

STATE OF COLORADO

OSP

Roy Romer, Governor
Patti Shwayder, Executive Director

Dedicated to protecting and improving the health and environment of the people of Colorado

4300 Cherry Creek Dr. S.
Denver, Colorado 80246-1530
Phone (303) 692-2000
Located in Glendale, ColoradoLaboratory and Radiation Services Division
8100 Lowry Blvd.
Denver CO 80220-6928
(303) 692-3090<http://www.cdphe.state.co.us>Colorado Department
of Public Health
and Environment

97 JAN 20 AM 9:38

January 13, 1998

Ellis W. Merschoff
Regional Administrator
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
611 Ryan Plaza Drive Suite 400
Arlington, Texas 76011

Dear Mr. Merschoff:

Recently, we received word from Blair Nicholas that our contract for environmental monitoring in the vicinity of the Fort St. Vrain Nuclear Generating Station will not be renewed. The latest contract expired on December 31st.

Please let me take this opportunity to tell you how much we have enjoyed working with Region IV on this project. The project was developed by NRC primarily to serve the national interest and I believe that the project has served that interest very well. The project has also helped to assure that the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment would have the resources to conduct an environmental monitoring program throughout the life cycle of the reactor at Fort St. Vrain. For us, the principal value of the project has been in the technical relationship between staff of our Radiation Counting Facility and the staff at the Region IV office. As a result of their constructive advice we made a great many improvements to our detection and measurement equipment over the years, and developed operating procedures that have served the people of Colorado well, not only in the Fort St. Vrain project but also in many other ways.

The most important single result of this project for our program was in gaining support from the State Legislature in 1992, when they funded our purchase of a 125% relative efficiency HPGe detector, along with all the associated shields and electronics that were needed to fully exploit the detector's extraordinary capabilities. That acquisition gave our laboratory some of the best detection capability in the world for gamma-emitting radionuclides, in environmental samples and in our Whole Body Counter alike.

I hope you will convey my heartfelt thanks to Region IV staff, most especially to Dr. Nicholas and to Blaine Murray. Their involvement in the Fort St. Vrain project for all those years was critical to the success of many of our environmental monitoring projects. Our contact with them will be sorely missed and the end of this project will leave a terrible void in the mix of projects in which we are currently engaged.

Sincerely,

9802030006 980113
PDR STPRG ESGCO
PDRRobert M. Quillin, Director
Laboratory and Radiation Services Division

05

020093

NRC FILE CENTER COPY



SP-AG-5

cf: R.W. Terry
file 5-200

✓ Richard L. Bangart
Office of State Programs
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
One White Flint North 3rd Floor
11555 Rockville Pike
Rockville, Maryland 20852

J. Blair Nicholas, Ph.D.
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
611 Ryan Plaza Drive Suite 400
Arlington, Texas 76011

Blaine Murray
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
611 Ryan Plaza Drive Suite 400
Arlington, Texas 76011