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## NRC CHAIRMAN SIGNS MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WITH U.S. NUCLEAR WASTE NEGOTIATOR

Nuclear Regulatory Commission Chairman Ivan Selin and David H. Leroy, U.S. Nuclear Waste Negotiator, have signed a Memorandum of Understanding which establishes a working relationship between the NRC and the Office of the Nuclear Waste Negotiator (OWFN).

It assures a timely flow of information between the parties, provides the OWFN with such NRC services, facilities and personnel as the Commission determines to be appropriate and maintains each party's independence.

The Office of the Nuclear Waste Negotiator is an independent office in the Executive Branch established to find States or Indian Tribes willing to negotiate regarding the siting of a monitored retrievable storage facility or a permanent repository within their jurisdictions as part of an integrated management system for the disposal of spent nuclear fuel and high-level radioactive waste.

Under the terms of the Nuclear Waste Policy Amendments Act of 1987, which amended the Nuclear Waste Policy Act of 1982, each department, agency and instrumentality of the United States may furnish the Negotiator such information as he deems necessary to carry out the functions of his office and that the Negotiator may use the services, personnel and facilities of other Federal agencies with the consent of the head of any such agency.

The scope of the NRC's activity generally will be limited to pre-licensing consultations and discussion with the OWFN, a potential applicant or a potential host State or Indian Tribe. Information provided by the NRC can be used by the OWFN, at its option, in carrying out its responsibilities under the Nuclear Waste Policy Amendments Act and it is contemplated that all information requested and provided would be available to the public.

Subsequent Memoranda of Understanding between the parties addressing specific procedures and relations regarding other provisions of the Act may be entered into at a later date.

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