

January 4, 2013

Dr. Satish K. Tripathi, President
State University of New York at Buffalo
501 Capen Hall
Buffalo, New York 14260-7013

Dear Dr Tripathi:

This letter is to express our gratitude and thanks to the University at Buffalo for hosting the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Research Reactor Decommissioning Demonstration (R2D2) Workshop on Project Management and Dismantling at the Buffalo Materials Research Center (BMRC) on December 3-7, 2012. As co-sponsor with IAEA, the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff began working with the University staff in August 2011. The R2D2 Project was initiated in 2006 to educate developing country regulatory agency professionals and shutdown facility owners on the safe decommissioning of research reactors. Based on feedback, the workshop conducted at the BMRC was the most successful workshop to date due to the University's prior planning and active participation, access to the reactor facility to observe actual decommissioning work, and coordinating the timing of a public meeting to allow for observation by R2D2 Project participants.

NRC staff would like to express our sincere appreciation to Mr. Joseph T. Raab, Director - Environmental Health and Safety and Mr. David R. Vasbinder, Director of BMRC and Assistant Director-Environmental Health and Safety. They provided excellent leadership in the pre-workshop planning and then directly contributed to the success of the workshop with their presentations and interactions with the international participants. They were ably supported by the BMRC Staff: Mr. Robert J. Weller, Mr. Mark S. Adams, Mr. Jeffery W. Clausen and Ms. Nancy A. Hutcheson. In addition, recognition is due to the University Event Staff, Mr. Bruce A. Kolesnick and Mr. Fraih Abu-Middain for their superb planning and professional execution of logistics for the group.

Again, we are extremely appreciative of the University at Buffalo for hosting the IAEA Meeting and demonstrating your support for international collaboration. The opportunity for international regulators to participate in discussions that integrate the role of the regulator, licensee and decommissioning contractor; review work planning and observe safe dismantling activities; and observe a public meeting sponsored by the University were invaluable learning experiences. The University hosted IAEA meeting has reenergized the R2D2 Project. Again thank you for your organization's contributions to this important international endeavor.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Mark A. Satorius, Director
Office of Federal and State Materials
and Environmental Management Programs

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