



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20555

JUL 20 1979

The Honorable Edward J. Gearty
State Capitol
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Senator Gearty:

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) has been engaged in the development of a more explicit policy for nuclear facility decommissioning. In September 1978 we held a set of regional workshops to review with State officials the specifics of the NRC plan. In response to the comments, the plan was modified. NUREG-0436, Revision #1 was issued in December 1978 and sent to all the States for comment. A followup set of workshops to discuss technical studies completed since last year, a preliminary draft of a generic environmental impact statement, and draft proposed rule changes, will be held on September 12-14, Columbia, South Carolina and September 25-27, Seattle, Washington. An agenda is enclosed.

I invite you to designate two members of your legislative body to participate in these workshops. You may, of course, send others as observers. In the event that there are budgetary difficulties, some funds may be available for travel. I am also sending letters of invitation to the Governor and the public utility regulatory group. A list of the State's attendees at the September workshop is enclosed.

We have had suggestions at the previous workshops that it would be useful for the participants to tour a nuclear facility prior to discussing any new NRC proposed regulations or guidelines. The attendees generally agreed that such a tour would give the participants a better perspective of what would be entailed in decommissioning these facilities. Over the past few months we have polled the participants of the September 1978 workshops to see if there was still interest in taking a tour prior to this workshop. But the response was geographically divided. There was a continued interest from those participants who would go to the workshop in Columbia, South Carolina. Hence, we have arranged for a formal tour on September 11 of Summer I, a nuclear power plant under construction, and the low-level burial ground in Barnwell, South Carolina.

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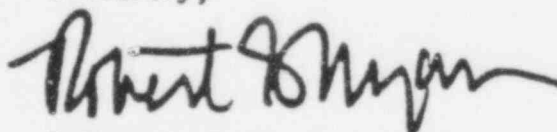
Surprisingly, there was little interest in a tour of Hanford from those States that would participate in the Seattle workshops. Therefore, we are not conducting a formal tour. We have, however, made arrangements with the Richland Operations Office of the Department of Energy to provide a tour if some of the participants want to travel to Hanford on September 23 for a tour on September 24. They would have to return to Seattle on the evening of the 24th in order to be available for the start of the workshop, on the following morning.

Another suggestion that came out of our September 1978 workshops was that each State's representatives to the next workshop have the opportunity to caucus before coming to the workshop. The purpose of the caucus would be to develop the State's position on the issues that will be discussed. I support this idea and will provide you or your designated representative with the appropriate information in advance of the meeting.

I would appreciate it if you would designate your representatives, their positions, addresses and telephone numbers and notify the contractor who is providing support for the workshop: Ms. Sharon Thompson-Cohen, PEER Consultants, Inc., 1160 Rockville Pike, Suite 202, Rockville, Maryland 20852, (301) 340-7990. So that we can make the necessary travel and tour arrangements, we need to know who your representatives are by July 27.

I am enclosing background material on the issues to be discussed.

Sincerely,



Robert G. Ryan, Director
Office of State Programs

Enclosures:

1. Agenda
2. Background Statement
3. State Attendee List