



June 21, 2002

Charles L. Miller
Spent Fuel Project Office
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
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Washington, DC 20555-0001

The Council of
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**MIDWESTERN
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Regional Director
Michael H. McCabe

Dear Dr. Miller:

I am writing on behalf of the Midwestern Radioactive Materials Transportation Committee to follow up on two points raised at the June 19th meeting of the Southern States Energy Board's radioactive materials transportation committees. Both points pertain to the NRC's package performance study, which you addressed during your presentation.

Lexington
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First, on the subject of full-scale testing, Mr. Elgan Usrey from Tennessee objected to the NRC's plan to test a shipping cask "to failure," or rather to the point of deforming the lid. Mr. Usrey expressed his concern that, by causing the cask to fail, the NRC would undermine public confidence in the ability of the shipping casks to protect their contents in the event of an accident.

New York
5 World Trade Center
Suite 9241
New York, New York 10048-0912
Tel: 212/912-0128

Mr. Usrey noted that the regional groups had all gone on record in support of full-scale testing, but had not endorsed testing to failure. It is true that the Midwestern committee has repeatedly urged DOE's Office of Civilian Radioactive Waste Management (OCRWM) to conduct full-scale testing of the shipping casks it intends to use; however, the committee has never addressed the specific protocols or conditions under which the full-scale testing should be conducted. The committee's hope was to be involved in developing the test protocols if OCRWM were ever to commit to full-scale testing.

San Francisco
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The NRC is, in essence, doing what the Midwestern committee had asked OCRWM to do. Having the regulator conduct the test is, we believe, a better approach than having OCRWM do so. We applaud the NRC's decision to conduct full-scale testing, and we look forward to working with you and your staff on this important initiative.

Washington
444 North Capitol Street
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Dr. Charles Miller

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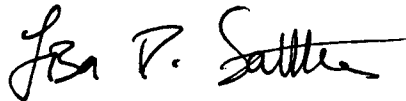
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Second, I would like to express the Midwestern region's strong support for the suggestion, made by Ms. Jozette Booth, that the NRC hold at least one of the three public meetings in a location more central than Washington, DC, or Nevada. The corridor states are key stakeholders in spent fuel transportation issues, therefore it is important to make it as easy as possible for these states to attend the public meetings. We suggest Chicago as a central, easily accessible location. We hope you will consider either moving one of the Nevada meetings or adding a fourth meeting to be held in Chicago or some other more central location.

The Midwestern Radioactive Materials Transportation Committee appreciates the work that the NRC is doing with regard to package performance testing. We look forward to the opportunity to have input into this project.

Please feel free to contact me at 920-803-9976 if you have any questions. Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lisa R. Sattler". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal line extending from the end of the name.

Lisa R. Sattler
Senior Policy Analyst
Midwestern Office