September 7, 2005

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

Dear Mr. Golan:

We understand that the U.S. Department of Energy is beginning the process of updating its Radioactive Materials Transportation Practices Manual (DOE M 460.2-1). This Manual establishes standard transportation protocols that outline how DOE plans and executes offsite shipments of radioactive materials and waste, to include shipments of spent nuclear fuel and high-level waste under the Nuclear Waste Policy Act.

The Southern, Midwestern and Western states have worked together in recent months to identify their collective recommendations on how the Transportation Practices Manual should be applied to shipments under the Nuclear Waste Policy Act. These recommendations are attached. We request that these comments be incorporated into the updated Transportation Practices Manual.

As you know, the original Transportation Practices Manual was developed through the Protocols Topic Group of the Transportation External Coordination Working Group. This Topic Group directly engaged the states and other stakeholders in working with DOE to develop a set of transportation practices that was agreeable to all parties. The Southern, Midwestern and Western states feel that the success of the Transportation Practices Manual is due in large part to this extensive stakeholder involvement. We have requested that DOE’s Environmental Management program – which is leading the review of this document – re-establish the Protocols Topic Group to directly involve the states and other stakeholders in revising this important document.
If you have any questions about the states’ expectations for Nuclear Waste Policy Act shipments, please contact one of us.

Sincerely,

Michael Cash
Alabama Department of Public Health and Chairman, SSEB Radioactive Materials Transportation Committee

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

Joseph Strolin
Nevada Agency for Nuclear Projects and Co-Chair, WIEB High-Level Radioactive Waste Committee

Thor Strong
Michigan Department of Environmental Quality and Chair, CSG Midwestern Radioactive Materials Transportation Committee

Enclosure

cc: Frank Marcinowski
Gary Lanthurm
Dennis Ashworth
Judith Holm
Ella McNeil