

February 1, 2001

The Honorable Robert E. Wise, Jr.
Governor of West Virginia
Charleston, West Virginia 25305-0370

Dear Governor Wise:

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.

Former Governor Underwood appointed Beattie DeBord, Chief, Radiological Health Program in the West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources, as West Virginia's State Liaison Officer. The NRC will continue to work with Mr. DeBord, and, unless you choose a new State Liaison Officer, we will keep you informed of our programs and activities through Mr. DeBord. At the same time, we will maintain our ties with various individuals in State agencies with whom we have established relationships for specific issues.

The Commission looks forward to the continued participation by the State of West Virginia in the NRC State Liaison Officer program. If you or your staff have any questions, or would like additional information, please contact Paul H. Lohaus, Director of NRC's Office of State and Tribal Programs in Headquarters at 301-415-3340 or Robert Trojanowski, our Region II State Liaison Officer, at 404-562-4427.

I am looking forward to continuing an excellent working relationship with the State of West Virginia.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Richard A. Meserve

cc: Beattie DeBord