

June 22, 2006

Alan J. Steinberg, Regional Administrator  
Environmental Protection Agency  
Region 2  
290 Broadway  
New York, New York 10007-1866

Dear Mr. Steinberg:

I am writing to express the appreciation of the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA) for your participation in the West Valley Regulators' meeting held June 15 in New York City. Your presentation of EPA's preferred alternative proposal is a positive development that could lead to resolution of important outstanding issues at West Valley.

As we understand your proposal, it is based on the premise that the only way to meet RCRA requirements for the North Plateau facilities is to "clean-close" those facilities. This would involve:

- Exhuming and removing the four high-level waste tanks
- Removing the Process Building
- Removing the source of the North Plateau groundwater plume
- Removing all contamination in excess of derived concentration guidelines for unrestricted release

The outer portion of the groundwater plume would be allowed to decay in place and the South Plateau disposal facilities would be managed in place.

NYSERDA believes that this proposal could not only resolve many of the technical issues that are hampering progress on the West Valley environmental impact statement, but could also form a solid groundwork for discussions between NYSERDA and the Department of Energy (DOE) that, in turn, could lead to resolution of difficult issues concerning responsibilities for the West Valley cleanup.

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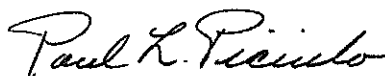
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As a result of the meeting, NYSERDA understands that DOE staff will be presenting the EPA proposal to DOE senior management for their consideration. We hope to hear soon that DOE also views the EPA proposal in a positive light and will engage in serious discussions to begin implementation.

Thank you again for the time and effort you have given to this matter.

Sincerely,

WEST VALLEY SITE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM



Paul L. Piciulo, Ph.D., Director

HB/amd

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