

June 9, 2000

The Honorable Angus S. King, Jr.
Governor of Maine
Augusta, Maine 04333-0001

Dear Governor King:

In a letter dated April 4, 2000, you provided comments on the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission's (NRC's) proposed rule to add the NAC International Inc. (NAC) Universal Storage System (NAC-UMS) to the "List of approved spent fuel storage casks," under 10 CFR 72.214. We appreciate the State of Maine's comments on our proposed rule. We will address the issues raised in your letter, including your concern that NRC acquire binding assurances from the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) that DOE will accept Maine Yankee's spent fuel for transport and disposal after interim storage, in the comment/response document accompanying the final rule.

Let me note, however, that it is my understanding that Dr. Ivan Itkin, Director of DOE's Office of Civilian Radioactive Waste Management, confirmed in a letter to you dated May 3, 2000, that such assurances already exist, regardless of the condition of the spent nuclear fuel, under the DOE's contract for disposal with Maine Yankee. I trust that Dr. Itkin's commitment to DOE's existing contractual obligations serves to address your concerns about DOE's willingness to accept the Maine Yankee fuel.

If you have any additional questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Richard A. Meserve

cc: Bill Richardson, Secretary
Department of Energy