



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555

December 21, 1992

CHAIRMAN

The Honorable William Weld
Governor of Massachusetts
State House
Boston, Massachusetts 02133

Dear Governor Weld:

I am writing to inform you of Nuclear Regulatory Commission activities related to the decommissioning of sites contaminated with radioactive materials located in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. The cleanup of these contaminated sites is a high priority for NRC. We want to ensure that the Commonwealth of Massachusetts is aware of these cleanup activities. NRC intends that there will be coordination with the Commonwealth in order that cleanup activities can be managed in an efficient and timely manner.

Since the late 1980's, NRC has continued to strengthen its decommissioning program. A major item of concern is the decommissioning of contaminated sites that involve non-routine issues, such as large volumes of radiologically contaminated material, problems with the financial viability of the responsible party, groundwater contamination, and mixed radioactive and hazardous waste. To focus NRC efforts in this area, NRC staff issued the Site Decommissioning Management Plan (SDMP) on March 29, 1990 (SECY-90-121). Revision 2 of the SDMP, SECY-92-200, was issued on May 29, 1992 (see enclosure). The SDMP lists the non-routine sites identified to date and outlines a strategy for accomplishing the cleanup of these sites in a timely manner.

Of the 46 sites listed in the SDMP, six are located in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts:

1. Watertown Arsenal, Watertown, MA
2. Engelhard, Plainville, MA
3. General Services Administration, Watertown, MA
4. Nuclear Metals, Concord, MA
5. Texas Instruments, Attleboro, MA
6. Wyman-Gordon, North Grafton, MA

A summary description of each site, including the concentration and volume of waste present and the cleanup activities conducted to date, is given in the enclosed SDMP.

The oversight of the SDMP site cleanups poses unique challenges to NRC. One important challenge is to ensure that State interests are taken into account. We have been working closely with the Office of the Attorney General and the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) to accelerate cleanup at the Nuclear Metals site. We are also working closely with DEP and the Department of Public Health to coordinate our actions at the Wyman-Gordon and Engelhard sites. We very much appreciate the assistance

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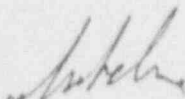
The Honorable William Weld

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that the Commonwealth has provided in these cases. To help NRC better understand your specific interests in regard to the other three sites, we would ask you to inform us of the anticipated areas of Commonwealth involvement that may affect the selection and implementation of cleanup actions at those sites. We encourage continued communication between the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and NRC so that we may efficiently develop a mutually acceptable strategy and schedule for fulfilling our respective responsibilities.

The NRC contacts for SDMP site cleanup issues are Robert M. Bernero, Director, Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards (NMSS), at 301-504-3352, or John H. Austin, Branch Chief, Decommissioning and Regulatory Issues Branch, NMSS, at 301-504-2560. We look forward to your response.

Sincerely,



Ivan Selin

Enclosure: SDMP, SECY-92-200

cc: Thomas C. Rapone
NRC State Liaison Officer