



Department of Energy

Washington, DC 20585

March 31, 2004

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

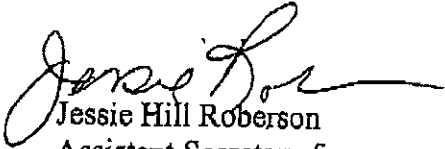
Dear Mr. Smith:

This is in response to your February 13, 2004, letter that communicated the views of the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA) on cleanup issues at the West Valley Demonstration Project (WVDP) located in western New York State. The Secretary of Energy has directed the site to accelerate cleanup of those areas of the WVDP for which there is agreement between the Federal Government and the State of New York.

The West Valley Demonstration Project Act (Act) of 1980 establishes the requirements and authorities under which the Department of Energy (DOE) and NYSERDA are to meet their respective responsibilities at West Valley. Our accelerated closure strategy meets the requirements of the Act; meets the decommissioning requirements prescribed by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission; and protects both the public and the environment. It is our intention to complete these requirements within the next few years, with the exception of transporting the high-level waste canisters to a Federal repository. When the repository is available and New York State has paid the disposal fee required by the Nuclear Waste Policy Act, DOE will transport the canisters and...

If you have any further questions, please call me at (202) 586-7709 or Mr. Eugene C. Schmitt, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Environmental Cleanup and Acceleration, at (202) 586-0755.

Sincerely,


Jessie Hill Roberson
Assistant Secretary for
Environmental Management