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'83 DEC 15 DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY & TRANSPORTATION

Watkins Building, 510 George Street  
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WM Record File

WM Project

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Distribution:

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Mr. John Davis, Director  
Office of Nuclear Material Safety  
and Safeguards  
Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
1717 "H" Street  
Washington, D. C. 20555

Re: December 7, 1983, Discussion on  
High-Level Waste Repository Licensing

Dear Mr. Davis:

There is an old saying, "It is not the message sent, but the message received that is important." Several State Liaison Officers received some disturbing messages from the discussion you chaired, particularly the remarks by Mike Bell.

We were reminded of meetings with the Department of Energy prior to the passage of the "Nuclear Waste Policy Act of 1982". It was reminiscent of "big brother" telling, not sharing.

We attempted to make the point that whether the states like it or not, they are involved if a site in their state is nominated for site characterization studies.

We realize, as you do, that the licensing process will be unique as only one or two repositories will be developed in the next several years.

Mississippi, like other states, is determined to be a critical observer of the efforts of DOE and NRC. We will review proposed activities and determine their effect upon economic, social, public health and safety, and environmental impacts on the state and its citizens.

To this extent, we feel that it is necessary that NRC establish a relationship with the states similar to Section 117 of the Nuclear Waste Policy Act. Such a relationship would preclude the previous actions taken against DOE to obtain cooperation and information; i.e., Freedom of Information requests, judicial actions.

Your thoughts would be appreciated on how NRC and the states can beneficially work together. May I hear from you soon?

Very truly yours,

*Wilbur G. Ball*

Wilbur G. Ball  
Executive Director

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