

October 27, 2000

Ms. Fawn Shillinglaw  
1952 Palisades Dr.  
Appleton, WI 54915

SUBJECT: PACKAGE PERFORMANCE STUDY COMMENTS

Dear Ms. Shillinglaw:

I would like to thank you for your August 3, 2000, letter to Dr. J. Sprung, Sandia National Laboratories, with comments on the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission's (NRC's) Package Performance Study (PPS) Issues Report, prepared by Sandia National Laboratories under contract to NRC. NRC believes that public participation on the PPS has significantly improved the study's results to-date.

As the next step in the PPS, NRC will consider Sandia's recommendations in the issues report and the comments received on them in public meetings and in letters, and begin the process of selecting and planning the appropriate confirmatory testing and analysis. We will consider your comments as part of the process. When we have developed what we believe to be a suitable Analysis and Testing Plan, we plan to issue it and seek continued interaction through written comments, our website, and workshops/meetings (not yet scheduled). In the near future, NRC also plans to publish the compiled Sandia, stakeholder, and public recommendations and comments on the PPS, possibly as a NUREG/CR-series report, as the 'final' results of the scoping study phase of the project.

I look forward to continued involvement with you on the Package Performance Study.

Sincerely,

**/S/ /RA/**

Susan F. Shankman, Deputy Director  
Licensing and Inspection Directorate  
Spent Fuel Project Office  
Office of Nuclear Material Safety  
and Safeguards

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