



Department of Energy
Office of Civilian Radioactive Waste Management
Yucca Mountain Site Characterization Office
P.O. Box 98608
Las Vegas, NV 89193-8608

FEB 21 1996

Robert Slay
P.O. Box 192
Beech Island, SC 29842

Dear Mr. Slay:

Dr. Daniel A. Dreyfus requested that I respond on his behalf to your letter of December 11, 1995, commenting on the U.S. Department of Energy's Notice of Intent to prepare an environmental impact statement (EIS) for a potential geologic repository at Yucca Mountain, Nye County, Nevada. We previously received a set of your Board's concerns and have entered them into the public record for scoping. I appreciate your interest and desire to be involved in the scoping process for this EIS. Your concerns will be reviewed and given thorough consideration consistent with Council on Environmental Quality and U.S. Department of Energy guidelines for implementing the National Environmental Policy Act.

In light of budgetary reductions in the fiscal year 1996 Energy and Water Appropriations Act, we are reassessing our activities at Yucca Mountain. As a result, the preparation of specific responses to comments on the EIS will be deferred in fiscal year 1996. The Department is currently examining priorities for shipment of Department-owned waste to the repository.

During the EIS scoping hearings, the Department said it was planning to qualitatively evaluate a No-Action alternative on termination of site characterization activities at Yucca Mountain and the continued accumulation of spent nuclear fuel and high-level radioactive waste at commercial storage sites and Department facilities in the repository EIS. In addition, the Department is analyzing management of high-level radioactive waste at Savannah River in the Draft Waste Management Programmatic EIS, which is just finishing its public comment period.

Again, I appreciate the Savannah River Site Citizens Advisory Board's interest and participation in this important matter. I encourage you to contact Wendy R. Dixon, the Repository EIS Project Manager, at (702) 794-7949, regarding any issues or concerns you may have during the document's preparation.

Sincerely,



Wesley E. Barnes
Project Manager

cc:
M. P. Fiori
Mildred McClain