



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20555

September 13, 1983

The Honorable William F. Winter
Governor of Mississippi
Jackson, MS 39205

Dear Governor Winter:

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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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 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 you and to the State legislative leadership 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,

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

cc: The Honorable Brad Dye
President of the Senate
The Honorable C. B. Newman
Speaker of the House
Wilber C. Ball
Mississippi Department of Energy
and Transportation
Mr. Robert Morgan, USDOE