



CHAIRMAN

UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

February 18, 1998

Peter Somani, Ph.D., M.D.
Director of Health
Ohio Department of Health
246 North High Street
P.O. Box 118
Columbus, Ohio 43266-0118

Dear Dr. Somani:

I am writing to inform you of the final decision of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) on its independent radiation monitoring program (IRMP). After careful consideration, the Commission recently accepted a staff recommendation to sunset the program on December 31, 1997. The staff concluded that although the IRMP has provided a source of data independent from the NRC and its licensees, the data are not needed to support the NRC inspection program to ensure that licensee programs are operated and maintained in compliance with NRC requirements.

In recognition that an abrupt termination of the contract could result in a hardship, the Commission authorized a short-term (no more than 6 months) extension to ensure an orderly closeout. For your information, I have enclosed a copy of the letter that was sent to Roger Suppes of your agency informing him of our decision and the status of the contract.

The NRC recognizes the high quality of work that has been performed by the States on this program over the years and looks forward to maintaining a good professional working relationship with the States on items of mutual interest.

Sincerely,

Shirley Ann Jackson

Enclosure: Letter to Ohio
Department of Health

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PDR COMMS NRCC
CORRESPONDENCE PDR

