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Appendix 9 (a)

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September 2, 2005

Ms. Lillian Trapper
Nuclear Waste Dialogue Manager
Assembly of First Nations
1 Nicholas Street, Suite 1002
Ottawa, Ontario
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Original on file

Dear Lillian:

This letter is to formally acknowledge receipt of your Working Group Meeting # 3 Report as well as your letter of June 30 which includes a preliminary comment on our Draft Study Report.

I understand that a resolution regarding the nuclear waste issue was passed at the AFN Annual Assembly in early July and a letter addressing the resolution will be forthcoming from you shortly.

I have also been informed about the e-mail that Tony Hodge sent you on August 24th in which he raises a number of important issues to discuss with you and your colleagues at AFN.

The AFN Nuclear Dialogue that we have supported has been an important source of learning for us and I am very appreciative of the huge challenge that it has represented. You and your team have produced some significant insights for which I am very grateful. I must admit my disappointment on a number of fronts:

1. That you have chosen to not provide comment on the Draft Study Report – your study of the issue began over a year before publication of the Report and many elements of the Draft Study Report summarized what we had been well discussed throughout that dialogue process.
2. Your concern that our process did not encompass formal "consultation." We have never claimed that our dialogue was "formal consultation." We have always described it as dialogue and a means to mutually share and learn.
3. Your discomfort with the breadth of our Aboriginal Dialogue and the fact that we have reached too many elements that are often marginalized in this country. We believe that such inclusivity is consistent with the values that Canadians hold dear.
4. And lastly, your assertion that NWMO has been working in bad faith (Working Group Report No. 3, page 6) is an allegation that I take very seriously. I would certainly like to hear more about the substance of this allegation.

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I am very anxious to work with the AFN over the years to come and I look forward to doing so in a way that works for all concerned. To that end, I asked Tony to approach you and your colleagues so that these kinds of concerns can be fully discussed and addressed in the immediate future. I believe he has already contacted you in this regard.

Again, I wish to signal my appreciation for the hard work of you and your AFN team

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Dowdeswell
President