

April 13, 2006

Mr. Michael H. Mobley, Chairman
Southeast Compact Commission
21 Glenwood Avenue
Raleigh, NC 27803

SUBJECT: RESPONSE TO SOUTHEAST COMPACT COMMISSION REGARDING
FEDERAL SITES CONCEPT

Dear Mr. Mobley:

This letter is in response to your March 23, 2006, letter to me in which you request Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) support in the form of sponsorship and participation in an upcoming "federal sites concept" public forum. NRC staff would welcome the opportunity to attend such a meeting and address licensing and regulatory issues. However, we don't believe that sponsorship or co-sponsorship of such a meeting is the correct role for an independent regulatory agency. This is especially true because discussions at such a forum will touch upon the statutory roles and responsibilities of both NRC and the U.S. Department of Energy in the management of low-level waste. Sponsorship by NRC might be perceived by some as advocacy for a certain outcome.

We wish you continued success in the planning and execution of this public forum and look forward to the participation of NRC staff to provide clarification regarding NRC roles, responsibilities and authorities.

If you have any questions about this response, please feel free to call me at 301-415-7437.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Larry W. Camper, Director
Division of Waste Management
and Environmental Protection
Office of Nuclear Material Safety
and Safeguards

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