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Mr. Robert R. Loux
Executive Director
Nuclear Waste Project Office
Capitol Complex
Carson City, NV 89710

Dear Mr. Loux:

I am writing in further response to your letter dated June 3, 1986, concerning informal meetings between members of my staff and your office. A meeting has been arranged with your office in early August through Mr. Joseph Bunting to discuss various issues. I would like to bring to your attention several NRC activities underway which I believe have a bearing on the transportation meeting.

The staff is at present bringing the so-called Modal Study to completion. The Modal Study is a major research project investigating the relationship between our performance standards for spent fuel packages and real-world accident conditions. This project should provide us with a clearer explanation for the public of the level of safety offered should packages designed to our standards encounter a severe accident. The results of the Study are currently being examined by a peer review group, with peer review scheduled for completion by October 1986. The staff is also completing a case study of institutional issues that arose during the spent fuel shipment campaigns from the former reprocessing facility in West Valley, New York. This study is scheduled for completion in August 1986.

Unfortunately, staff commitments on the above-mentioned activities and limited staff resources do not permit us to hold discussions on transportation in Nevada at this time. Under the circumstances, I believe it would be best to allow the research projects to be brought to a conclusion and results be made available to the public prior to our meeting. I propose that the meeting, therefore, be scheduled for early 1987.

I hope these arrangements are compatible with your schedule. My staff will contact you for information on transportation topics and specific issues you would like NRC and DOT representatives to be prepared to discuss.

Sincerely,

(SIGNED) John G. Davis

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

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