

MAY 10 1991

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Mr. Arnie Wight, President  
Principled Negotiations, Inc.  
P.O. Box 1226  
Amherst, NH 03031

Dear Mr. Wight:

Thank you for your letters of April 26, 1991, to Mr. Hugh Thompson, Mr. Robert Bernero, and me. I have been asked by Mr. Thompson and Mr. Bernero to express their appreciation, and I also add mine as well, for your interest in resolving the issues delaying the high-level radioactive waste program. In your letter, you cited the Strategic Principles Workshops held by the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) as a vehicle for achieving "meaningful participation by the public." We at the NRC agree with your position and, as you know, at the invitation of DOE, have attended these workshops.

DOE has stated that these workshops allow the stakeholders to become involved in pre-decisional activities. DOE has also stated that it believed that the workshops had gone very well, and were a good means of soliciting a wide variety of views on the strategic principles. We support this DOE approach, and believe it reflects DOE's willingness to be more open to input from others. Many of the issues associated with the high-level radioactive waste program can be resolved only through the use of open communications with the interested parties. Such informal workshops should greatly assist in these efforts.

Sincerely,

(Original Signed by \_\_\_\_\_)

B. J. Youngblood, Director  
Division of High-Level Waste Management  
Office of Nuclear Material Safety  
and Safeguards

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