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Re: *In the Matter of the United States Department of Energy and the Regents of the University of California, Los Alamos, New Mexico, Nos. HRM-98-01(CO), HRM-98-02(CO) & HRM-98-03(CO)*

Dear Counsel

The three above-captioned cases have been filed with my office. It seems to me that consolidation of these cases for hearing would be appropriate. Although I have signed Stipulated Orders in the first two of the cases, none of the orders have been for consolidation. If the parties agree that consolidation would be appropriate, I would appreciate it if one of you would prepare a motion and an order, or if you prefer, just a stipulated order to that effect and submit it to me for entry as soon as possible.

I also would appreciate some indication of when the parties would like the hearing to be scheduled. I understand that settlement discussions may be underway, and I certainly encourage that. At the same time, however, I prefer to have a hearing scheduled within a reasonable time, so that there will not be inordinate delay if the cases are not settled.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

Weldon L. Merritt
Hearing Officer



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