

January 11, 2002

Kevin D. Crowley, Director
The National Academies
2101 Constitution Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20418

SUBJECT: PARTICIPATION IN THE STUDY, "TRANSPORTATION OF RADIOACTIVE
WASTE"

Dear Mr. Crowley:

I am responding to your letter to me dated November 27, 2001, in which you asked the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) to partially fund a study proposed by the Board on Radioactive Waste Management of the National Research Council entitled *Transportation of Radioactive Waste*. I am pleased to reply that NRC's Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards (NMSS) will be able to support the study at the level requested.

As you know, the NRC, through the Offices of Nuclear Regulatory Research and NMSS, is sponsoring a related study, entitled *Package Performance Study* (PPS). This study, which began in November 1999, is analyzing the response of spent fuel packages to very severe transportation accident conditions and is investigating potential test conditions and parameters. We believe the Draft Test Protocols being developed for PPS would benefit from review by the Board, and would like to propose this review be undertaken as part of the initial activities conducted in the *Transportation of Radioactive Waste* study. I anticipate that the PPS Draft Test Protocols will be available for review in early March 2002. Our point of contact for this activity is Charles L. Miller, Deputy Director, Licensing and Inspection Directorate, Spent Fuel Project Office, 301-415-2288.

We look forward to woRking with the Academy and the Board in the effort to further improve the public's understanding of safety in the transportation of radioactive materials.

Sincerely,
/RA/

Martin J. Virgilio, Director
Office of Nuclear Material Safety
and Safeguards

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Martin J. Virgilio, Director
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*See Previous Concurrence

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