



Department of Energy

Washington, DC 20585

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The Honorable Ivan Selin
Chairman
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, DC 20555

Dear Mr. Chairman:

I greatly appreciated the opportunity to meet with you, Commissioner Curtiss, and your staff on August 20 to discuss the civilian high-level radioactive waste management program and, in particular, the Licensing Support System (LSS).

As we discussed, there have been many evolutionary changes since the LSS was initiated in response to schedule requirements for licensing reviews established by the Nuclear Waste Policy Act of 1982. Most significantly, in his Reassessment Report to Congress in November of 1989, the Secretary revised the planned date for submittal of the license application for repository construction authorization from 1995 to 2001. In response to this revised plan and to other evolving requirements, the civilian waste program is developing a new approach to information management and control wherein information required for the LSS is a specific part of our comprehensive, integrated information management system.

As you noted in our discussion, there is a need and an opportunity as a result of these and other changes to review current design, development, implementation and operational aspects of the LSS. Accordingly, I would like to propose that such a reexamination be undertaken jointly by representatives of the Commission and the Department. The findings, conclusions and recommendations of this review will be useful in supporting our decisions on management responsibilities, schedules, resource needs, work activities, and working interactions between the Commission and the Department.

I would assign the key role in conducting this review on behalf of the Department to our Management and Operating contractor, TRW Environmental Safety Systems, Inc. (TESS). TESS has responsibility for program-wide integration of our activities; their lead participation would bring independent expertise and objectivity to the effort.

I believe, as a result of our discussions, that we are in full accord that a fresh, top-down look at the LSS will be highly beneficial to all parties. I look forward to your favorable response to this proposal.

Sincerely,

John W. Bartlett
John W. Bartlett, Director
Office of Civilian Radioactive
Management

9/4...To Chairman's Office for Appropriate Action...Cpy to: Chairman
Comrs, Bernero, Donnelly...91-0862