

November 19, 2003

The Honorable Thomas Daschle
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Daschle:

I am responding to your letter of September 23, 2003, which supported South Dakota Governor M. Michael Rounds' request for NRC assistance in the establishment of the South Dakota Scientific and Technological Facilities Authority. I responded to Governor Rounds' request on October 1, 2003 (enclosed) and recommended that a member of Governor Rounds' staff contact Mr. Paul Lohaus, Director of the Office of State and Tribal Programs, so that he could gain a better understanding of the State's needs and determine how the NRC staff might be able to contribute to this important project.

On October 20, 2003, Mr. Lohaus and Dr. Richard Gowan, of Governor Round's staff, spoke by telephone about specific aspects of the project and NRC's level of assistance. Accordingly, Mr. Lohaus' staff is currently working to provide Dr. Gowan the information they discussed during their telephone conversation for the State's consideration in formulating the regulatory processes appropriate to the planned research facility. Should Dr. Gowan or the State of South Dakota require additional followup information or assistance, the NRC will provide it to the extent we can, consistent with our statutory authority.

Please contact me if I can be of further assistance.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Nils J. Diaz

Enclosure: As stated