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July 29, 1996

Ms. Corinne Macaluso
 U.S. Department of Energy
 c/o Lois Smith
 TRW Environmental Safety Systems, Inc.
 600 Maryland Avenue, SW
 Suite 695
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 ATTN: Section 180(c) Comments

The Council of
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Dear Ms. Macaluso:

On behalf of the Midwestern High-Level Radioactive Waste Committee, I am writing to request that DOE extend the deadline for commenting on the Notice of Proposed Policy and Procedures, Safe Transportation and Emergency Response Training, Technical Assistance, and Funding (61 FR 96; May 16, 1996).

DOE has acknowledged that the transportation component of the Civilian Radioactive Waste Management System may, more than any other aspect of this program, receive the most widespread public attention. The majority of shipments from commercial nuclear reactors to a repository will go through the Midwest. Because states are one of the primary stakeholders to be affected by DOE's implementation of Section 180(c), and because the implementation of Section 180(c) is one of the most important issues the Midwestern committee has been working on since its inception, the committee respectfully requests a 45-day extension of the comment period.

The extension would give committee members and committee staff the extra time during the busy summer months to craft the best possible response to the notice. The committee is also currently analyzing all possible transportation routes to a repository. This analysis may affect comments on Section 180(c) policy and procedures from the Midwestern states. We believe that extending the comment period will improve the quality of the input provided by the Midwestern states, which represents a significant group of stakeholders in terms of number, expertise, and vested interest.

Thank you for considering this request. I look forward to your reply. If you have any questions, please contact Carol Ann Kania at 708/810-0210.

Sincerely,

David J. Crose,
 Director, Technological Hazards,
 Indiana Emergency Management Agency and
 Chairman, Midwestern High-Level Radioactive
 Waste Committee

DJC/cak



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