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UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

February 29, 2000

CHAIRMAN

The Honorable Albert J. Gore, Jr.
President of the United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Mr. President:

I am forwarding our "Report to Congress on Abnormal Occurrences Fiscal Year 1999" for events at nuclear facilities. This report is required by Section 208 of the Energy Reorganization Act of 1974 (Public Law 93-438). In the context of the act, an abnormal occurrence (AO) is an unscheduled incident or event that the Commission determines to be significant from the standpoint of public health or safety. The Federal Reports Elimination and Sunset Act of 1995 (Public Law 104-66) requires that AOs be reported to Congress annually.

The report addresses four AOs at facilities licensed or otherwise regulated by NRC. One event involved a fire that breached containment and required shutdown of a portion of the cascade at the Portsmouth gaseous diffusion plant. Two medical events involved the administration of radioactive material to pregnant women and one event involved a sodium iodide misadministration. The report also addresses nine AOs at facilities licensed by Agreement States. Agreement States are those States that have entered into a formal agreement with NRC pursuant to Section 274 of the Atomic Energy Act (AEA) to regulate certain quantities of AEA material at facilities located within their borders. Currently, there are 31 Agreement States. One of the Agreement State AOs involved the administration of radioactive material to a pregnant woman, two involved overexposures of an occupational worker and a member of the public at industrial radiography operations, two involved gamma stereotactic radiosurgery misadministrations, three involved therapeutic radiopharmaceutical misadministrations, and one involved a sodium iodide misadministration.

Sincerely,

Richard A. Meserve

Enclosure: "Report to Congress on Abnormal
Occurrences Fiscal Year 1999"

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NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

February 29, 2000

CHAIRMAN

The Honorable J. Dennis Hastert
Speaker of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

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