

January 18, 2001

The Honorable Fred Thompson, Chairman  
Committee on Governmental Affairs  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Mr. Chairman:

In accordance with the statutory obligation to respond to recommendations by the General Accounting Office (GAO) within 60 days of receipt, we hereby submit our responses to the GAO recommendations in its report entitled "Facility Relocation: NRC Based Its Decision to Move Its Technical Training Center on Perceived Benefits -- Not Costs (GAO-01-54)." Specific responses to the GAO recommendations are presented in the enclosure.

As reinforced by the report, several issues concerning the NRC technical training program need to be addressed over the next few years. Among them are planning for attrition and appropriate replacement of the technical training staff, determining the appropriate levels of technical training resources to best meet current and future agency needs, and achieving the most appropriate means to make training available to headquarters, regional, and remote site personnel. These issues must be addressed irrespective of the ultimate physical location of the NRC Technical Training Center, and NRC will continue to address them on a priority basis.

Sincerely,

*/RA/*

Richard A. Meserve

Enclosure: Responses to GAO Recommendations

cc: Senator Joseph I. Lieberman

January 18, 2001

The Honorable Dan Burton, Chairman  
Committee on Government Reform  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

In accordance with the statutory obligation to respond to recommendations by the General Accounting Office (GAO) within 60 days of receipt, we hereby submit our responses to the GAO recommendations in its report entitled "Facility Relocation: NRC Based Its Decision to Move Its Technical Training Center on Perceived Benefits -- Not Costs (GAO-01-54)." Specific responses to the GAO recommendations are presented in the enclosure.

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Sincerely,

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Richard A. Meserve

Enclosure: Responses to GAO Recommendations

cc: Representative Henry Waxman

January 18, 2001

The Honorable George V. Voinovich, Chairman  
Subcommittee on Clean Air, Wetlands,  
Private Property and Nuclear Safety  
Committee on Environment and Public Works  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Mr. Chairman:

In accordance with the statutory obligation to respond to recommendations by the General Accounting Office (GAO) within 60 days of receipt, we hereby submit our responses to the GAO recommendations in its report entitled "Facility Relocation: NRC Based Its Decision to Move Its Technical Training Center on Perceived Benefits -- Not Costs (GAO-01-54)." Specific responses to the GAO recommendations are presented in the enclosure.

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Richard A. Meserve

Enclosure: Responses to GAO Recommendations

cc: Senator Joseph I. Lieberman

January 18, 2001

The Honorable Joe Barton, Chairman  
Subcommittee on Energy and Air Quality  
Committee on Energy and Commerce  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

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Richard A. Meserve

Enclosure: Responses to GAO Recommendations

cc: Representative Rick Boucher

January 18, 2001

The Honorable Bob Smith, Chairman  
Committee on Environment and Public Works  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Mr. Chairman:

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Richard A. Meserve

Enclosure: Responses to GAO Recommendations

cc: Senator Harry Reid

January 18, 2001

The Honorable David M. Walker  
Comptroller General of the United States  
General Accounting Office  
Washington, D.C. 20548

Dear Mr. Walker:

In accordance with the statutory obligation to respond to recommendations by the General Accounting Office (GAO) within 60 days of receipt, we hereby submit our responses to the GAO recommendations in its report entitled "Facility Relocation: NRC Based Its Decision to Move Its Technical Training Center on Perceived Benefits -- Not Costs (GAO-01-54)." Specific responses to the GAO recommendations are presented in the enclosure.

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Richard A. Meserve

Enclosure: Responses to GAO Recommendations

January 18, 2001

The Honorable Jacob J. Lew, Director  
Office of Management and Budget  
Washington, D.C. 20503

Dear Mr. Lew:

In accordance with the statutory obligation to respond to recommendations by the General Accounting Office (GAO) within 60 days of receipt, we hereby submit our responses to the GAO recommendations in its report entitled "Facility Relocation: NRC Based Its Decision to Move Its Technical Training Center on Perceived Benefits -- Not Costs (GAO-01-54)." Specific responses to the GAO recommendations are presented in the enclosure.

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Richard A. Meserve

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January 18, 2001

The Honorable W.J. "Billy" Tauzin, Chairman  
Committee on Energy and Commerce  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

In accordance with the statutory obligation to respond to recommendations by the General Accounting Office (GAO) within 60 days of receipt, we hereby submit our responses to the GAO recommendations in its report entitled "Facility Relocation: NRC Based Its Decision to Move Its Technical Training Center on Perceived Benefits -- Not Costs (GAO-01-54)." Specific responses to the GAO recommendations are presented in the enclosure.

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Enclosure: Responses to GAO Recommendations

cc: Representative John Dingell

## GAO RECOMMENDATIONS AND NRC RESPONSES

The General Accounting Office (GAO), in its report "Facility Relocation: NRC Based Its Decision to Move Its Technical Training Center on Perceived Benefits -- Not Costs," made specific recommendations for identifying the skills needed to provide technical training and developing a succession plan for technical training staff. Recommendations for the NRC, and the NRC's response to them, are provided below.

### Recommendation 1:

Identify the skills required for the staff who will replace the NRC technical training instructors.

### NRC Response:

We agree that it is essential to understand the competencies required to continue to maintain an effective technical training program. The competencies that are necessary to provide an effective program of the content and format that presently exists have been previously identified and are available within the existing technical training staff. These include comprehension of nuclear facility design and operation; demonstrated ability to provide classroom and simulator presentations, directed discussions, seminars, and workshop activities; demonstrated ability to plan, develop, and implement technical training programs; and demonstrated ability to exercise judgment and exhibit flexibility in the completion of training activities during difficult or challenging situations.

The NRC is reviewing inspector qualification requirements in light of the revised reactor oversight process and the implementation plan for risk-informed regulation. This review is expected to identify the competencies that will be needed for reactor program inspectors as well as a more precise determination of the technical training content that will be required for the next several years. As the NRC continues such ongoing evaluations of programmatic technical training needs, we will identify the appropriate competencies needed for the technical training staff and make plans to retain and/or acquire them.

The optimal competencies required for the future will be somewhat different as NRC adjusts both the content and delivery methods for providing technical training to NRC staff members at multiple facilities. While most of the current competencies will certainly still be required, additional competencies not presently available within the technical training staff are being included in updated position and qualification requirements for instructors. New competencies will include demonstrated ability to apply technical training content to web-based training and other distance learning methods; comprehension of NRC regulatory processes; and comprehension of risk assessment concepts that support NRC initiatives in risk-informed regulation.

### Recommendation 2:

Develop a succession plan to ensure that qualified staff are available and trained to minimize the disruption of the technical training provided.

NRC Response:

We agree that it is essential to make appropriate plans to ensure that a qualified instructional staff is available to provide continuity of an effective technical training program. Succession planning for the technical training staff is an ongoing challenge. The NRC is developing and will implement a succession plan for technical training instructional staff that will ensure that the competencies needed to provide technical training necessary to achieve NRC mission requirements are present. As noted in the response to recommendation 1, these competencies are expected to be some mixture of current ones and ones that are not currently available within the technical training staff.