



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

December 21, 1992

The Honorable Gaston Caperton
Governor of West Virginia
State Capitol
Charleston, West Virginia 25305

Dear Governor Caperton:

I am writing to inform you of Nuclear Regulatory Commission activities related to a site now under NRC license which is owned by AMAX, Inc., in Wood County, West Virginia.

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) in March 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. One SDMP site, AMAX, is located in your State.

Decommissioning activities at the AMAX site have been completed and the site is being transferred to the U. S. Department of Energy (DOE), under Section 151c of the Nuclear Waste Policy Act. Lack of agreement between AMAX and DOE on the amount of funds to be set aside for future site maintenance and inspection activities has been a primary issue needing resolution. On October 6, 1992, NRC staff met with AMAX and DOE officials to try to effect an agreement. In a letter to NRC dated November 3, 1992, DOE accepted the level of funding proposed by AMAX and approved by NRC, and agreed to complete the transfer of the AMAX site by March 31, 1993. Following transfer to DOE, the existing NRC license for the AMAX site will be terminated.

If you have any questions or concerns about activities related to the AMAX site, please contact Robert M. Bernero, Director, Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards, at 301-504-3352, or John H. Austin, at 301-504-2560.

Sincerely,


Ivan Selin

Enclosure: SDMP, SECY-92-200

cc: Director, Industrial Hygiene Division
Office of Environmental Health Services

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PDR COMMS NRCC
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