

May 24, 2001

Dr. Robert A. Duce
Chair, American Geophysical Union Fall Meeting Program Committee
Departments of Oceanography and Atmospheric Sciences
Texas A&M University, TAMU-3146
College Station, Texas 77843-3146

Dear Dr. Duce:

Please accept the enclosed proposal for organizing a special Union session at the Fall 2001 American Geophysical Union (AGU) conference. The session is greatly needed to bring together experts from diverse fields on the highly important and controversial topic of environmental colloids.

As described in our proposal, this session will have wide application (both nuclear and non-nuclear) to investigations of groundwater and surface water, lakes, estuaries, and ocean environments; ore deposition; and oil-water-gas surfactant chemistry. The co-conveners and I believe the session will attract wide interest and participation on topics of international importance. The seven co-conveners come from diverse areas of chemistry, engineering, geochemistry, hydrology, seismology, and oceanography to attract the wide range of disciplines encompassing a large portion of the AGU membership to warrant a Union session. The proposed invited speakers list includes representatives from Japan, Germany, Switzerland, and the United States.

The idea for the session came from discussions at the Fall 2000 AGU meeting between several of the conveners and this proposed session will greatly benefit from the very positive experience that I had in organizing a Spring 2000 AGU Hydrology session. My U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission colleague Tom Nicholson and I were able to organize and lead a session that received the most abstracts of any session in Hydrology at the meeting. This was due to the importance of the topic as well as our extensive efforts to send the 'call for papers' out as an email to all interested parties. The full day oral session and following day poster session were very well attended and received. Numerous discussions continued after the meeting and to capture this dialog we wrote an article for EOS (v. 81, n. 22, October 31, 2000 titled "Unraveling Complex Hydrogeologic Systems Using Field Tracer Tests").

The conveners of this proposed Union session will ensure that this meeting is highly successful and meets the needs and goals of the AGU planning committee. We greatly appreciate your careful consideration of our proposal and look forward to your acceptance allowing us to continue proceeding in organizing this session for the AGU.

Sincerely,

/RA/

William L. Dam

Enclosure: As stated

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