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DSP

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U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
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Dear Mr. Lohaus:

This is in reference to our recent phone conversation, and to officially request technical assistance from the NRC.

As you are aware, the State of South Carolina has requested Chem-Nuclear Systems, LLC, to prepare an Environmental Radiological Performance Verification (ERPV) study (Site Performance Assessment) for the Barnwell Low Level Radioactive Waste Disposal Facility. Their study has been completed and submitted to us for review.

In addition, the Governor's Nuclear Waste Task Force has recommended that the Department consider the changing nature of waste streams at the Barnwell facility, as well as changing disposal standards and new technologies.

To validate the ERPV study, and provide recommendations on waste streams and disposal standards and new technologies, the Department will use an independent panel of qualified experts. We have selected candidates for this panel based on their expertise in multi-disciplines associated with the management and disposal of low level radioactive waste, and earth sciences.

I am therefore requesting NRC's participation on this panel due to your interest and to assure compatibility. The candidates you have mentioned to me seem appropriate and qualified to provide NRC's perspective in the development and philosophy of 10CFR Part 61, and their extensive knowledge of the performance assessment process, low level waste forms, and alternate disposal technologies will be very useful.

I look forward to you making your final choice for the NRC representative on the panel. As we organize the panel and establish meeting dates and places, I will inform you and your representative and provide all information.

I certainly appreciate NRC's willingness to assist us in such an important and timely endeavor, and will be pleased to have a member of its professional staff assist us.

If you or the NRC staff have any questions regarding this issue, please do not hesitate to contact me at (803) 896-4244, or Mr. Henry Porter at (803) 896-4245.

Very truly yours,


Virgil R. Astry, Director
Division of Radioactive Waste Management
Bureau of Land & Waste Management

cc: Richard Woodruff, NRC Region II

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