



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR WASTE TECHNICAL REVIEW BOARD

2300 Clarendon Boulevard, Suite 1300
Arlington, VA 22201-3367

March 13, 2003

Mr. Ken Niles
Chairman
High-Level Radioactive Waste Committee
Western Interstate Energy Board
1515 Cleveland Place, Suite 200
Denver, CO 80202-5179

Dear Mr. Niles:

Thank you for sending copies of the Western Interstate Energy Board's (WEIB) policy resolutions and other information to the Nuclear Waste Technical Review Board. This information is very relevant and timely as the Board increases its focus on the technical and scientific issues related to Department of Energy (DOE) plans for developing a waste management system for a potential Yucca Mountain repository. As you know, the DOE's transportation plans and other aspects of a waste management system were the subjects of a meeting held by the Board's Panel on the Waste Management System on February 25, 2003. The WIEB policy resolutions contain recommendations on a number of important issues that must be resolved by the DOE as it develops plans for transporting spent nuclear fuel and high-level waste to Yucca Mountain. I will forward copies of your letter to the Panel members.

Your policy resolutions frequently cite the need for advance planning and consultation with state, tribal, and local governments as transportation modes and routes are selected and transportation infrastructure is developed. The Board very much agrees with the importance of such interactions. In a letter following its January 28, 2003, meeting, the Board stated:

"The Board views the early involvement of external stakeholders as critical to developing a comprehensive plan for the waste management system and to building public confidence in those plans. Because proactive engagement of external stakeholders is a time-consuming process, the Board encourages the DOE to initiate this activity as soon as possible."

As DOE develops its plans, the Board and its Panel on the Waste Management System anticipate holding additional meetings on the transportation of spent fuel and high-level waste. I hope you will be able to attend or participate in some of those meetings.

Sincerely,

William D. Barnard
Executive Director