

Eureka County
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March 16, 2009

Mr. Francis G. Schwartz
GNEP PEIS Document Manager
Office of Nuclear Energy
U.S. Department of Energy
1000 Independence Avenue, SW.
Washington, DC 20585-0119

**Re: Eureka County, Nevada, Comments on the U.S. Department of Energy's
Draft Global Nuclear Energy Partnership (GNEP) Programmatic
Environmental Impact Statement (DOE/EIS-0396)**

Dear Mr. Schwartz:

Eureka County, Nevada, is an "affected unit of local government" under Section 116 of the Nuclear Waste Policy Act as amended. We are providing the following comments on the above referenced document.

In light of the recent announcements by the Obama administration and Secretary of Energy Chu that the Yucca Mountain repository will not move forward, and that the administration plans to commission a blue ribbon panel to restudy the nuclear waste issue, we recommend that this Draft Programmatic EIS be withdrawn, pending the recommendations of that panel.

The existing document overly depends on Yucca Mountain as the sole repository and key to the GNEP concept. Despite being a Programmatic EIS, the draft document exemplifies compartmentalization of related DOE programs, and will likely result in fragmented planning and implementation.

This document was also prepared before the NRC solicited comments on its waste confidence finding, which is directly connected to the need for GNEP and the reconsideration of spent fuel management in the United States.

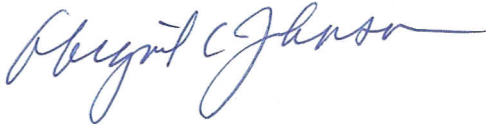
While some links to the Yucca Mountain project were made, the Draft PEIS should provide direct linkage to the Nuclear Waste Policy Act, especially Section 180(c) regarding emergency planning and response. The counties in Nevada are especially attuned to the presumption made by DOE that emergency management and first responder costs and responsibilities will be adequately addressed by 180(c) but there is a

lack of evidence to support that presumption. In Nevada, local governments have first responder responsibility. It is essential that this document acknowledge and address that responsibility and role of local government.

Now that DOE has indicated that the Yucca Mountain project is on indefinite hold, it is necessary for DOE to withdraw the Draft PEIS on GNEP until the administration has identified a new path forward as a result of the recommendations of the blue ribbon panel soon to be appointed.

Thank you for considering the comments of Eureka County, Nevada.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Abigail C. Johnson". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Abigail C. Johnson
Nuclear Waste Advisor

cc: Ronald Damele, Eureka Public Works
Nevada NWPO
AULGs

NOTE: Submitted to DOE via FAX: 866/645-7807