



Department of Energy

Washington, DC 20585

JAN 22 2002

Mr. Frank H. Moussa
Kansas, Chair, CSG Midwestern High-Level
Radioactive Waste Committee
The Council of State Governments
P.O. Box 981
Sheboygan, WI 53082-0981

Dear Mr. Moussa:

Thank you for your December 11, 2001 letter to Secretary Abraham reporting the points of consensus identified at a joint meeting of the Midwestern, Northeastern and Southern regions, held on October 23-24, 2001.

The Department of Energy has adopted a consistent approach to coordinating with states on shipment planning by developing cross-cutting transportation protocols, as noted in your letter. You asked that we expedite the process for implementing these protocols. The Department is working as quickly as possible to implement the Transportation protocols. They have been internally reviewed by the Department and an update on the status of these protocols will be provided during the Transportation External Coordination Working Group (TEC/WG) meeting on January 29-30, 2002, in New Orleans, Louisiana.

The Department appreciates your comments regarding the Environmental Management National Transportation Program (NTP) progress in working cooperatively with states. The NTP will continue to work with your regional groups and provide support to our programs and sites to ensure a consistent approach to transportation.

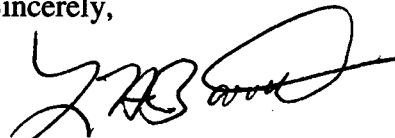
You urged that in 2002, the Office of Civilian Radioactive Waste Management (OCRWM) begin working in earnest to resume public information activities, develop a national transportation system for shipping commercial spent nuclear fuel, and re-establish the cooperative agreements with the regions and other groups. If Yucca Mountain is designated as a repository, work on transportation-related efforts will greatly increase. Until the site recommendation process is completed, the Program's focus will be on development of documents to assist in the decision on the Site Recommendation.



In fiscal year 2003, we requested funding to further develop the Nuclear Waste Policy Act, Section 180(c) policy and procedures, and the market-based strategy for national transportation. OCRWM will still continue to participate in TEC/WG meetings and expects to issue a draft revised Scope of Work for waste acceptance and transportation services. In order to have a consistent DOE approach, OCRWM and the Office of Environmental Management will work together in interactions with states and tribes and the regions.

The Nation is faced with enormous challenges in addressing the need for safe transportation and disposal of spent nuclear fuel, high-level radioactive waste and transuranic waste. The Department appreciates your interest in this important national effort and will continue to work with you regarding the transportation of radioactive waste.

Sincerely,



Lake H. Barrett, Acting Director
Office of Civilian Radioactive
Waste Management

cc: Mr. Elgan H. Usrey, Tennessee, Chair, SSEB Radioactive Materials
Transportation Committee
Mr. Thomas Hughes, Pennsylvania, Co-Chair, CSG Northeast High-
Level Radioactive Waste Transportation Task Force
Ms. Sandra J. Threat, South Carolina, Chair, SSEB Transuranic Waste
Transportation Working Group
Dr. Edward Wilds, Jr., Connecticut, Co-Chair, CSG Northeast High-Level
Radioactive Waste Transportation Task Force