



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION 2
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Dr. Ines R. Triay
Acting Assistant Secretary
Office of Environmental Management
U.S. Department of Energy
1000 Constitution Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20585

Dear Dr. Triay:

It has come to our attention that the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) is considering an initiative, "Reduction of EM Footprint and Establishment of Energy Parks." It is our understanding that this effort would focus cleanup activities on decontamination and demolition of excess contaminated facilities, soil and groundwater remediation, all of which have proven technologies and an established regulatory framework. The footprint reduction plan effort would allow the utilization of resources such as: large, secure tracts of land; state-of-the-art facilities and technologies; and a highly trained and experienced work force. It is our further understanding that the West Valley Demonstration Project (WVDP) is under consideration for additional funding of approximately \$25 million per year as part of this initiative should it be implemented.

We would like to provide our support to the portion of this initiative that would include the WVDP and provide any increased funding. As you are aware, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Region 2 Office has worked with the DOE and other involved Federal and New York State Agencies to draft a preferred alternative for the decommissioning and decontamination (D&D) of the WVDP and that a draft environmental statement has been published in December 2008 and a decommissioning plan is being finalized with the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission. It is our opinion that not only does the WVDP lend itself to this footprint reduction plan, but it is unique in that it has "shovel ready" work. With these additional resources DOE could accelerate the D&D of this site by effecting the removal and disposal of remaining liquids and sludge in four radioactive waste tanks, as well as relocating the high-level radioactive waste canisters on site so the D&D of the WVDP's Main Process Building could begin which would also allow accelerated treatment of a Strontium-90 groundwater plume that underlies the site.

It is our opinion, as a member of the WVDP Core Team, that these tasks are scoped and ready for funding. If additional funding was made available it could be obligated immediately for the purposes mentioned above. By definition, the WVDP effort has been "state-of-the-art" in technology development and the work force to continue and accelerate cleanup efforts is both highly trained and experienced.

The benefit in reducing the DOE's environmental footprint is easily seen from the DOE WVDP presentation recently made entitled "What a Difference a Year Makes" a copy of which I have enclosed.

It is our hope that should the DOE pursue this footprint reduction and resources become available for its funding, the WVDP portion be moved to the head of the list for consideration for both environmental and economic reasons. Thank you for the cooperative spirit in which you have pursued this cleanup effort at West Valley.

Sincerely,



George Pavlou
Acting Regional Administrator

enclosure