



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION 2
290 BROADWAY
NEW YORK, NY 10007-1866

OCT 24 2006

Bryan C. Bower, Director
West Valley Demonstration Project
U.S. Department of Energy
10282 Rock Springs Road
West Valley, NY 14171-9799



Dear Mr. Bower:

Thank you for your letter of October 19, 2006 inviting our participation in the Core Team for the Decommissioning and/or Long Term Stewardship Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the West Valley site.

We wrote to you about this matter on August 22, and I discussed it with you by telephone on October 19. You are therefore aware of our position: we will be pleased to participate in the Core Team process *provided* that the question of the high-level waste tanks and development of a preferred alternative are taken up first and the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority is involved. To date we have not been advised that the Department of Energy has agreed to this approach, and so we respectfully decline the invitation at this time.

Sincerely,

Paul A. Giardina, Chief
Radiation and Indoor Air Branch

cc: Keith I. McConnell, U.S. NRC
Edwin Dassatti, NYS DEC
Gary Baker, NYS DOH
Paul Picuilo, NYSERDA