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NEW YORK STATE ENERGY OFFICE

ROCKEFELLER PLAZA ALBANY, NEW YORK 12223 JAMES L. LAROCCA, COMMISSIONER

June 24, 1980

Hon. John F. Ahearne Chairman, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission Washington, D.C. 20555

Dear Chairman Ahearne:

I understand that the Nuclear Regulatory Commission is currently reviewing the status of its Office of State Programs (OSP) and that consideration is being given to eliminating the OSP and assigning its functions to the licensing staff in the Office of Nuclear Materials Safety and Safeguards.

The Energy Office maintains a staff of professionals whose responsibilities include coordinating the participation of New York State's executive branch in NRC licensing activities, coordination of the State's NRC Agreement Materials Control Program, and liaison with the NRC in these areas. From my own experience and the extensive experience of staff, we strongly support the continuation of OSP as a viable unit in the NRC organizational structure.

The OSP has consistently provided the State with a readily accessible source of technical, legal and policy advice on nuclear regulatory matters. Specific examples include:

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The OSP provides valuable technical assistance to the States in addressing unique or complex licensing actions such as in a current New York action involving tritium discharges from a manufacturer of self-luminous light sources. OSP also acts as a hub for the sharing of technical and related regulatory information among the States, particularly Agreement States.

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Hon. John P. Ahearne

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June 20, 1980

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Federal/State relations in nuclear regulation need a high degree of cooperation, consideration and attention, traits which have been hallmarks of OSP. To relegate such matters to a secondary role would be a grave disservice to the States. I trust you will find that most other States share New York's sentiment on this matter.

Sincerely, Jettrey C./ Cohen

Deputh Commissioner NYA-NRC Liarson Officer

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