

November 17, 2000

Ms. Denise Chamberlain
Deputy Secretary
Air, Recycling and Radiation Protection
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
Department of Environmental Protection
P.O. Box 2063
Harrisburg, PA 17105

Dear Ms. Chamberlain:

Over the past year, we have been working closely with your staff on issues related to decommissioning sites in Pennsylvania. On May 8, 2000, you and members of your staff met with Region I staff in King of Prussia, Pennsylvania, to discuss the status of each of the sites. A meeting focusing more specifically on NRC's handling of the Safety Light Corporation site was subsequently held in Rockville, Maryland, on August 17, 2000. Since August, our staffs have held biweekly conference calls, shared letters and other documents, and coordinated site visits. We have also received a response to our August 22, 2000 letter to Safety Light concerning disposition of the silo waste, which we have shared with your staff. We also jointly met with the licensee on November 6, 2000 to discuss Safety Light's revised decommissioning plan and decommissioning cost estimate, copies of which were provided to your staff.

I propose we meet again to discuss the approach our respective agencies are taking in this case. As discussed with your staff, information recently received regarding current health issues and available funding indicate some modification in approach may be warranted in the near term. This meeting would also provide an opportunity to briefly discuss the status of, and future coordination on, other sites undergoing decommissioning in the Commonwealth. Such sites would become a Commonwealth regulatory responsibility after Pennsylvania assumes regulatory jurisdiction under an agreement with NRC. We recognize your concern, expressed during our August 17, 2000 meeting, regarding the Commonwealth assuming regulatory jurisdiction over certain of these sites and that timing of the Pennsylvania agreement may be related to completion of activities at some sites.

To this end, Hubert Miller, Region I Administrator, William Kane, Director, Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards, and I would like to meet with you at a time convenient for you. Please let me know when you would be available for such a meeting, at 301-415-3340, or e-mail at PHL@NRC.GOV. In addition, we would also appreciate your confirming in writing the Commonwealth's current plans and schedule for completing an agreement with NRC. Information on the Commonwealth's schedule is important to us and is used in the development of budget assumptions for the Commission in planning the agency's budget.

We thank you in advance for your assistance.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Paul H. Lohaus, Director
Office of State and Tribal Programs

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