected unit of local government.

Dr. John W. Bartlett, Director, Office of Civilian Radioactive Waste Management, and his staff will make arrangements for Esmeralda County's involvement in the Civilian Radioactive Waste Management Program.

It is vitally important that affected local governments actively participate in the development of the Program. I look forward to a constructive relationship as we work together to solve this Nation's nuclear waste problem.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "James D. Watkins".

James D. Watkins
Admiral, U.S. Navy (Retired)

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