

February 20, 2008

Nancy Jo Nicholas, President
Institute of Nuclear Materials Management
111 Deer Lake Road, Suite 100
Deerfield, Illinois 60015

Dear Ms. Nicholas:

On behalf of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), I want to congratulate the Institute of Nuclear Materials Management (INMM) on its 50th anniversary. From the time your organization was established in 1958 soon after President Dwight Eisenhower announced his Atoms for Peace Program, the INMM has advanced safe and secure nuclear materials management, standards, and research. The work of the INMM has significantly helped the NRC fulfill its mission of protecting people and the environment, and has contributed directly to enhancing safety and security.

INMM meetings and workshops have provided opportunities for NRC staff to engage in professional interaction with their peers and to learn from the experiences of operators, technical equipment developers, academicians, and other regulators. The INMM has provided opportunities for the exchange of information and ideas on new and innovative techniques in: (1) waste management (with 25 annual conferences devoted solely to spent fuel management); (2) packaging and transportation of radioactive materials; (3) physical protection; and (4) nuclear material control and accounting. It has also served as a forum for dissemination of information related to best practices throughout the nuclear industry and has provided many years of consensus-building through standards on materials safety and safeguards issues.

The Commission looks forward to 50 more years of successful cooperation with the INMM in ensuring safe and secure use of nuclear materials.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Dale E. Klein