January 14, 2008

Dr. William Hinze, Professor Emeritus
30 Brook Lane
West Lafayette, IN 47906

Dear Dr. Hinze:

My predecessors and colleagues in the Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards (NMSS) have thanked you over the past two decades for your service on the Advisory Committee on Nuclear Waste and Materials (ACNW&M) as a Charter Member, Past Chairman, and its pre-eminent geophysicist. I am happy to extend that tradition, but I regret that it is on the occasion of your retirement from the Committee.

Under your advisement, the ACNW&M has focused attention on some of the most important geological and geotechnical aspects of the U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE's) potential geological repository at Yucca Mountain and other important Committee matters. The attention your efforts brought to those topics benefited the national program by spotlighting multiple viewpoints to the public and contributing credibility and public confidence. Such actions provided the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff opportunities to explain its role, responsibilities, and its approaches to regulate DOE's technical program.

On behalf of NMSS, I would like to thank you for your faithful and dedicated service to the ACNW&M and to fostering our mission of protecting people and the environment.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Michael F. Weber, Director
Office of Nuclear Material Safety
and Safeguards

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