



The Under Secretary of Energy

Washington, DC 20585

September 14, 2006



Mr. Peter R. Smith
President and Chief Executive Officer
New York State Energy Research and
Development Authority
17 Columbia Circle
Albany, New York 12203-6399

Dear Mr. Smith: *Peter:*

It was good to see you at the Texas A&M University energy event. I am writing to respond to your June 22 and August 28, 2006, letters regarding cleanup of the West Valley site in New York.

I regret the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority's (NYSERDA) decision to decline the Department of Energy's (DOE) request that NYSERDA participate in a core team process with other regulatory agencies to resolve issues related to the ongoing *West Valley Environmental Impact Statement*. The DOE firmly believes the core team process will serve as an effective mechanism to resolve concerns with the National Environmental Policy Act process. We will continue to offer NYSERDA opportunities to engage in the environmental analysis and decision making processes regarding West Valley cleanup.

If you have any further questions, please contact me at (202) 586-7700 or Mr. Frank Marcinowski, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Regulatory Compliance, Office of Environmental Management, at (202) 586-0370.

Sincerely,

David K. Garman



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