

January 9, 2002

Dr. J. H. Marburger, Director
Office of Science and Technology Policy
Executive Office of the President
Old Executive Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20502

Dear Dr. Marburger:

I am writing to invite you to deliver the keynote address at the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's (NRC) International Conference on Wire System Aging. The NRC is organizing this conference to facilitate an exchange of information among Federal agencies, industry, and the public on the importance of wire system safety. As you are aware, the National Science and Technology Council published a report in November 2000, entitled "Review of Federal Programs for Wire System Safety," which concluded that wire system safety is an important public health and safety issue that transcends government agencies.

The conference, which will be open to the public, will be held on April 23-25, 2002, at the Double Tree Hotel, 1750 Rockville Pike, Rockville, Maryland. The Brookhaven National Laboratory, which has performed extensive NRC-sponsored research related to cable aging, is participating in the organization of the conference. As noted in the enclosed brochure, the conference has three purposes: (1) to review current practices and programs for understanding and managing wire system aging, (2) to exchange information on the current status of research related to the issue, and (3) to identify technical issues and programs of interest for collaborative research among Federal agencies.

We would be honored if you would deliver the keynote speech, addressing the importance of wire system safety in the Nation's infrastructure, at the opening session on April 23, 2002. Details about the conference are provided in the enclosed brochure. If you need additional information, please contact Mr. Ashok C. Thadani, Director, Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research. Mr. Thadani may be reached by telephone at 301-415-6641, by fax at 301-415-5153, or by e-mail at act@nrc.gov.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Richard A. Meserve

Enclosure: Conference Brochure