



**UNITED STATES  
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001**

June 14, 2002

Mr. Mark Logan  
Assistant Director, Training and Professional Development  
Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms  
Department of the Treasury  
Washington, D.C. 20226

Dear Mr. Logan:

This correspondence is in response to your letter of May 13, 2002, in which you expressed interest on behalf of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms (ATF) in counterterrorism exercises held by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC). We welcome the opportunity to share information and to further interagency coordination with ATF.

With respect to an emergency involving radioactive materials, NRC's role and responsibilities, as well as those of all Federal agencies, are provided in the Federal Radiological Emergency Response Plan (FRERP). The FRERP establishes an organized and integrated capability for response by Federal agencies to radiological emergencies. The FRERP employs the concept of Lead Federal Agency (LFA), the agency responsible for leading and coordinating all aspects of the Federal response. The NRC is designated the LFA for an event that occurs at a fixed facility or activity licensed by the NRC (or Agreement State) or a transportation event that involves radioactive material licensed by the NRC (or Agreement State). The Environmental Protection Agency is the LFA for an event at a facility not licensed, owned, or operated by a Federal agency or Agreement State and a transportation event involving radioactive material not licensed or owned by a Federal agency or Agreement State. However, for radiological emergencies involving malevolent acts, the FBI is the lead for crisis management in accordance with the provisions of the Atomic Energy Act, as amended, and the U.S. Government Interagency Domestic Terrorism Concept of Operations Plan (CONPLAN). The Federal Emergency Management Agency is responsible for consequence management and the NRC, and other agencies, are responsible for providing technical support and assistance.

The NRC and our licensees have a well-established exercise program with focus on radiological emergencies at commercial reactor plants. NRC regulations mandate that reactor licensees maintain a rigorous exercise program, to include biennial exercise participation by offsite state and local agencies. The NRC, along with representatives from other Federal agencies, participates in a number of these exercises. To date, the focus of most exercises has not been malevolent acts. It is anticipated that licensees will include elements of malevolent acts in future exercise scenarios.

The NRC has been expanding its level of interagency coordination with respect to counterterrorism, exercises, and training. Activities include participation in National Security Council (NSC) Counterterrorism/National Preparedness Exercise Sub-Group (CT/NP ESG) and participation in TOPOFF2 planning.

M. Logan

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I extend to you and your staff an invitation to meet at the NRC's Operations Center to tour our facility and discuss opportunities for developing appropriate NRC/ATF working relationships. Please contact my staff point of contact, Tom Kevern, by phone at (301) 415-0224 or by email at [tak@nrc.gov](mailto:tak@nrc.gov).

Sincerely,

**(/RA by M. F. Weber)**

Michael F. Weber, Deputy Director  
Office of Nuclear Security and Incident Response

M. Logan

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Sincerely,

*(/RA by M. F. Weber)*

Michael F. Weber, Deputy Director  
Office of Nuclear Security and Incident Response

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