

April 5, 2002

The Honorable Richard B. Cheney  
President of the United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Mr. President:

I am writing to apprise you of an organizational change which the Commission is undertaking to enhance the U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission's (NRC's) safeguards and security programs. Shortly after the September 11 terrorist attacks I, with the full support of the Commission, directed the NRC staff to undertake a comprehensive review of every aspect of our security requirements. Our objective was to assure ourselves that our already robust security regime is appropriate to the new circumstances presented by the current threat environment. The review includes a re-analysis of the agency's threat assessment framework and the design basis threat; re-evaluation of nuclear facility vulnerabilities and access authorization processes; re-evaluation of emergency preparedness and response; and a re-evaluation of NRC's infrastructure, resources, and communications.

With regard to NRC's infrastructure, I specifically directed the staff to review the agency's organizational structure, staffing, and training in the security and safeguards area. As a result of this review, the Commission has approved the establishment of an Office of Nuclear Security and Incident Response to consolidate and streamline selected NRC security, safeguards, and incident response responsibilities and resources. This newly created office will be on a par with our other major program offices, will report to the Deputy Executive Director for Reactor Programs, and will have an initial complement of more than ninety staff members. The move is effective April 7, 2002.

Among the intended benefits of the consolidation are improved communications and coordination both within the agency and with external entities, including Federal and State agencies. The consolidation will also integrate the NRC's management of classified information, unclassified but sensitive safeguards information, and secure communications facilities within one organization.

If you would like additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

**/RA/**

Richard A. Meserve

Identical letter to:

The Honorable Spencer Abraham  
Secretary of Energy  
Washington, D.C. 20585  
cc: Kyle McSillarow

The Honorable Richard B. Cheney  
President of the United States Senate  
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The Honorable Tom Ridge  
Assistant to the President and Director  
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cc: Admiral Steve Abbott

The Honorable Joe M. Allbaugh  
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The Honorable Robert S. Mueller, III  
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The Honorable John Ashcroft  
Attorney General  
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cc: Larry D. Thompson

The Honorable Norman Y. Mineta  
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The Honorable George J. Tenet  
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Mr. Kenneth E. DeGraffenreid  
Deputy Under Secretary for Policy  
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