April 5, 2010

Thomas P. Rielly
Executive Principal
Vista 360
649 Innsbruck
Libertyville, Illinois 60048

Subject: U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission Decommissioning Policies Assessments and Engagement

Dear Mr. Rielly

I am writing in response to your March 8, 2010, letter to the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) Chairman Gregory Jaczko in which you offered engagement with your group for the decommissioning of the Zion Nuclear Power Station as the "stakeholder of record."

Thank you for your offer, but we must decline. The NRC staff's experience with public involvement in decommissioning activities has been that there normally is a wide range of views and interests among stakeholders regarding decommissioning issues which would be difficult to encompass by having only one "stakeholder of record." We value this diversity of views and want to ensure that all stakeholders have an equal opportunity to be involved in the decommissioning process for the Zion site and to have their concerns addressed, as prescribed in our regulations, policies and guidance. I would encourage you to engage with the NRC staff within the context of these regulations, policies and guidance.

Regarding your reference to the NRC's, 2003 Report of the Public Communications Task Force and the need to self-assess our efforts, NRC staff tracks feedback at its public meetings, including those at decommissioning projects such as the Zion decommissioning project, through the use of our public meeting feedback forms. The feedback forms provide the public with an important vehicle to comment on our meetings and request any additional follow-up information. We believe that this approach that gathers on-the-spot feedback from our stakeholders provides us with the most timely and direct input that we can then use to improve our communication activities.

Formal opportunities for engagement with the staff are posted to our webpage at http://www.nrc.gov/public-involve/public-meetings/index.cfm. In addition, information about the Zion decommissioning can be found at http://www.nrc.gov/info-finder/decommissioning/power-reactor/

If you have specific concerns or issues associated with the decommissioning of the Zion facility, you may contact me or the Project Manager for the decommissioning, John Hickman. Mr. Hickman can be reached at 301-415-3017 or at john.hickman@nrc.gov .

Sincerely,

/RA/

Keith I. McConnell, Deputy Director
Decommissioning and Uranium Recovery
Licensing Directorate
Division of Waste Management
and Environmental Protection
Office of Federal and State Materials
and Environmental Management Programs

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