



Department of Energy  
Washington, DC 20585

MAR 16 1994

Mr. Robert M. Bernero  
Director  
Office of Nuclear Materials Safety  
and Safeguards  
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Washington, D.C. 20555

Dear Mr. Bernero:

On March 3, 1994, the Director, Office of Civilian Radioactive Waste Management, approved a change to the Civilian Radioactive Waste Management System (CRWMS) Program Baseline to incorporate the Multipurpose Canister (MPC) concept and proceed through the MPC design and certification phase. Enclosed is a copy of the approved memorandum including the supporting justification for changing to an MPC-based system.

The above action is a significant step forward in the CRWMS program in that the program baseline now includes the MPC as the primary architectural element for packaging spent fuel for storage, transportation, and disposal. The action also facilitates the program proceeding through MPC system design and certification activities. The decision on fabrication and deployment of the MPCs will be made at a future date based on the successful certification of the MPC system with the NRC, the completion of the appropriate NEPA documentation, and review by the DOE's Energy System Acquisition Advisory Board.

We will continue to interact with your organization during implementation of the MPC. If you have any questions, please contact me at (202) 586-6046.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dwight E. Shelor".

Dwight E. Shelor  
Associate Director for  
Systems and Compliance  
Office of Civilian Radioactive  
Waste Management

Enclosure