



Celebrating 50 Years in Nuclear Materials Management

August 20, 2008

Mr. Charles B. Curtis
President and Chief Operating Officer
Nuclear Threat Initiative
1747 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, 7th Floor
Washington, DC 20006

Dear Mr. Curtis:

The project we have worked on together to develop a World Institute for Nuclear Security (WINS) is nearing completion. WINS will provide a unique international forum for security professionals associated with the nuclear industry to meet and share good practice. The Institute of Nuclear Materials Management (INMM) strongly supports the WINS mission of providing an international forum for security professionals associated with the nuclear industry to meet and share their best practices. INMM is proud of our role in development of the WINS concept and we look forward to a continuing partnership with NTI in support of WINS and strengthened international nuclear security.

For the benefit of future INMM leaders, I believe it would be valuable to record the major milestones in the development of the WINS concept so we can document why we began this project and why we believe continuing INMM support of WINS is important.

All who were present recall your opening plenary address at the July 2005 Annual Meeting of the Institute in which you appealed to INMM members to play a larger role in the world's number-one nuclear security imperative: preventing nuclear terrorism. You challenged us to "help define and disseminate best practices so we can secure nuclear materials and keep them out of terrorists' hands" through the creation of an organization that would improve the security of nuclear materials globally.

Following your address, we formed an ad hoc committee of INMM Fellows, who within two months outlined the key features of the WINS organization. In January 2006, NTI shared the WINS proposal with DOE/NNSA, which endorsed the INMM proposal in principle, contingent upon acceptance by the international community.

At the March 2006 INMM Executive Committee meeting a WINS Coordinating Committee was formed, comprised of representatives of INMM, NTI, and DOE, to oversee development of the WINS concept and coordinate further outreach to the international community. At the same time, the Executive Committee established a Steering Committee of INMM Fellows, including international members, to provide advice on WINS developments.

A series of WINS Coordinating Committee workshops with international partners led to the agreement to pursue the WINS concept. A business plan and path forward were developed, drawing heavily on key elements of the recommendations made by the original, 2005 ad hoc Fellows committee. In his closing plenary address at the 2008 INMM Annual Meeting titled, "WINS—From Concept to Reality," NTI consultant Roger Howsley provided a suitable final chapter to the story of our WINS development efforts.

We look forward to WINS' birth in the near future, and to forging appropriate links between WINS and INMM that will continue to improve nuclear security. In the meantime, INMM will maintain its efforts to collect best practices from its meetings and workshops and make them available to WINS and the wider nuclear materials management community.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Nancy Jo Nicholas". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Nancy Jo Nicholas
INMM President