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The Honorable John J. Hainkel, Jr.  
Speaker of the House  
Louisiana State House of Representatives  
Baton Rouge, LA 70804

SEP 13 1983

Dear Mr. Hainkel:

Passage of the Nuclear Waste Policy Act of 1982 was a significant development in federal relations with the States for the safe management of spent fuel and high-level radioactive wastes. Among other things, the Act establishes a critical new relationship between the Department of Energy (DOE) and those States with potentially acceptable sites. This relationship will require a sustained and systematic exchange of views and information between these States and DOE at every step in the repository siting process. To begin to carry out this process, Energy Secretary Hodel sent letters on February 2, 1983, to those six States having potentially acceptable sites for a high-level waste repository. The States that received the DOE letters of notification were Louisiana, Mississippi, Nevada, Texas, Utah and Washington.

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff believes that an orderly system of communication between the NRC and these States is also in the best interest of all parties concerned. We feel it would be mutually beneficial to work with a duly constituted State representative or authority to serve as the primary contact for NRC coordination with the State.

Although the responsibilities assigned to the State contact would be entirely up to the State, it would be most useful to us if this individual or body were responsible for such functions as: 1) identifying State information needs appropriate for NRC to provide under the Act; 2) notifying interested State and local officials of relevant NRC meetings and workshops; 3) distributing to interested State and local officials information and data on repository-related NRC activities, including the NRC "determinations or plans" described in Section 117(a) of the Act; 4) identifying potential licensing issues that would be of concern to the State if DOE were to recommend a site within the State for repository development; and 5) generally coordinating all State inputs to NRC reviews and activities concerning any potentially acceptable site within the State.

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NAME	: RMacDougall	: sb JSurmeier	: JBunting	: RBrowning	: DMAusshardt	: JDavis	: : :
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The Honorable John J. Hainkel, Jr. -2-

We would appreciate having your State designate the person or body to serve as our contact. Since the Act requires DOE to consult and cooperate with both the Governor and the legislature of a State with a site under investigation, and the State may desire a parallel structure for its relationship with NRC, I am addressing our request both to the Governor and to you as a State legislative leader to facilitate a coordinated designation of the NRC contact. I am also sending copies to the Department of Energy for its information.

The point of contact I have designated here at the Nuclear Regulatory Commission for State liaison is Mr. Joseph Bunting, Chief, Licensing Process and Integration Branch, Division of Waste Management, Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards, Mail Stop 623-SS, Washington, DC 20555, phone (301)427-4427. Please feel free to have your staff contact Mr. Bunting or myself if you have any questions.

We look forward to a mutually productive relationship in the implementation of the Nuclear Waste Policy Act of 1982.

Sincerely,

(Signed) John G. Davis

John G. Davis, Director  
Office of Nuclear Material  
Safety and Safeguards

cc: The Honorable David C. Treen, Governor  
The Honorable Samuel Nunez, President of the Senate  
Mr. B. Jim Porter, Assistant Secretary  
Office of Environmental Affairs  
Mr. Robert Morgan, USDOE

OFC	: WMPI, <i>DM</i>	: WMPI <i>J.B.</i>	: WMPI <i>J.B.</i>	: WM <i>RB</i>	: NMSS <i>M</i>	: NMSS <i>JD</i>	:
NAME	: RMacDougall	: sb JSurmeier	: JBunting	: RBrowning	: DMAusshardt	: JDay	: : :
DATE	: 83/07/19	: 83/9/8	: 83/9/8	: 9/9/87	: 9/12/83	: 7/13	:

The following people received copies of the identical letters.

The Honorable Samuel Nunez  
President of the Louisiana  
State Senate  
Baton Rouge, LA 70804

The Honorable John J. Hainkel, Jr.  
Speaker of the Louisiana State  
House of Representatives  
Baton Rouge, LA 70804

The Honorable Brad Dye  
President of the Mississippi  
State Senate  
Jackson, MS 39205

The Honorable C. B. Newman  
Speaker of the Mississippi State  
House of Representatives  
Jackson, MS 39205

The Honorable Melvin D. Close, Jr.  
President Pro Tempore of the  
Nevada State Senate  
Legislative Building  
Carson City, NV 89710

The Honorable Robert T. Barengo  
Speaker of the Nevada Assembly  
Legislative Building  
Carson City, NV 89710

The Honorable William P. Hobby  
President of the Texas  
State Senate  
Austin, TX 78711

The Honorable Hugo Berlanga  
Speaker of the Texas State  
House of Representatives  
Austin, TX 78769