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January 12, 2000

Jack D. Parrott, Project Scientist
Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Standards
Mail Stop T-8F37
Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, DC 20555-0001

Dear Mr. Parrott,

It has come to our attention that a draft policy statement regarding decommissioning criteria for the West Valley Demonstration Project and the West Valley site was issued in early December. We understand that a hearing was held January 5 and that the deadline for response was set for February 1, 2000.

As advocates for citizens' rights, both to a healthy environment and to participation in the decision making process, we urge you to extend the comment period 60 to 90 days to allow for pertinent questions to be answered, with considerable time for review and comment by concerned individuals and groups.

We believe that the time allowed between the release of this long-awaited and important document and the closing of the comment period is much too short. A large portion of the comment period spanned the holiday season and end of the year/millennium activities. Citizen groups often do not meet over the holidays. Many people knew nothing of the statement's release until last week. They need time to meet and consider the implications of a document such as this, to conduct research and prepare comments.

In the interest of citizens' rights, please ask the Commissioners to extend the comment period at least 60 to 90 days.

Sincerely,

Lyle Toohey SM

Lyle Toohey, President
League of Women Voters of the Greater Buffalo Area

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