AFEB 0 9 1994

Mr. James J. Fiore, Director - U.S. Department of Energy Office of Eastern Area Programs Office of Environmental Restoration Washington, DC 20585

Dear Mr. Fiore:

Thank you for your letter of January 7, 1994, with the enclosed paper, viewgraphs, and comments. I have distributed copies of this information to both the Division of Low-Level Waste Management and Decommissioning and the Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research. These organizations are the focal points for this topic within the Nuclear Regulatory Commission and will provide you with any resulting staff comments.

Concerning your suggestion for a future working level meeting, I also see merit in discussing the work that the agencies have performed on recycle questions and agree that there are interfaces between recycle and decommissioning issues. As you are most likely aware, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has convened interagency working groups to provide the technical underpinnings in the development of its "Radiation Cleanup" standards. Also, over the last few years, members of the NRC staff have been invited, and have attended, several meetings that the Department of Energy has had with its contractors who are working on recycle topics. So, on an ad hoc basis, interfaces between many of the appropriate parties have been established.

The timing for the proposed meeting, however, presents a scheduling problem in that the appropriate NRC staff is currently significantly committed to the issuance of proposed decommissioning standards. From our perspective, it would appear that the earliest possible date for a productive formal meeting would be in early summer. I would suggest that the possibility of such a meeting be discussed with EPA, and that their preliminary input be sought with regard to the establishment of a working group, similar to that supporting the cleanup standards, to specifically support the development of recycle standards.

Sincerely, One

Robert M. Bernero, Director Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safequards

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