



RESOURCES  
FOR THE FUTURE

Center for Risk Management

September 19, 1996

Dr. Ivan Selin  
Chairman  
Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
One White Flint North Bldg.  
11555 Rockville Pike  
Rockville, MD 20852

Dear Dr. Selin:

Enclosed is the Center for Risk Management's most recent discussion paper, *Cleaning Up the Nuclear Weapons Complex: Exploring New Approaches*, which I thought might be of interest to you. In the paper we examine the feasibility and advisability of developing an integrated approach to environmental management at the Department of Energy's nuclear weapons complex. As you know, the cleanup of DOE sites is expected to cost over \$200 billion over the next 70 years—making the challenge of finding better and more cost-effective approaches a critical issue.

The objective of an integrated approach is to give regulators and the regulated community incentives to look holistically at environmental hazards, both existing and future, and to develop creative ways of setting priorities such that risk, cost effectiveness, and public concerns are taken into account. The paper describes recent efforts to achieve integration in the environmental arena, surveys the unusual technical, regulatory, and political circumstances surrounding cleanup of the weapons complex, and offers some preliminary ideas on how integration might be attained in this vital area.

The purpose of our paper is to stimulate discussion about these important issues and to contribute to the debate regarding how to improve the nation's efforts to clean up DOE sites. I would welcome any comments you have on the paper. Please direct them to me, either at the address below or by e-mail (probst@rff.org).

Sincerely,

Kate Probst

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Enclosure

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