The Secretary of Energy Washington, DC 20585

July 10, 1997

Mr. Paul Leventhal Nuclear Control Institute 1000 Connecticut Ave. NW, Suite 804 Washington, D.C. 20036

Dear Mr. Leventhal:

This is in response to <u>your May 20, 1997, letter</u> concerning the potential participation of the Commonwealth Edison Company in the Department of Energy's program to provide for disposition of surplus plutonium through the use of mixed oxide (MOX) fuel.

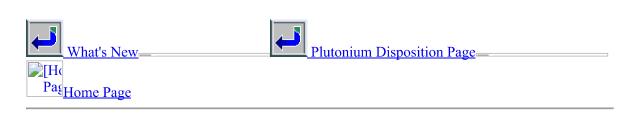
The Department has prepared a Program Acquisition Strategy for MOX fuel fabrication and irradiation services with the intention of seeking comments from potential offerors and other interested parties. However, it has not issued a Request for Proposals for participation in the MOX program, and Commonwealth Edison has not submitted a proposal. Consequently, it would be premature for the Department to determine or even comment on the appropriateness of any particular utility's prospective participation in the MOX program.

You have my assurance that matters such as those raised in your letter will be considered by the Department at the appropriate time in the procurement process for MOX fuel irradiation services.

Thank you very much for your interest in this important program.

Sincerely,

Federico Peña



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