

September 29, 2000

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

Dear Mr. Speaker:

I am pleased to transmit the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission's (NRC's) Fiscal Year 2000-2005 Strategic Plan, which was prepared in accordance with the Government Performance and Results Act of 1993 (GPRA). The plan describes how the NRC intends to accomplish its mission. Part One summarizes strategic and performance goals, and their associated strategies, and sets measures to gauge performance. Part Two is the Strategic Plan Appendix, which provides additional material required by the GPRA and Office of Management and Budget Circular A-11.

The NRC FY 2000-2005 Strategic Plan is the first update to the agency's initial strategic plan, which we provided on September 30, 1997. NRC's highest priority continues to be protection of public health and safety, and the performance goals focus attention on the achievement of this priority. The Commission also recognizes, however, that to be a successful regulator we must consider the effects of our decisions on the public and the industries we regulate. Therefore, the performance goals also include making our activities and decisions more effective and efficient, reducing unnecessary regulatory burden, and enhancing public confidence.

In August 1999, the NRC released the draft Nuclear Reactor Safety chapter of its strategic plan to stakeholders for comment. The NRC staff also held a public workshop with stakeholders from the Nuclear Energy Institute, Institute of Nuclear Power Operations, Union of Concerned Scientists, General Accounting Office, and Vermont Department of Public Service to discuss their comments on the draft chapter. On February 28, 2000, a complete draft NRC Strategic Plan was released to the public for comment. Comments were sought through a press release, *Federal Register* notice, and NRC's Home Page on the World Wide Web. At the same time, the Commission provided a consultation draft strategic plan to our congressional oversight and appropriations subcommittees, the House Committee on Government Reform, and the Senate Committee on Governmental Affairs. We consulted with other government agencies that have major cross-cutting goals and objectives with the NRC--the Environmental Protection Agency, Department of Energy, and Federal Emergency Management Agency. Their insights were valuable and we identified no inconsistent or duplicative areas in our respective goals, strategies, or performance measures. We also had the benefit of a review and consultations with the Office of Management and Budget and the General Accounting Office. Additionally, we sought comments from the Agreement States and stakeholders who participated in the NRC's 1998 Congressional oversight hearings.

Although we received a wide variety of valuable stakeholder comments, we did not identify any substantive and germane views that are contrary to the programmatic, policy, or management courses-of-action put forth in our strategic plan. Several comments, as well as some of the consultations, focused on improving the performance measures and their linkages to performance goals. This resulted in our modifying several of the performance measures, better explaining the linkage between the goals and their measures, and explaining how specific metrics will be developed and identified in the annual performance plan. Comments also helped focus specific strategies in the plan, including strategies related to risk-informed regulation and public confidence. Several comments expressed the need for a clearer understanding of some of the terms used in the draft plan or provided suggestions to improve the layout and readability of the plan itself. Terms were clarified and recommendations were adopted in the final version of the plan.

The Commission is committed to implementing the GPRA effectively. Our enclosed strategic plan is another step in achieving that goal. We view our strategic plan as a living document which will be revised as necessary to accommodate and adapt to change as well as respond to future evaluations of our performance.

Sincerely,

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Richard A. Meserve

Enclosure: As stated

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