

**From:** Rosetta Virgilio  
**To:** Internet:ArmandMinthorn@ctuir.com  
**Date:** Wed, May 10, 2000 10:34 AM  
**Subject:** CTUIR REPLY

Mr. Minthorn,

Thank you for returning my call yesterday morning. If not for the static of the cell phone and your need to get to a meeting, we could have talked more about your 4/28/00 email regarding NRC's new Office of State and Tribal Programs. Given your suggestion, I am providing you an e-mail response, as follows.

As you know, we notified the Federally-recognized tribes and others of our name change and contact information via NRC Press Release. Our plan is to continue to communicate with Tribes on a government-to-government and case-by-case basis. The Office of State and Tribal Programs will directly address inquiries that we receive and we will also coordinate responses with our other appropriate program offices. We will also add the Tribes to our email list server to receive information of interest. My backup here in NRC's headquarters office in Rockville, Maryland is Spiros Droggitis. He can be reached at 301-415-2367 or at email [scd@nrc.gov](mailto:scd@nrc.gov). Charles Hackney is our NRC Regional Liaison Officer and is located in Arlington, Texas. He can be reached at 817-860-8267 or at email [cah@nrc.gov](mailto:cah@nrc.gov).

Briefly, NRC does not regulate the DOE or Navy. We also do not approve their transportation routes. We do, however, approve the shipping containers in which large quantities of nuclear waste is packaged. You may be interested in browsing the NRC Home Page for further info on NRC's mission and areas of responsibility: <http://www.nrc.gov/>. Within the home page, you will find other links to Commission news and activities, including rulemaking plans, and information on nuclear waste transportation and emergency response. Note that the Office of State and Tribal Programs is in the midst of updating our home page, <http://www.hsrdo.ornl.gov/nrc/home.html>.

You will find of particular interest the following two undertakings: The Package Performance Study (Modal Study II) will take a look at spent fuel shipping container response to severe highway and railway accidents. See <http://ttd.sandia.gov/nrc/modal.htm>. Over the next few years, NRC will seek public input as we revisit the conclusions of the 1987 Modal Study, which examined the robustness of spent nuclear fuel transportation casks in severe accidents. Two meetings have been held thus far (11/1/799 in Bethesda, MD and 12/8/99 in Henderson, NV). Ongoing public interactions will help ensure that public concerns are effectively identified, understood and considered. We will keep you posted of the next series of meetings, which will be announced in the Federal Register. At this time, it appears one of the meetings will be scheduled the week of 8/15/00 in Nevada.

In parallel with the package performance study, NRC is also planning an update to 10 CFR Part 71, Packaging and Transportation of Radioactive Material. A series of public meetings will be scheduled to discuss this rulemaking. It appears that one will be held in Oakland, CA the week of 7/13. Again, we will notify you when the information is published in the Federal Register. In the interim, you may want to visit the following site, which contains Part 10 of the Code of Federal Regulations pertaining to NRC: <http://www.nrc.gov/NRC/CFR/index.html>.

I have read and thank you for providing the March 30, 2000 comments on behalf of the CTUIR on NRC's Advance Notice of Proposed Rulemaking on Notification to Tribes, 10 CFR Parts 71 and 73. This information will be helpful in the consideration of a rulemaking on this issue. (Note that the comment due date for this proposed rulemaking was extended to July 5, 2000).

Please contact me if you have any further questions. I look forward to hearing from you.

Rosetta  
301-415-2307

**CC:** Cameron, Francis, Combs, Frederick, Droggitis, Spiros, Lohaus, Paul; Shankman, Susan, PDR

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**From:** "Armand Minthorn" <ArmandMinthorn@ctuir.com>  
**To:** TWFN\_DO.twf1\_po(PHL)  
**Date:** Fri, Apr 28, 2000 1:44 PM  
**Subject:** New office of State and Tribal programs

Rosetta,

My name is Armand Minthorn, member of the Board of Trustees our governing body. It is encouraging that there will be a new office that will be specific to listen to the tribal peoples and governments.

Our tribe have many concerns in regards to shipments by DOE and the Dept. of Navy, thru our reservation. How will the NRC initiate communications with our tribe? and in what form will this communication be in? And will the formation of this new office be represented locally?

By no means do I want to seem to be in the dark, but these questions would not only clarify NRC's intent but would also encompass options to ensure clear consistant communication. Thank you