



January 17, 2007

Janet R. Schlueter, Director
Office of Federal and State Materials and Environmental Management Programs
Division of Materials Safety and State Agreements
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
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Dear Director Schlueter:

The new year provides opportunity to look forward and to begin resolutions, but if I may, I would like to look backward and make several observations of the achievements of the Kansas Department of Health and Environment, Bureau of Air and Radiation, Radiation Control Section. I do so against the backdrop of attending the Radiation Control Program 2006 Workshop this past December in Topeka.

I have been employed by the University of Kansas for more than twenty-five years and I have observed the ebb and flow, the highs and lows of the State of Kansas Radiation Protection Program. I can't tell you how impressed I am with the present staff and the current direction of the Program.

Mr. Conley has provided new momentum and a needed perspective, and has given energy to a Program that had been hindered by staff transition in the early to mid 90's and by a serious shortage of resources. This hasn't been an easy task, but with the support of the Nuclear Regulatory Agency, the transitional care given by Mr. Vic Cooper, and the encouragement from KDHE and other Kansas facilities, the corner has been turned and the program is becoming more vibrant than ever! It is indeed a much needed and integral part of the State of Kansas.

I have been most impressed with the diligence that has been given to bringing the radiation protection regulations up to 'modern' times, the quality of the current staff, and the effort to be at the forefront of environmental remediation, license termination, security and safety - issues that are impacting our state.

The workshop that was presented by the staff of the Radiation Control Section was just superb. It was well organized, it clearly provided perspective for the stakeholders in the State of Kansas, and it gave opportunity to demonstrate the teamwork of the staff.

Mr. Conley and his staff have shown great fortitude and resilience. They are committed to a quality program - one that measures well against the standards of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

He and his staff are to be much commended! Thank you for supporting and assisting them.

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