

May 1, 2000

The Honorable Marc Racicot
Governor of Montana
Helena, Montana 59620

Dear Governor Racicot:

In 1976, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) adopted a recommendation from several State organizations, including the National Governors' Association, that we request each State to appoint a single person to act as liaison to NRC for the purpose of improving Federal/State cooperation. The NRC looks to the Governor-appointed State Liaison Officers to provide a communication channel between the States and the NRC, to be the key person in the State to keep the Governor completely informed on nuclear regulatory and related public health and safety matters, and to provide NRC with answers to questions posed to the States on particular issues.

I am writing to request the continued participation of the State of Montana in the NRC's State Liaison Officer program. It is my understanding that the most recent State Liaison Officer, George Eicholtz, Coordinator, Radiological Health Program, Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services, has left his position. The individual you select to perform this function should be a State official who can communicate effectively with other State agencies on issues related to the regulation of radioactive materials. We will keep you informed of our programs and activities through this individual. At the same time, we will continue to work with various individuals in State agencies with whom we have established relationships on specific issues.

The Commission looks forward to the continued participation by the State of Montana in the NRC's State Liaison Officer program. If you or your staff have any questions or wish additional information, please contact Paul H. Lohaus, Director of NRC's Office of State and Tribal Programs in Headquarters at 301-415-3340 or Charles A. Hackney, our Region IV State Liaison Officer, at 817-860-8267.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Richard A. Meserve