



April 13, 2000

Mr. John Greeves
Director, Division of Waste Management
Office of Nuclear Material Safety
and Safeguards
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, DC 20555-0001

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR NRC STAFF MEMBER TO PARTICIPATE ON THE WORKING GROUP FOR N13.59 "CHARACTERIZATION OF LAND AREAS AND STRUCTURES IN SUPPORT OF DECOMMISSIONING"

Dear Mr. Greeves,

We are currently in the process of identifying writing assignments for the N13.59 working group (WG) on "Characterization of Land Areas and Structures in Support of Decommissioning." This proposed standard would provide the technical approach for designing a characterization survey, for a specific objective, employing the data quality objectives process. Because obtaining adequate characterization data is expensive, characterization planning must consider the delicate balance between not collecting sufficient data and spending limited resources on "over-characterization." A primary objective for this standard includes identifying the minimum characterization data needed to design a remediation plan, while considering the fact that remediation in certain areas would alter the data needed to feed into the final status survey. The standard would also address the option that characterization data could be used as final status survey data.

This letter is an invitation for an NRC staff member to participate on the N13.59 working group and assist in the development of this much needed standard. It is anticipated that participation on this WG will emphasize electronic communications with minimal travel requirements, usually limited to the annual Health Physics Society (HPS) meeting. To indicate the NRC's interest in participating on this WG, please forward the name of the NRC staff member, phone number, fax number, e-mail address, and resume by May 12, 2000.

I look forward to the NRC's participation on this standard. Please call me at (865) 576-3740 if you have any questions or comments, or if I can provide additional information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Eric W. Abelquist". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent "E" and "A".

Eric W. Abelquist
N13.59 Working Group Chair

EWA:kgd

cc: T. Ikenberry, Contamination Limits Section Chair
L. Camper, NRC/NMSS
W. L. Beck, ORISE