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Dear Addressee:

This letter is being sent to you because, in the past, you or the organization that you represent have expressed an interest in the joint DOE/NRC Licensing Support System (LSS) Interagency Coordinating Committee (ICC). The objective of this committee, as specified in its charter, is to provide guidance to DOE in the development and implementation of the LSS. The ICC was to review reports and other information provided by DOE, NRC, State and Indian Tribe representatives and recommend system requirements, and the nature and scope of the LSS.

More recently, the NRC has proposed that a negotiated rulemaking be conducted to formalize the requirements for the establishment and operation of the LSS. This has led to concerns over the relationship between the ICC and the negotiated rulemaking process.

To avoid any possible conflict with the conduct of the negotiated rulemaking, the NRC staff has recommended that the LSS ICC be terminated as a formally constituted group. The NRC staff has also stated that they still consider that there are technical details concerning the plans for the LSS that need to be discussed between the two agencies. Such meetings could be held in advance of or in parallel with, and in a more informal atmosphere than, the negotiated rulemaking sessions. They would include participation by the States and Indian Tribes and other interested parties.

The Department concurs that the proposed negotiated rulemaking must take precedence over the ICC, and accordingly has agreed to discontinue the LSS ICC. We also agree that supplementary meetings, such as those suggested by the NRC staff may be appropriate, and will work with the NRC staff and representatives of the States and Indian Tribes to identify times and subjects for such discussions as necessary.

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Thank you for your interest and support in the LSS development process as evidenced by your participation in the LSS ICC. I am sure that we will continue to interact in the future, either through the negotiated rulemaking process, or through the supplementary meetings.

Sincerely,



C. R. Head, Chairman
DOE/NRC LSS ICC

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