



## Department of Energy

Washington, DC 20585

December 16, 2002

Mr. Timothy A. Runyon, Chief  
Division of Environmental Monitoring  
Illinois Department of Nuclear Safety and  
Chair, CSG Midwestern Radioactive Materials  
Transportation Subcommittee  
641 East Butterfield Road  
Suite 401  
Lombard, Illinois 60148-5651

Dear Mr. Runyon:

Thank you for your November 18, 2002, letter expressing the concerns of the Council of State Governments' Midwestern Office (CSG-MW) regarding the Office of Environmental Management's (EM) transportation activities. We understand the need of the States to be able to communicate planned shipping activities with elected officials and to demonstrate to the public that the Department of Energy's (DOE) transportation of radioactive materials and waste is accomplished in a safe and secure manner. The DOE is committed to working closely with the appropriate Federal, State and Tribal officials to ensure these shipments are completed safely and securely, and that law enforcement and emergency preparedness professionals are adequately prepared for incident response.

For transportation planning, EM will continue to follow the DOE's transportation requirements. On September 23, 2002, the Secretary issued the *Radioactive Material Transportation Practices Manual*. The Manual is a collaborative effort that took place within the DOE and involved State and Tribal representatives to establish a standard set of practices for the planning and execution of radioactive material shipments. The Manual uses a graded approach to address the planning and execution of the radioactive materials and wastes transportation activities, including the development of transportation plans and consultation and coordination with the affected States and Tribes along the transportation corridor. In addition, we are working with the Nuclear Regulatory Commission and the Department of Transportation to address transportation security concerns that have evolved to enhance security and safeguard measures.

The events of 9/11 have caused EM to change or reevaluate its current transportation activities. All shipping activities were halted after 9/11, and shipments began on an exception basis, with approval from the lead program office. EM has chosen to review and approve the planned monthly shipments

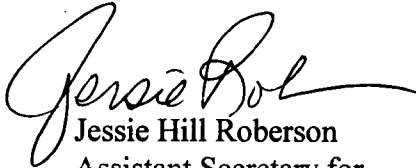


from its shipping sites. EM considers these shipments as routine activities and maintains approval of these shipments to have a better understanding of the volume of material that is planned to be in transit during a given time period.

EM will continue to follow the Manual for all of its shipping activities. EM has successfully conducted "highly visible" shipments with the support of regional planning. Through the years and the successful campaigns, the planning process has matured and has adapted to capitalize on shared experiences, incorporated comments from the Federal agencies, States and Tribes, and implemented lessons learned resulting in continuous improvements for a more efficient and secure process. This is what was meant by the term "transition from event planning." EM is committed to regional transportation planning and working with the States and Tribes to address their concerns.

If you have further questions, please call me at (202) 586-7709 or Ms. Patrice Bubar, Associate Deputy Assistant Secretary for Integration and Disposition, at (202) 586-5151.

Sincerely,



Jessie Hill Roberson  
Assistant Secretary for  
Environmental Management