

April 14, 2005

Dr. Michael T. Ryan, Chairman  
Advisory Committee on Nuclear Waste  
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Washington, DC 20555-0001

SUBJECT: STATUS OF THE AGREEMENT STATE PROGRAM AND THE INTEGRATED  
MATERIALS PERFORMANCE EVALUATION PROGRAM (IMPEP)

Dear Dr. Ryan:

Thank you for your March 11, 2005, letter regarding the Status of the Agreement State Program and the Integrated Materials Performance Evaluation Program (IMPEP). We are pleased to learn that the Committee believes that the NRC Agreement State Program staff provides effective and timely support to and oversight of individual Agreement State programs pursuant to their statutory responsibilities. Also, we are proud that the IMPEP program was selected in 2004 as among the top 50 programs for the "Innovations in American Government Awards," sponsored by the Ash Institute for Democratic Governance and Innovation at Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School of Government and administered in partnership with the Council for Excellence in Government.

We also share your concern about the issues that the NRC staff identified to you during the meeting, such as the challenges faced by Agreement States to recruit, train, and retain a sufficient number of staff. We understand the intent of the Committee to follow up on such challenges in the future. We will continue to address these and other challenges, as they are identified, through our IMPEP program.

We appreciate your interest in the Agreement State Program. The staff is prepared to answer any questions you may have regarding this area in the future.

Sincerely,

***/RA by EMerschhoff for/***

Luis A. Reyes  
Executive Director  
of Operations

cc: Chairman Diaz  
Commissioner McGaffigan  
Commissioner Merrifield  
Commissioner Jaczko  
Commissioner Lyons  
SECY

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