

**PETER K. KEEGAN, ESQ.**

**August 17, 2020**

**VIA E-MAIL**

Nevada Commission on Nuclear Projects  
c/o Agency for Nuclear Projects  
Attn: Shawnee J. Newkirk  
[nwpo@nuc.state.nv.us](mailto:nwpo@nuc.state.nv.us)

**Re: Peter Keegan's Cover Letter - Agency for Nuclear Projects – Executive Director**

The citizens of Nevada deserve experienced leadership in the arena of High Level Nuclear Waste (HLNW) and Spent Nuclear Fuel (SNF) storage. My experience with Yucca Mountain dates back to the summer of 2007, when I successfully assisted Marta Adams in opposing a preliminary injunction sought by the Department of Energy (DOE) for its boring hole drilling program. In 2008, I researched and presented on alloy 22 containment vessels and drip shields at Yucca Mountain for a scientific controversies course at Vermont Law School.

I am applying for the Executive Director position to work directly with Nevada's elected and appointed officials to ensure the best outcome for the citizens of Nevada when it comes to Yucca Mountain. I possess an acute awareness of environmental science and political issues, as well as tenacious advocacy skills sharpened through bench and jury trials at the state and federal level. I have completed the Nevada Purchasing Division Certified Contract Manager program, regularly review accounting and budgetary matters, and I am comfortable testifying before the legislature. The combination of my interdisciplinary education, legal experience, and active lifestyle enable me to develop rapport with all walks of life, while maintaining formal decorum and respectable candor. Storage of nuclear materials requires an understanding of the interplay between science and law, the study of these two areas have driven my education and shaped my career.

With eight years of civil service to the citizens of Nevada, my goal is to continue upon this trajectory. As a Deputy Attorney General, I have provided representation to a diverse set of Nevada boards, agencies, and commissions; I have prosecuted administrative cases and appeals; provided day-to-day counsel to State agency Administrators; and defended the State and its employees in general and complex litigation. My clients have included: the Nevada Division of Environmental Protection, Department Taxation, Committee on Local Government Finance, Nevada Department of Business and Industry, Housing Division, Real Estate Division, Division of Industrial Relations, Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors, Liquefied Petroleum Gas Board, and the Department of Corrections. My primary responsibilities have included: general litigation, administrative prosecutions, petitions for judicial review, legislative bill draft requests, regulatory amendments, providing open meeting law counsel, and responding to public records requests.

I also have three years of private sector experience serving as plaintiff's counsel for various financial institutions. During this time I oversaw four junior attorneys, twenty plus staff, and gained valuable leadership experience. Please consider this application as a request to meet with the Commission members to discuss how I will fulfill the Executive Director position.

Respectfully,

Peter K. Keegan, Esq.  
NV Bar # 12237

# Peter K. Keegan, Esq.

## Education

**Vermont Law School, South Royalton, Vermont**

Juris Doctor, May 2009

- Research: *Interstate Water Markets...Bank On It.*

**California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo, California**

Bachelor of Arts, Political Science, June 2006

- Minor, Environmental Science, June 2006

**Columbia University's Biosphere 2, Oracle, Arizona**

- Environmental Science Certificate, August - December 2003

## Legal Experience

**Nevada Attorney General's Office, Carson City, Nevada**

Deputy Attorney General, January 2014 – Present

- Served as counsel for a variety of Nevada executive branch agencies, including: the Department of Business & Industry and its various Divisions; the Department of Corrections, and the Department of Taxation. Prosecuted administrative cases, defended petitions for judicial review, provided legal counsel to several licensing boards and commissions, and supported high-profile litigation Office-wide. Provided defense counsel in actions brought against the State of Nevada in federal and state court appeals, jury trials, depositions, motions, settlement conferences, and mediations. Obtained Nevada Contract Management Certificate and perform review of various agency contracts.

**RCO Legal, P.S., Honolulu, Hawaii & Reno, Nevada**

Lead Attorney, April 2011 - January 2014

- Served as plaintiff's counsel for nationwide mortgage servicers in high volume judicial foreclosure practice involving component bankruptcy and probate matters. Managed over 20 support staff and supervised four attorneys, oversaw client communications, resolved complex real property title issues, mitigated loss while mediating cases in compliance with both state and federal homeowner protection laws, and developed firm-wide case processing strategies.

**Third Circuit Court of Hawaii, Fourth Division, Kealahou, Hawaii**

Judicial Law Clerk for the Honorable Judge Elizabeth A. Strance, October 2010 - April 2011

- Supervised jury trials from jury pool generation to panel payment, instructed the court staff regarding jury trial preparations, provided the judge with thorough analyses and proposed dispositions to secure the just, speedy, and inexpensive determination of both civil and criminal actions, taken under advisement; and assisted with coordination of courtroom security.

**Third Judicial District of Nevada, Lyon and Churchill County, Nevada**

Judicial Law Clerk for the Honorable Judge Leon A. Aberasturi, August 2009 - August 2010

- Drafted orders for judge's signature, composed memoranda dissecting legal theories and proposing judicial action, scrutinized civil and criminal filings for procedural compliance, and developed standardized court forms.

**United Space Alliance, LLC, Kennedy Space Center, Cape Canaveral, Florida**

Regulatory Compliance Intern, May - August 2008

- Reviewed regulatory audits of hazardous waste management, conducted due diligence of potential treatment and disposal contractors, compiled risk assessment for asbestos abatement on shuttle launch pad during flame trench repair, and advised on procurement plan for U.S.D.A.'s Biopreferred federal acquisition regulation.

**Nevada State Attorney General's Office, Government and Natural Resources Division, Carson City, Nevada**

Law Clerk, May - August 2007

- Prepared legal memoranda on various topics including: a preliminary injunction against the U.S. Dept. of Energy for violating its Yucca Mountain water permit, a legislative update of Nevada's mortgage income verification laws under the Home Mortgage Disclosure Act, and an inter-basin water transfer by the Walker River Paiute Indian Tribe.

**Friends of the Earth International Environmental Organization, Brussels, Belgium**

Research Associate, June - December 2004

- Managed five research interns, compiled reports on ratification of international law agreements for the "Earth Charter" Commission Update, and organized roundtable negotiations between E.U. member states NGOs.

## Life & Leisure Pursuits

- Backpacking, chess, cycling, parenting, reading, skiing, swimming, surfing, triathlons, volunteering, and water polo.

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Re: References – Agency for Nuclear Projects – Executive Director

**FORMER SUPERVISORS**

(1) William McKean – Deputy City Attorney – Reno City Attorney

- Formerly the Chief of the Division of Business and Taxation at the Office of the Nevada Attorney General. Mr. McKean was my direct supervisor from 2016 through 2018.

(2) Nicholas Trutanich – United States Attorney, District of Nevada.

- Formerly the Chief of Staff for the Office of the Nevada Attorney General. Mr. Trutanich was my indirect supervisor from January 2015 through January of 2019.

**CURRENT & FORMER CLIENTS**

(1) Sharath Chandra – Administrator – Nevada Real Estate Division

(2) Jan Holle – Chief Compliance/Audit Investigator – Nevada Real Estate Division

(3) Melanie Young – Executive Director – Nevada Department of Taxation

(4) Teri Upton – Deputy Executive Director – Compliance – Nevada Department of Taxation

(5) Jeffrey “Jeff” Mitchell – Deputy Executive Director – Local Government Services –  
Department of Taxation –

(6) Terry Reynolds – Director – Nevada Department of Business and Industry

(7) Patty Mamola – Executive Director – Board of Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors

(8) Rick Drake – Chief Inspector – Nevada Liquefied Petroleum Gas Board