

November 11, 2005



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The Honorable James Rispoli
Assistant Secretary of Energy for Environmental Management
U. S. Department of Energy
1000 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20585

Dear Assistant Secretary Rispoli:

During the last five years, the U. S. Department of Energy worked with state representatives from throughout the nation as well as other stakeholders in the development of protocols to be followed in the transportation of various radioactive materials and waste. These protocols were codified in September 2002 as the DOE's "Radioactive Material Transportation Practices Manual", which is attached to DOE Order 460.2.

At last month's Pueblo, Colorado meeting of the Transportation External Coordination Working Group (TEC/WG) it was announced that the Office of Environmental Management (EM) would be taking the lead in the process to revise the manual to incorporate recent changes which have occurred since its codification. The State Regional Groups (SRGs) feel that this revision is likely to be more extensive than a simple document update and believe that state representatives and other stakeholders should be fully engaged in this process.

In a September 1, 2005 letter to Deputy Assistant Secretary Marcinowski we requested that EM reconstitute the Protocols Topic Group of the TEC/WG. It was through this topic group that the states and other stakeholders were involved in the development of the Existing Transportation Practices Manual. The purpose of this letter is to strongly reiterate that request. Not only will the substantive involvement of stakeholders in the process to revise the manual lead to a more effective, useful, and accepted product (as it did when the manual was first developed), but it will also save DOE time in the long run by fostering consensus as the process develops and by eliminating the need for DOE to defend changes made without the buy-in of the states.

Because of the importance of this manual, the SRGs recommend strongly that your Office fully engage the states and other stakeholders in its revision and direct the re-establishment of the Protocols Topic Group within the TEC/WG.

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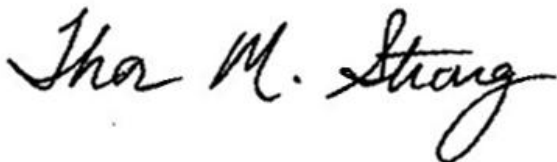
Sincerely,



Ken Niles
Oregon Office of Energy and Co-Chair, WIEB
High-Level Radioactive Waste Committee



Joseph Strolin
Nevada Agency for Nuclear Projects and Co-
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Michigan Department of Environmental
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