



Department of Energy

Washington, DC 20585

OCT 08 2003

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OCT 15 2003

Mr. Timothy A. Runyon
641 East Butterfield Road
Suite 401
Lombard, IL 60148-5651

Dear Mr. Runyon:

Thank you for your August 12, 2003, letter that acknowledges the Office of Civilian Radioactive Waste Management (OCRWM) resuming its regional cooperative agreement with the Council of State Governments' Midwestern Office. In your letter, you shared some ideas and questions on OCRWM's plan on transporting spent nuclear fuel and high-level radioactive waste. We appreciate your interest in assisting us in the development of a comprehensive transportation program.

As you are aware, OCRWM is in the process of preparing a Transportation Strategic Plan and anticipates its issuance by the end of this year. The plan, as currently envisioned, is going to be a statement of our transportation related policies and major goals and will reiterate our commitment for substantive and timely interaction with our stakeholders. This stakeholder interaction will address issues raised in regional group meetings and at the Transportation External Coordinator's Working Group meetings. In the near future, we plan to initiate informal discussions with regional groups on many of the critical issues you have identified in your letter. We will be contacting you and other regional offices to finalize how this can be best achieved.

I am looking forward to a mutually beneficial relationship with the Council of Governments' Midwestern Office. Your support in developing a safe and efficient transportation approach for shipment of spent nuclear fuel and high-level radioactive waste is appreciated. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at 202-586-3670.

Sincerely,

Gary Lanthrum, Director
Office of National Transportation
Office of Civilian Radioactive
Waste Management

