

May 7, 2002

Mr. Joseph S. Mahaley, Director  
Office of Security  
U.S. Department of Energy  
Washington, D.C. 20585

Dear Mr. Mahaley:

I am responding on behalf of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) to your letter dated March 6, 2002, which requests the NRC's urgent attention to deficiencies identified in the Nuclear Material Management and Safeguards System (NMMSS) as discussed in an audit report prepared by the U.S. Department of Energy's Office of Inspector General. The Commission is familiar with this report and shares your concern, as well as your sense of urgency.

As stated in your letter, the Commission's staff is preparing a recommended course of action to resolve discrepancies in NMMSS for Government-owned material held by NRC and Agreement State licensees. The staff expects to forward this recommendation to the Commission shortly and I understand that the Commission intends to give it prompt attention. In the interim, I understand that the NRC staff is working cooperatively with your staff to obtain and analyze additional information from NMMSS and to resolve some of the more significant discrepancies.

If you have any questions or comments, please contact me.

Sincerely,

***/RA by M. Weber for RPZ/***

Roy Zimmerman, Director  
Office of Nuclear Safety  
and Incident Response