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March 1, 2006

Dr. Michael T. Ryan, Chairman
Advisory Committee on Nuclear Waste
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D.C. 20555

SUBJECT: RESPONSE TO THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON NUCLEAR WASTE
LETTER DATED JANUARY 23, 2006, ON TITLE 10 OF THE CODE OF
FEDERAL REGULATIONS PART 63 PROPOSED RULE

Dear Dr. Ryan:

I am replying to your letter to Chairman Diaz, dated January 23, 2006, that provides the Advisory Committee on Nuclear Waste's (ACNW's) views on the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission's (NRC's) proposed regulation (10 CFR Part 63) implementing the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's proposed Yucca Mountain standard for the time period after 10,000 years. The ACNW's letter offers observations and recommendations for the staff to consider before it finalizes the regulations. The NRC staff appreciates the ACNW's assistance in identifying areas where the technical bases for the regulations may be strengthened and clarified. ACNW's comments will be considered when staff finalizes the regulation. We look forward to your continued involvement in, and support of, our future activities.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Luis A. Reyes
Executive Director
for Operations

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

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