



Department of Energy

Idaho Operations Office
West Valley Project Office
P.O. Box 191
West Valley, NY 14171

M-32
PDR/LPDR

April 25, 1991

Mr. Charles J. Haughney, Chief
Fuel Cycle Safety Branch
Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, DC 20655

SUBJECT: West Valley Demonstration Project Closure Environmental Impact
Statement (EIS)

Dear Mr. Haughney:

Thank you for your letter of January 30, 1991, regarding the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's (NRC) participation in the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) proceedings relating to completion of the West Valley Demonstration Project (Project) and closure of the Western New York Service Center (Center). The Department of Energy (DOE) concurs and welcomes NRC's participation as a cooperating federal agency for the Project Completion and Site Closure EIS that will be prepared jointly by DOE and the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority. NRC's participation as a cooperating agency, pursuant to Section 1501.6 of the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations, will not only be very beneficial to DOE; but we believe your participation will also benefit NRC in carrying out its responsibilities under both the West Valley Demonstration Project Act and the Memorandum of Understanding between DOE and NRC.

Upon issuance of the draft EIS, DOE will also solicit and welcome NRC's comments consistent with Section 1503.1 of the CEQ regulations.

DOE intends to integrate its NEPA documentation regarding completion of the Project with the anticipated RCRA documentation (including a RCRA Facility Investigation, a Corrective Measures Study, and a Corrective Measures Implementation Program Plan) that DOE will produce pursuant to a consent order with the Environmental Protection Agency. We feel this integration of the two types of documentation is consistent with DOE policy; there is also a similarity of issues. At the forefront of these issues are decontamination and decommissioning/corrective measures regarding radioactive and hazardous waste at the Center and disposal of low level and transuranic waste produced as a result of the Project.

We feel that the meeting with NRC, currently set for June 6, 1991, regarding the NEPA process and our respective responsibilities will be useful.

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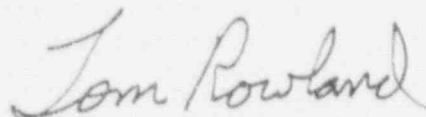
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G. J. Haughney

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If you have any questions or comments, please contact me on FTS 473-4312 or Phil Van Loan of my staff on FTS 473-4447.

Sincerely,



T. J. Rowland, Director
West Valley Project Office

cc: J. E. Solecki, DOE-ID
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