

June 10, 2007

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

SUBJECT: PROPOSED RULEMAKING ON GROUNDWATER PROTECTION AT IN SITU
LEACH URANIUM RECOVERY FACILITY

Dear Dr. Ryan:

I am responding to your May 9, 2007, letter to Chairman Klein, which provided the Advisory Committee on Nuclear Waste (ACNW) views on the proposed rulemaking addressing groundwater protection at *in situ leach* (ISL) uranium recovery facilities. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff had briefed the ACNW on the status of the rulemaking on April 11, 2007. In its letter, the ACNW provided five recommendations regarding the proposed ISL rule. I agree with all the recommendations, which are consistent with the approach being taken by the staff, and will address them in the proposed rule.

We look forward to continuing to work with the Committee as the NRC staff progresses on the ISL rule.

Sincerely,

/RA Martin J. Virgilio Acting For/

Luis A. Reyes
Executive Director
for Operations

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

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