

March 3, 2016

Dr. Thomas Torgersen
Program Co-Chair, Innovations at the Nexus
of Food, Energy and Water Systems
Directorate for Geosciences
The National Science Foundation
4201 Wilson Boulevard
Arlington, VA 22230

SUBJECT: LETTER OF SUPPORT FOR PARTICIPATION IN A RESPONSE TO THE
NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION SOLICITATION NSF 16-024 ON THE
INNOVATIONS AT THE NEXUS OF FOOD, ENERGY AND WATER SYSTEMS

Dear Dr. Torgersen:

The purpose of this letter is to express the support of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) for its federally funded research and development center (FFRDC) to participate in a grant proposal that will be submitted in response to the subject solicitation. The Center for Nuclear Waste Regulatory Analyses (CNWRA®) is an FFRDC that was established in 1987 and operated under sponsorship of NRC. As Director of the Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards, I have overall responsibility for oversight of the CNWRA, and am designated as the senior-most evaluator of CNWRA as the Fee Determination Official.

The CNWRA has been requested by the Department of Agricultural and Biosystems Engineering at North Dakota State University (NDSU) to join a multi-disciplinary, multi-organizational team that is preparing a grant proposal that will be submitted to the National Science Foundation (NSF) under the Innovations at the Nexus of Food, Energy and Water Systems (INFEWS) program area. Consistent with the solicitation requirements, NDSU will lead the proposal effort and provide the lead Principal Investigator. It is anticipated that the proposal team will be composed of researchers from NDSU and CNWRA, as well as the University of Iowa and the World Resources Institute.

NDSU has requested CNWRA to provide technical expertise and experience in Food, Energy and Water Systems (FEWS) modeling. The solicitation requires that FEWS models combine a full spectrum of physical, natural, and biological processes in the context of sustainability. CNWRA expertise in integrated system-level modeling and model abstraction for complex natural and engineered systems is well established, having been developed and used in several NRC-funded programs over the nearly 30 years of operation of CNWRA. Models developed

and used by CNWRA span the long timeframes that are essential to the kinds of sustainability issues that NSF aims to address in the INFEWS program. Under the Federal Acquisition Regulation which governs all FFRDCs, NRC can authorize CNWRA to conduct work for others to the extent that such work is within one or more of its "areas of special competency." The requested technical support from CNWRA in system-level modeling and model abstraction are within CNWRA's areas of special competency.

Please feel free to contact me at Scott.Moore@nrc.gov or 301.415.0595 or Dr. Anthony Hsia at Anthony.Hsia@nrc.gov or 301.415.9956, if you have any questions.

Sincerely yours,

/RA/

Scott W. Moore, Acting Director
Office of Nuclear Material Safety
and Safeguards

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Scott W. Moore, Acting Director
Office of Nuclear Material Safety
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