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FROM: DUE: 06/18/02 EDO CONTROL: G20020344
DOC DT: 05/15/02
FINAL REPLY:

Spencer Abraham
Department of Energy (DOE)

TO:

Chairman Meserve

FOR SIGNATURE OF : ** PRI **

CRC NO: 02-0407

Chairman Meserve

DESC:

ROUTING:

Non-Defense Science Laboratories

Travers
Paperiello
Kane
Norry
Craig
Burns/Cyr
Thadani, RES

DATE: 06/06/02

ASSIGNED TO: CONTACT:

NMSS

Virgilio

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS OR REMARKS:

Template: SECY-017

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| PAPER NUMBER: | LTR-02-0407 | LOGGING DATE: | 06/06/2002 |
| ACTION OFFICE: | EDO | | |
| AUTHOR: | Spencer Abraham (Sec. of Energy) | | |
| AFFILIATION: | DOE | | |
| ADDRESSEE: | CHRM Richard Meserve | | |
| SUBJECT: | Concerns NRC's assistance in preparing a report to Congress on the potential external regulation of DOE non-defense science laboratories... requests NRC point of contact to assist on the report | | |
| ACTION: | Signature of Chairman | | |
| DISTRIBUTION: | RF | | |
| LETTER DATE: | 05/15/2002 | | |
| ACKNOWLEDGED | No | | |
| SPECIAL HANDLING: | SECY to Ack | | |
| NOTES: | | | |
| FILE LOCATION: | ADAMS | | |
| DATE DUE: | 06/20/2002 | DATE SIGNED: | |

EDO --G20020344



The Secretary of Energy
Washington, DC 20585

May 15, 2002

The Honorable Richard A. Meserve
Chairman
Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, DC 20555-0001

Dear Mr. Chairman:

Thank you for your letter offering the assistance of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) in preparing a report to Congress on the potential external regulation of the Department of Energy non-defense science laboratories, as directed in the Conference Report to accompany the Energy and Water Development Appropriations Act, 2002. While our staffs have initiated discussions on this important topic, much work remains to be done.

The Conference Report requires the Department to address the details necessary to implement external regulation at 10 non-defense science laboratories. The report also requested us to interact with the Nuclear Regulatory Commission in developing an estimate of the resources needed to effect the transition. Your assistance with the development of the Commission's resource needs, such as funding and staffing, statutory language necessary to effect possible transition to NRC regulation, and Commission implementation schedule estimates would ensure that timely and accurate information is included in the report.

Dr. Anibal Taboas, of the Department's Chicago Operations Office, has been appointed Director of the External Regulation Task Group to lead the development of transitioning assumptions and the implementation plan. Dr. Taboas can be reached at (630) 252-2236.

I would appreciate it if the Nuclear Regulatory Commission could identify a point of contact at the Nuclear Regulatory Commission to assist us with reaching closure on the portions of the report that pertain to the Commission. If you have any questions or would like to discuss this further, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Spencer Abraham", is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Spencer Abraham



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