

249

FROM: THE OFFICE OF U.S. SEN. BOB DOLE  
NEW SENATE OFFICE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, D.C.

\*FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE\*

WASHINGTON, D.C., July 2 --- U.S. Sen. Bob Dole (R-Kans.) wrote Governor Robert Docking, June 30, in response to a letter he received from the Kansas Governor concerning the Atomic Energy Commission's proposed project to store atomic waste in salt beds near Lyons, Kansas.

Dole said that he is concerned about the environmental, and safety implications of the project, and in that regard, has asked President Nixon to appoint an advisory council composed of members of Federal agencies and Kansas citizens to "insure an independent and continuous review of the available information."

"In acting on the AEC request for authorization of the nuclear repository," the Kansas Senator said, "the Joint Atomic Energy Committee has endorsed this proposal, recommending that the Council on Environmental Quality or the Environmental Protection Agency create such an advisory council."

-30-

FULL TEXT OF LETTER ATTACHED

JENNINGS RANDOLPH, W. VA., CHAIRMAN

YUSKIE, MAINE	JOHN SHERMAN COOPER, KY.
JORDAN, N.C.	J. CALER BOGGS, DEL.
IND.	HOWARD H. BAKER, JR., TENN.
AMTOYA, N. MEX.	ROBERT DOLE, KANS.
EAGLETON, MO.	J. GLENN BEALL, JR., MD.
IL, ALASKA	JAMES L. BUCKLEY, N.Y.
NEY, CALIF.	LOWELL P. WEICKER, JR., CONN.
SEN, TEX.	

## United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

June 30, 1971

RD B. ROYCE, CHIEF CLERK AND STAFF DIRECTOR  
J. B. HUYETT, JR., ASSISTANT CHIEF CLERK  
M. BARRY MEYER, COUNSEL

The Honorable Robert Docking  
Governor of Kansas  
State Capitol Building  
Topeka, Kansas 66612

Dear Bob:

I appreciated your recent letter regarding the proposed nuclear repository to be located near Lyons, Kansas.

Since the Atomic Energy Commission announced the tentative selection of Lyons, Kansas as the site for the repository, I have been concerned about the environmental and safety implications of the project. Early last summer, I received assurances from Russell Train, Chairman of the Council on Environmental Quality that the Council would closely scrutinize the AEC proposal. Later, William D. Ruckelshaus, Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency indicated his agency would study the project.

Because this is the first such repository, and in order to insure an independent and continuous review of the available information satisfactory to both the Federal Government and the State of Kansas, I asked the President to appoint an advisory council composed of interested Federal agencies and Kansas citizens. In acting on the AEC request for authorization of the nuclear repository, the Joint Atomic Energy Committee has endorsed this proposal, recommending that the Council on Environmental Quality or the Environmental Protection Agency create such an advisory council.

Upon publication of the draft environmental impact statement by the Atomic Energy Commission on the Lyons' project, I raised several questions that require answers before actual transportation of radioactive materials to the proposed repository. Some of these questions were answered in the final environmental impact statement. Others, however, cannot be answered in an environmental impact statement which must be prepared in advance of doing the work that will provide the answers.

Page 2  
June 30, 1971  
Honorable Robert Docking

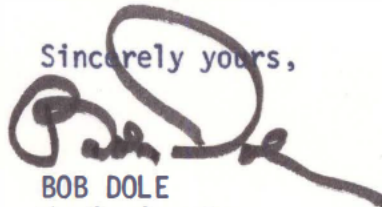
On June 4, Mr. John A. Erlewine, Assistant General Manager for Operations of the Atomic Energy Commission, wrote and assured me that these matters will be studied during the course of the design and development of operational procedures for the proposed Lyons' repository. He further assured me that these matters will be resolved during construction of the repository.

Our nation is faced with a potential energy crisis. Nuclear energy must play a significant role in a comprehensive energy policy. The development of nuclear waste repositories is an integral part of the nuclear energy production and supply.

Although it is critical that a nuclear waste repository be constructed, it may very well be that the environmental and safety questions that have been raised cannot be resolved even after construction is completed. If this should prove to be the case then the Atomic Energy Commission will have to relocate their facility.

The environmental and safety questions are well defined, and I have received many letters from concerned Kansas citizens with respect to the Atomic Energy Commission's plans. I am convinced that an advisory Council offers the kind of independent and continuous review that is required. I am also convinced that should the advisory council find the Lyons' site to be sound from both an environmental and safety standpoint, Kansas and its citizens will cooperate in this project, an important part of a system which will supply our future energy requirements.

Sincerely yours,



BOB DOLE  
U. S. Senate

BD:cd