

July 14, 2000

The Honorable James T. Walsh, Chairman
Subcommittee on Veterans Affairs, HUD, and
Independent Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

As I indicated in my May 1, 2000 letter to you, I am writing to provide the current status of our efforts to develop a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), as requested in the House Report 106-286 (Aug. 3, 1999), which accompanied the Department of Veterans Affairs' (VA) and Housing and Urban Development's (HUD), and Independent Agencies' Appropriations Bill FY2000. The report noted that the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) has remediated, and will continue to remediate, sites under its jurisdiction to a level that fully protects public health and safety--and that the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) should continue its policy to defer to the NRC for clean-up of NRC-licensed sites. The report stated that, in the interest of ensuring that sites do not face dual regulation, each agency is encouraged to enter into an MOU that clarifies the circumstances for EPA's involvement at NRC sites, when requested by NRC.

In my May 1, 2000 letter to you, I noted that the agency representatives met several times to discuss each agency's policies and processes related to site decommissioning and to discuss options for development of an MOU. The agency representatives met again on June 23, 2000, and had additional conversations concerning language for an MOU. There has been continued progress in developing this language, and I believe that the agencies are constructively engaged in seeking resolution of the remaining issues. The MOU, as it is being currently developed, would have as its foundation deferral by EPA to NRC for cleanup of NRC-licensed sites. It would also provide for the NRC to consult with the EPA on sites undergoing decommissioning that involve radioactive groundwater contamination, restricted release, or the use of alternate criteria for NRC license termination.

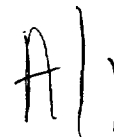
The Commission continues to reserve its final conclusion on whether an MOU will be achievable. EPA and NRC staff continue to refine the language of the MOU and to discuss differences. I plan to provide you with a report by October 15, 2000 as to the status of the efforts we have made to resolve our differences and to adopt an MOU with EPA.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if I may provide additional information.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Richard A. Meserve



cc: Representative Alan B. Mollohan

July 14, 2000

The Honorable James M. Inhofe, Chairman
Subcommittee on Clean Air, Wetlands,
Private Property and Nuclear Safety
Committee on Environment and Public Works
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Mr. Chairman:

As I indicated in my May 1, 2000 letter to you, I am writing to provide the current status of our efforts to develop a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), as requested in the House Report 106-286 (Aug. 3, 1999), which accompanied the Department of Veterans Affairs' (VA) and Housing and Urban Development's (HUD), and Independent Agencies' Appropriations Bill FY2000. The report noted that the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) has remediated, and will continue to remediate, sites under its jurisdiction to a level that fully protects public health and safety--and that the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) should continue its policy to defer to the NRC for clean-up of NRC-licensed sites. The report stated that, in the interest of ensuring that sites do not face dual regulation, each agency is encouraged to enter into an MOU that clarifies the circumstances for EPA's involvement at NRC sites, when requested by NRC.

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Sincerely,

/RA/

Richard A. Meserve

cc: Senator Bob Graham

July 14, 2000

The Honorable Joe Barton, Chairman
Subcommittee on Energy and Power
Committee on Commerce
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

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Richard A. Meserve

cc: Representative Rick Boucher

July 14, 2000

The Honorable Tom Bliley, Chairman
Committee on Commerce
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

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Richard A. Meserve

cc: Representative John D. Dingell

July 14, 2000

The Honorable Bob Smith, Chairman
Committee on Environment and Public Works
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Mr. Chairman:

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Richard A. Meserve

cc: Senator Max Baucus

July 14, 2000

The Honorable Ron Packard, Chairman
Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development
Committee on Appropriations
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

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Richard A. Meserve

cc: Representative Peter J. Visclosky

July 14, 2000

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Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

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cc: Senator Harry Reid

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