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 viewpoints 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 NYSERDA 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 NYSERDA 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,

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