



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

December 1, 1999

Mr. Leonard J. Fiorenzi, Director
Nuclear Waste Program, Eureka County
Yucca Mountain Information Office
P.O. Box 714
Eureka NV 89316

SUBJECT: LETTER OF ACKNOWLEDGMENT REGARDING INVITATION TO MODAL
STUDY MEETING(S)

Dear Mr. Fiorenzi:

Thank you for your letter dated November 19, 1999, regarding your participation in the public meetings focused on the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission's (NRC) upcoming study on severe transportation accidents involving spent fuel packages. We value Eureka County's participation in this project. We regret that you will not be able to attend the December 1999 meetings in Nevada and hope that we can work together to ensure your involvement in this area. We understand that you and your staff are involved in meetings with the U.S. Department of Energy and will be better able to participate in Transportation Package Performance meetings after February 2000.

As discussed with Ms. Abby Johnson of your staff, a contractor report on the recent efforts to evaluate the relative risks for transporting spent fuel is scheduled to be issued around February 2000. As you know, NRC is soliciting input on issues that should be considered in the upcoming study. NRC plans on issuing a contractor report summarizing the issues that the study will address in the Spring of 2000. NRC plans on holding another series of public meetings following publication of these two reports and to open a dialogue on the study content and approach. We will work with Ms. Johnson to coordinate scheduling of these meetings and to ensure that Eureka County will be able to participate in future meetings.

In the meantime, we invite you to monitor the status of our efforts as we continue our dialogue with our stakeholders and to provide us with any comments you may have at this time. We have established a website which will contain reference documents, meeting transcripts, and a forum for you to submit comments. The website address is: <http://ttd.sandia.gov/nrc/modal.htm>. In addition, we will add you and Ms. Johnson to our mailing list for any newly issued publications or notifications of meetings related to the Transportation Packaging Study. There are several ways to express your views on our progress: 1) you can e-mail us through the website; 2) you can send us your comments; and 3) you can contact either Mr. Robert Lewis of my staff at (301) 415-8527, or Mr. Chip Cameron, our meeting facilitator at (301) 415-1642. Any comments you provide will be considered in developing the contractor report. As I noted above, the contractor report itself will be the subject of public meetings to be held next year.

L. J. Fiorenzi

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Thank you for your interest in the Transportation Package Performance Study.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "E. William Brach". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "E" and a long, sweeping underline.

E. William Brach, Director
Spent Fuel Project Office
Office of Nuclear Material Safety
and Safeguards

cc: F. Cameron, OGC
L. Deering, ACNW
A. Johnson, Eureka County
W. Reamer, DWM
S. Droggitis, OSP