

September 19, 1985

Michael J. Lawrence, Manager
Richland Operations Office
U.S. Department of Energy
P.O. Box 550
Richland, Washington 99352

Dear Mr. Lawrence:

Thank you for your responsive letter dated July 30, 1985, describing the arrangements for Battelle Pacific Northwest Laboratories and their subcontractor, COMEX Corporation, to hold emergency preparedness workshops. In my letter to you dated June 4, 1985, I stated that your response to the alleged potential for a conflict of interest by Battelle and COMEX would be reviewed against the standards set forth in Section 170A of the Atomic Energy Act.

We understand from your letter that: a) Battelle executed a standard agreement for a fixed dollar amount with workshop participants regardless of the number of attendees; b) Battelle and COMEX have lost financially on the 1985 workshop; c) the workshops represent less than one percent of COMEX's income; d) COMEX did not design the workshop or compile the mailing lists; and e) there was never any suggestion or implication made to the utilities that they attend the workshops as a possible means of reducing exercise deficiencies. On the basis of this information I find that it is unlikely that a conflict of interest existed nor would exist in the future under the same similar circumstances.

I am forwarding a copy of your letter to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's Region III office with the request that they inform Northern States Power Company that we have determined that no conflict of interest was found on the part of COMEX.

I consider this matter closed, however, if you have any questions in this regard please contact Mr. Robert Meck of my staff on FTS 492-4854 or Mr. Ralph Avery of our legal staff on FTS 492-8656.

Sincerely,

Original Signed By:
E. L. Jordan

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PDR

Edward L. Jordan, Director
Division of Emergency Preparedness
and Engineering Response
Office of Inspection and Enforcement

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