

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

West Valley Demonstration Project 10282 Rock Springs Road West Valley, NY 14171-979

November 24, 2008

Dear Interested Party:

A copy of the Revised Draft Environmental Impact Statement for Decommissioning and/or Long-Term Stewardship at the West Valley Demonstration Project and Western New York Nuclear Service Center (EIS) [DOE/EIS-0226D (Revised)] and CD of the Draft EIS are enclosed with this letter, per your request. This document revises the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for Completion of the West Valley Demonstration Project and Closure or Long-Term Management of Facilities at the Western New York Nuclear Service Center (DOE/EIS-0226-D) issued for public comment in January 1996 (referred to as the "1996 Cleanup and Closure Draft EIS"). We invite your comments on this revised document.

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) and the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA) are joint lead agencies in the development of this EIS. DOE is responsible for completion of the West Valley Demonstration Project (WVDP) and NYSERDA owns and is responsible for the closure or long-term management of the Western New York Nuclear Service Center (WNYNSC). The Draft EIS evaluates the potential environmental impacts associated with a No Action Alternative and three action alternatives: Sitewide Removal, Sitewide Close-In-Place, and Phased Decisionmaking (the DOE and NYSERDA preferred alternative).

In preparing the revised Draft EIS, DOE and NYSERDA considered comments received from the public during the scoping and public comment periods for the 1996 Cleanup and Closure Draft EIS and the scoping period for this revised Draft EIS in 2003. Both DOE and NYSERDA are interested in any comments you wish to provide regarding this document. Public hearings on the Draft EIS will be held on the following dates in New York: <u>Tuesday, March 31, 2009</u>, Seneca Nation of Indians, William Seneca Building, 12837 Rte 438, Irving, NY; <u>Wednesday</u>, <u>April 1, 2009</u>, Ashford Office Complex, 9030 Route 219, West Valley, NY; and <u>Thursday</u>, <u>April 2, 2009</u>, Clarion Hotel – McKinley's Banquet and Conference Center, S-3950 McKinley Parkway, Blasdell, NY. Further information, including hearing times, will be announced in local media and by other means.

The comment period on the Draft EIS will extend from December 5, 2008, through June 8, 2009. Oral and written comments on the Draft EIS will be accepted at the public hearings, or may be sent by mail to Catherine Bohan, EIS Document Manager, West Valley Demonstration Project, U.S. Department of Energy, P.O. Box 2368, Germantown, MD, 20874. Comments or requests for information can also be submitted via email at http://www.westvalleyeis.com or by faxing toll-free to 866-306-9094. Please mark all envelopes, faxes and e-mail: "Draft Decommissioning and/or Long-Term Stewardship EIS Comments." All comments received (or postmarked) during the comment period will be considered during preparation of the Final EIS. Late comments will be considered to the extent practicable. The Draft EIS will be available on the DOE NEPA web site at <u>www.gc.energy.gov/NEPA</u> and the West Valley EIS web site at <u>www.westvalleyeis.com</u>. Thank you for your continued interest in DOE's National Environmental Policy Act compliance program.

Sincerely,

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Catherine M. Bohan NEPA Compliance Officer and Document Manager

Enclosure: Draft EIS and CD