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Michael H. McCabe
Regional Director

August 10, 2007

James Rispoli
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Dear Mr. Rispoli,

The Council of State Governments' Midwestern Radioactive Materials Transportation Committee held its spring meeting on June 26-27 in Jefferson City, Missouri. We are writing to bring to your attention three priority issues for the Midwestern states that came up for discussion at our meeting.

First, the states were unanimous in their appreciation for the fact sheets provided by EM's former National Transportation Program. The states specifically found useful the compact disc of information products that EM provided to the states affected by the department's shipments. We would like to see EM commit to keeping these materials up to date. We also would find it very useful if all DOE shipping programs with large-scale shipments would create shipment-specific fact sheets to assist the affected states in their outreach to emergency responders, elected officials, and the public. We think two good models for other programs are the press kits produced by the WIPP program and the fact sheets Fernald prepared for the shipments of the silos waste.

Second, the states appreciate EM's decision to begin planning well in advance for the spent fuel transfers between Idaho National Laboratory and the Savannah River Site. The Midwestern states were very active in developing the transportation plan for the cross-country shipments of spent fuel from foreign research reactors. We intend to be just as involved in the upcoming transfers. In planning the shipments, we hope DOE will follow the many good precedents set by the FRR program years ago.

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Third, the states support EM's efforts to streamline and make more transparent its procedures for notifying affected states of all events involving shipments of EM's radioactive waste and materials. The states were impressed with EM's efforts to resolve issues related to incident notification at the start of 2007. We understand the effort has been on hold temporarily. We hope EM will resume this work soon and finalize the procedures and the matrix that the Midwestern states helped to develop.

We appreciate DOE's support for the activities of the CSG Midwestern Radioactive Materials Transportation Committee. We look forward to the opportunity to welcome you to a future committee meeting.

Sincerely,



Robert Owen, Co-Chair
CSG Midwestern Radioactive Materials
Transportation Committee



Jane Beetem, Co-Chair
CSG Midwestern Radioactive Materials
Transportation Committee

cc: Ella McNeil