

August 10, 2001

The Honorable Dan Burton, Chairman
Committee on Government Reform
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

In accordance with the statutory obligation to respond to recommendations by the General Accounting Office (GAO) within 60 days of receipt, we hereby submit our response to the recommendation made by the GAO in its report entitled, "Nuclear Waste: Agreement Among Agencies Responsible for the West Valley Site is Critically Needed (GAO-01-314)," dated May 2001. In particular, we would like to note recent actions bearing on the recommendation concerning coordination between agencies on regulatory cleanup criteria to apply to the West Valley Demonstration Project (WVDP).

Since the GAO Report was issued, NRC, EPA Region II, the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation and the New York State Department of Health have met on matters related to the WVDP site. The most recent meeting was the annual West Valley Regulatory Roundtable, held on July 17, 2001. A key topic of discussion at this meeting was how the different agencies' cleanup criteria should be applied at West Valley. Following these discussions, NRC staff received a letter from EPA's Region II, dated July 23, 2001, which provided EPA's opinion confirming the adequacy of the level of protectiveness afforded by NRC's existing cleanup requirements and specifying its view of responsibilities for determining compliance with radiological standards as applied to the West Valley site (Enclosure). We believe that these recent developments constitute significant progress in this area and largely address the corresponding recommendation in the GAO report.

The Commission is currently considering action on establishing the final decommissioning criteria for the WVDP. Information provided in the GAO report and in the recent letter from EPA are being considered in those deliberations.

If you have any questions, please contact me.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Richard A. Meserve

Enclosure:
EPA Region II Letter to NRC

cc: Representative Henry Waxman

August 10, 2001

The Honorable Joseph I. Lieberman, Chairman
Committee on Governmental Affairs
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Mr. Chairman:

In accordance with the statutory obligation to respond to recommendations by the General Accounting Office (GAO) within 60 days of receipt, we hereby submit our response to the recommendation made by the GAO in its report entitled, "Nuclear Waste: Agreement Among Agencies Responsible for the West Valley Site is Critically Needed (GAO-01-314)," dated May 2001. In particular, we would like to note recent actions bearing on the recommendation concerning coordination between agencies on regulatory cleanup criteria to apply to the West Valley Demonstration Project (WVDP).

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Richard A. Meserve

Enclosure:
EPA Region II Letter to NRC

cc: Senator Fred Thompson

August 10, 2001

The Honorable Joe Barton, Chairman
Subcommittee on Energy and Air Quality
Committee on Energy and Commerce
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

In accordance with the statutory obligation to respond to recommendations by the General Accounting Office (GAO) within 60 days of receipt, we hereby submit our response to the recommendation made by the GAO in its report entitled, "Nuclear Waste: Agreement Among Agencies Responsible for the West Valley Site is Critically Needed (GAO-01-314)," dated May 2001. In particular, we would like to note recent actions bearing on the recommendation concerning coordination between agencies on regulatory cleanup criteria to apply to the West Valley Demonstration Project (WVDP).

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Richard A. Meserve

Enclosure:
EPA Region II Letter to NRC

cc: Representative Rick Boucher

August 10, 2001

The Honorable W.J. "Billy" Tauzin, Chairman
Committee on Energy and Commerce
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

In accordance with the statutory obligation to respond to recommendations by the General Accounting Office (GAO) within 60 days of receipt, we hereby submit our response to the recommendation made by the GAO in its report entitled, "Nuclear Waste: Agreement Among Agencies Responsible for the West Valley Site is Critically Needed (GAO-01-314)," dated May 2001. In particular, we would like to note recent actions bearing on the recommendation concerning coordination between agencies on regulatory cleanup criteria to apply to the West Valley Demonstration Project (WVDP).

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Richard A. Meserve

Enclosure:
EPA Region II Letter to NRC

cc: Representative John D. Dingell

August 10, 2001

The Honorable James M. Jeffords, Chairman
Committee on Environment and Public Works
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Mr. Chairman:

In accordance with the statutory obligation to respond to recommendations by the General Accounting Office (GAO) within 60 days of receipt, we hereby submit our response to the recommendation made by the GAO in its report entitled, "Nuclear Waste: Agreement Among Agencies Responsible for the West Valley Site is Critically Needed (GAO-01-314)," dated May 2001. In particular, we would like to note recent actions bearing on the recommendation concerning coordination between agencies on regulatory cleanup criteria to apply to the West Valley Demonstration Project (WVDP).

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Richard A. Meserve

Enclosure:
EPA Region II Letter to NRC

cc: Senator Bob Smith

August 10, 2001

The Honorable Harry Reid, Chairman
Subcommittee on Transportation, Infrastructure,
and Nuclear Safety
Committee on Environment and Public Works
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Mr. Chairman:

In accordance with the statutory obligation to respond to recommendations by the General Accounting Office (GAO) within 60 days of receipt, we hereby submit our response to the recommendation made by the GAO in its report entitled, "Nuclear Waste: Agreement Among Agencies Responsible for the West Valley Site is Critically Needed (GAO-01-314)," dated May 2001. In particular, we would like to note recent actions bearing on the recommendation concerning coordination between agencies on regulatory cleanup criteria to apply to the West Valley Demonstration Project (WVDP).

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Richard A. Meserve

Enclosure:
EPA Region II Letter to NRC

cc: Senator James M. Inhofe

August 10, 2001

The Honorable David M. Walker
Comptroller General of the United States
General Accounting Office
Washington, D.C. 20548

Dear Mr. Walker:

In accordance with the statutory obligation to respond to recommendations by the General Accounting Office (GAO) within 60 days of receipt, we hereby submit our response to the recommendation made by the GAO in its report entitled, "Nuclear Waste: Agreement Among Agencies Responsible for the West Valley Site is Critically Needed (GAO-01-314)," dated May 2001. In particular, we would like to note recent actions bearing on the recommendation concerning coordination between agencies on regulatory cleanup criteria to apply to the West Valley Demonstration Project (WVDP).

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Richard A. Meserve

Enclosure:
EPA Region II Letter to NRC

August 10, 2001

The Honorable Mitchell E. Daniels, Jr.
Director, Office of Management and Budget
Washington, D.C. 20503

Dear Mr. Daniels:

In accordance with the statutory obligation to respond to recommendations by the General Accounting Office (GAO) within 60 days of receipt, we hereby submit our response to the recommendation made by the GAO in its report entitled, "Nuclear Waste: Agreement Among Agencies Responsible for the West Valley Site is Critically Needed (GAO-01-314)," dated May 2001. In particular, we would like to note recent actions bearing on the recommendation concerning coordination between agencies on regulatory cleanup criteria to apply to the West Valley Demonstration Project (WVDP).

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