

June 29, 2000

The Honorable John G. Rowland
Governor of Connecticut
Hartford, Connecticut 06106

Dear Governor Rowland:

I am responding to your letter of April 4, 2000, concerning 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. Comments on the proposed rule similar to yours were also expressed by Governor Angus S. King of Maine in his letter of April 4, 2000.

We appreciate the State of Connecticut's comments on our proposed rule. The NRC staff will address the comments received on our proposed rule, including your concern that NRC acquire binding assurances from the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) that DOE will accept 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 Governor King 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. Dr. Itkin's affirmation of DOE's existing contractual obligations may bear on your concerns about DOE's willingness to accept spent fuel from Connecticut Yankee.

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

Sincerely,

/RA/

Richard A. Meserve

cc: The Honorable Bill Richardson
Secretary of Energy