

**Department of Energy**  
Washington, DC 20585

March 1, 2004

Mr. Kevin Hsueh  
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Washington, DC 20555

Dear Mr. Hsueh:

Knowing your keen interest in issues associated with the Department of Energy's legacy responsibilities, I am pleased to inform you that the Office of Legacy Management has been established within the Department of Energy, effective December 15, 2003.

As you know, the Department's FY04 budget request submitted to Congress had proposed the establishment of an Office of Legacy Management. Feedback from Congress, including appropriate congressional committees, recommended that the new Office of Legacy Management (LM) include the functions of the Office of Worker and Community Transition, believing that such a consolidation would better fulfill the Department's commitments to the former contractor work force.

The primary goals of LM will be to: protect human health and the environment through effective and efficient long-term surveillance and maintenance; preserve and protect legacy records and information; minimize the social and economic impacts of Departmental downsizing on affected workers; assure worker pension and medical benefits; manage legacy land and assets, emphasizing safety, reuse, and disposition; and provide technical assistance, where appropriate, to impacted communities.

The Department of Energy continues to make progress in addressing the challenges of reducing the environmental consequences of its actions and expediting the cleanup of its sites. This accelerated cleanup effort reinforces the need for a comprehensive approach to ensure that the environmental remedies put in place remain protective of current and future generations. LM will have responsibility for sites that no longer support the Department's core missions.

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By creating a sustainable, stand-alone Office that will report directly to the Under Secretary for Energy, Science and Environment, the Department is being proactive in the realignment of its resources. This new organization will allow for optimum management of legacy responsibilities in its mission to manage the effects of changes in the Department's mission requirements and ensure the future protection of human health and the environment.

As Director of the Office, I look forward to working with you to ensure that your legacy concerns are addressed. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions regarding legacy management.

Sincerely,

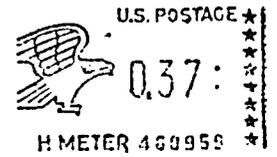
A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael W. Owen". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'M'.

Michael W. Owen  
Director  
Office of Legacy Management

LM-1

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OFFICIAL BUSINESS



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