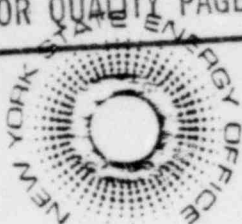


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**NEW YORK  
STATE ENERGY OFFICE**

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

June 24, 1980

Hon. John P. 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:

- o Model procedures and guidelines for radioactive materials licensing, and inspection.
- o Model legislation for authorization of radioactive material license fees.
- o Guidance on regulatory interpretations and jurisdictional responsibilities.
- o Legal opinions on regulatory issues such as the recent staff paper on the authority of states to prohibit disposal within their boundaries of low-level waste generated in other states.

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.

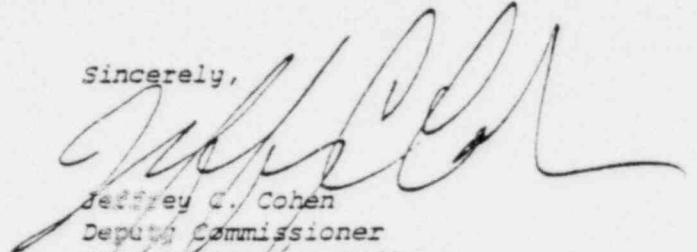
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June 26, 1980

Our experience with the OSP has been and continues to be gratifying. We find OSP to be both sensitive and responsive to the State's needs and problems - a highly professional organization which treats States as partners in protecting public health and safety. In this respect, OSP is exemplary among Federal organizations.

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,



Jeffrey C. Cohen  
Deputy Commissioner  
NYS-NRC Liaison Officer

JCC/JPS/laa



No. 80 - 1319 Logging Date 6/26/80

NRC SECRETARIAT

TO:  Commissioner \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
 Exec. Dir./Oper. \_\_\_\_\_  Gen. Counsel \_\_\_\_\_  
 Cong. Liaison \_\_\_\_\_  Solicitor \_\_\_\_\_  
 Public Affairs \_\_\_\_\_  Secretary \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  Inspector & Auditor \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  Policy Evaluation \_\_\_\_\_

Incoming: Jeffrey Cohen  
From: New York State Energy Office  
Albany, N.Y.  
To: Ahearnere the-stat Date 6/24/80  
Subject: re the status of the office of state programs

- Prepare reply for signature of:
- Chairman
  - Commissioner \_\_\_\_\_
  - EDO, GC, CL, SOL, PA, SECY, IA, PE
  - Signature block omitted
  - \_\_\_\_\_
  - Return original of incoming with response

- For direct reply\*
- For appropriate action
- For information

Rec'd Off. EDO  
Date..... 6/27/80  
Time..... 11:30 AM

Remarks: Cpys to: RF

For the Commission: billie

\*Send three (3) copies of reply to Secy Correspondence and Records Branch



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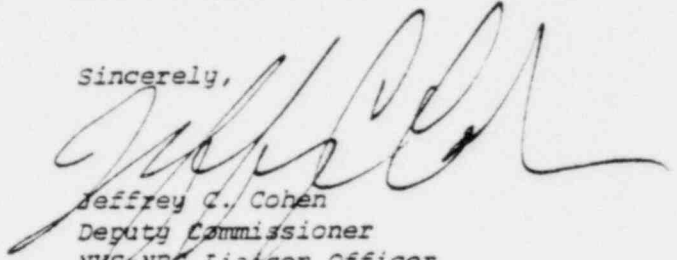
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