



UNITED STATES  
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

July 14, 2000

Walter W. Laity  
Product Line Manager  
Nuclear Safety and Technology Applications  
Pacific Northwest National Laboratory  
MS K9-85  
PO Box 999  
Richland, WA 99352

SUBJECT: TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE COMMENDATION FOR THE PRIVATE  
FUEL STORAGE HEARINGS

Dear Mr. Laity

I am pleased to once again write another letter to commend your staff for their assistance to the Spent Fuel Project Office (SFPO) in the development of the testimony that led to the withdrawal of legal contentions raised by interveners on significant licensing activities. Both Pacific Northwest National Laboratory (PNNL) and SFPO staff worked exhaustive hours throughout the work-week and weekends to resolve highly complex analytic issues. Soon after submitting the PNNL staff's analyses to the licensing board as an exhibit to the SFPO staff's testimony, the board received the following e-mail:

"Dear Judge Bollwerk et al.,  
This is to inform you that after reviewing materials recently produced by the Applicant and Staff regarding Contention H, the State of Utah has decided not to pursue litigation of the contention. The State will be filing a notice of withdrawal of the contention shortly. In the meantime, we are letting you know of our decision as quickly as possible so that the Board can make any necessary changes to the hearing schedule. As I recall, the parties had previously estimated that litigation of Contention H would take one to two days. Given the withdrawal of Contention H, the State now anticipates that the hearing scheduled to begin on June 19 can be completed within one week.  
Sincerely, Diane Curran"

This turn of events is attributed to the technical work performed by our respective staff.

The individuals at PNNL to be commended are:

Thomas E. Michener, Senior Research Engineer  
David R. Rector, Staff Scientist  
Donald S. Trent, Sr. Staff Scientist, Emeritus

W.W. Laity

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Enclosed, please find certificates of commendation for your staff.

Sincerely,

***/RA/***

E. William Brach, Director  
Spent Fuel Project Office  
Office of Nuclear Material Safety  
and Safeguards

Enclosure: Certificates of Commendation

July 14, 2000

W.W. Laity

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Enclosed, please find certificates of commendation for your staff.

Sincerely,

*(Original Signed by:)*

E. William Brach, Director  
Spent Fuel Project Office  
Office of Nuclear Material Safety  
and Safeguards

Enclosure: Certificates of Commendation

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<b>OFC:</b>	SFPO		DD:SFPO		D:SFPO					
<b>NAME:</b>	JGuttman;jh		MWHodges		EWBrach					
<b>DATE:</b>	7/13/00		7/14/00		7/14/00					

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