



Department of Energy

Washington, DC 20585

March 26, 1999

C. William Reamer, Chief
High-Level Waste Branch
Division of Waste Management
Office of Nuclear Material Safety
and Safeguards
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Two White Flint North
Rockville, MD 20852

Dear Mr. Reamer:

During the last two years, both the Department of Energy (DOE), Office of Civilian Radioactive Waste Management (OCRWM) and the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards (NMSS) staffs have worked to revise and streamline the guidelines for communications between our respective staffs and management organizations during precicensing activities under the Nuclear Waste Policy Act of 1982, as amended. Enclosed for your retention is the original of the newly revised, "Agreement Between DOE/OCRWM and NRC/NMSS Regarding Precicensing Interactions," which bears all the necessary implementing DOE/OCRWM and NRC/NMSS signatures.

The efforts of both the DOE/OCRWM and the NRC/NMSS have resulted in an Agreement that is simpler, clearer, and maintains an effective structure for regulatory interactions. This new Precicensing Agreement supersedes the "Procedural Agreement" and the "Project Specific Agreement", as revised in 1993.

Should you have any questions concerning this matter, please contact me at (202) 586-4973 or Chris Einberg of my staff at (202) 586-8869.

Sincerely,

Nancy D. Klatzky (handwritten signature)

Alan B. Brownstein
Director, Regulatory Coordination Division
Office of Civilian Radioactive
Waste Management

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Enclosure: As Stated

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cc: w/encl.

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