

August 10, 2007

Edward Sproat  
Director, Office of Civilian Radioactive Waste Management  
U.S. Department of Energy  
1000 Independence Avenue, S.W.  
Washington, DC 20585

Dear Mr. Sproat:

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, we had a lengthy discussion of OCRWM's draft National Transportation Plan. Shortly after the meeting, the Midwest received a copy of the draft plan for review. We appreciate the opportunity to contribute our feedback early in the process of developing the transportation plan. Our review will include assessing whether the provisions in the draft plan are consistent with the Midwest's recommendations in our *Planning Guide for Shipments of Radioactive Materials through the Midwestern States*. We understand that this plan will be complemented eventually by more campaign-specific transportation plans. We hope OCRWM will make use of the valuable lessons learned by the foreign research reactor program and the regional route identification projects as these campaign-specific plans are developed.

Second, the states were very interested to learn about the status of the Section 180c policy and procedures. We are pleased that OCRWM finally published the draft on July 23. As you know, the states in the Midwest were very much involved in developing the "discussion papers" that formed the basis of the original draft of the policy and procedures. Our states are now in the process of comparing the published draft to the original joint work done by DOE and the regions. We look forward to submitting our comments to your office in October.

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Third, having completed our own project to identify preliminary routes, we are gratified to see OCRWM placing so much emphasis on developing preliminary routes to Yucca Mountain. The Routing Topic Group of the TEC Working Group is an important forum for generating stakeholder feedback on the selection of routes. Progress with this group has been slow to date, as is understandable given the complexity of the task. We are confident that, with clear direction and with momentum coming from the TEC/WG meeting in Kansas City, we will see some significant accomplishments in the coming year.

We appreciate OCRWM'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: Gary Lanthrum