

April 26, 2002

Ms. Jane Kenny, Regional Administrator
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Region 2
290 Broadway
New York, NY 10007-1866

Dear Ms. Kenny:

I would like to express my appreciation for the leadership Mr. Paul Giardina, Chief, Radiation and Indoor Air Branch, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region II, has provided, and continues to provide, in addressing complex regulatory issues related to the West Valley Demonstration Project Act (the Act). The Act requires the decommissioning of the West Valley Demonstration Project to U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) criteria, which were published in the Federal Register on February 1, 2002. Mr. Giardina has shown substantial leadership in establishing a constructive dialog with NRC and New York State regulatory agencies on the various cleanup standards that may apply at the West Valley site. As a result, the various regulatory agencies are working closely together to address the U.S. General Accounting Office (GAO) recommendation in their May 2001 report (GAO-01-314) that NRC and EPA, in coordination with New York State, agree on how their different regulatory cleanup criteria should apply to the site. In that regard, the agencies recently issued a regulators' communication plan for the decommissioning of the West Valley site. This plan identifies the roles and responsibilities and the expectations/requirements of the various regulatory agencies involved at the West Valley site.

Mr. Giardina exemplifies a civil servant serving the public interest. My staff looks forward to continuing to work with Mr. Giardina on resolving issues related to the West Valley site and other decommissioning sites.

Sincerely,

/RA/ M. Federline for

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

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