

September 13, 2006

Dr. Michael T. Ryan, Chairman
Advisory Committee on Nuclear Waste
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D.C. 20555

SUBJECT: RESPONSE TO THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON NUCLEAR WASTE'S
AUGUST 16, 2006, LETTER PROVIDING OBSERVATIONS FROM THE
MAY 23-24, 2006, LOW-LEVEL WASTE WORKING GROUP MEETING

Dear Dr. Ryan:

I am responding to your August 16, 2006, letter to the Chairman in which you summarized the results of the Advisory Committee on Nuclear Waste's (ACNW's) Low-Level Waste (LLW) Working Group meeting, held on May 23-24, 2006. The purpose of the meeting was to identify emerging LLW issues and opportunities to better risk-inform the management of LLW and to obtain current information from stakeholders regarding commercial LLW management practices.

We appreciate the ACNW's extensive efforts in organizing the workshop, analyzing the comments received, and making recommendations on specific actions the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) could take to improve the program. In addition to providing independent advice to the Commission, your letter also provided an important input into the staff's ongoing strategic assessment of the NRC LLW program. The objective of this strategic assessment is to identify and prioritize activities that the staff can undertake to ensure a stable, reliable and adaptable regulatory framework for effective LLW management. The ACNW's recommendations will be especially helpful in informing this effort.

We look forward to our future collaboration with ACNW.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Luis A. Reyes
Executive Director
for Operations

cc: Chairman Klein
Commissioner McGaffigan
Commissioner Merrifield
Commissioner Jaczko
Commissioner Lyons
SECY

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