



Department of Energy

Washington, DC 20585

December 5, 2006



Mr. Ray Vaughan
West Valley Citizen Task Force
c/o Melinda Holland
Holland & Associates
31 Bessie Lane
Columbus, NC 28722

Dear Mr. Vaughan:

Thank you for your October 30, 2006, letter on behalf of the West Valley Citizen Task Force. We appreciate your perspective on clean up of the West Valley site. As you noted, it is a complex site. We believe the best way to manage that complexity, and the varying view points it can engender, is to ensure that clean up decisions are based on thorough technical analysis.

As you know, we have instituted a Core Team process to resolve issues of mutual interest to West Valley's stakeholders. The Core Team approach is a formalized, consensus-based process in which individuals with decision-making authority work collaboratively to reach agreement on technical issues. It is envisioned that erosion, long-term performance assessment, reprocessing waste tank source term, the North Plateau groundwater plume characteristics and technical issues related to the on-site licensed disposal areas will be among those issues addressed through the Core Team process.

We invited the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA) to participate in the Core Team process and, although NYSEDA has not formally agreed to join, it did participate in the first Core Team meeting on November 2, 2006, as an observer. We continue to hope that NYSEDA will ultimately become a full participant in the Core Team process, which we believe will serve as an important tool for maintaining effective communications between our agencies.



Regarding the specific recommendations in your letter, the Department of Energy pledges to complete accurate technical analyses that can be used to make the necessary site cleanup decisions. If you have any questions, please contact me or Mr. Frank Marcinowski, Director, Office of Regulatory Compliance, at (202) 586-0370.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Charles E. Anderson". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the typed name.

Charles E. Anderson (Acting for)
Assistant Secretary for
Environmental Management

cc: U.S. Senator Hillary R. Clinton
U.S. Senator Charles Schumer
U.S. Representative Brian M. Higgins
U.S. Representative John R. Kuhl, Jr.
U.S. Representative Thomas M. Reynolds
U.S. Representative Louise M. Slaughter
New York State Governor George E. Pataki
Catharine M. Young, New York State Senate
Joseph Giglio, New York State Assembly
Bryan C. Bower, DOE Director, West Valley Demonstration Project
Dr. Paul L. Piciulo, Director, West Valley Site Management Program,
NYSERDA
Paul Giardina, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Chad Glenn, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Stephen Hammond, New York State Department of Environmental
Conservation
Peter R. Smith, New York State Energy Research & Development Authority