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THE VICE PRESIDENT  
WASHINGTON

July 20, 2001

Dear Chairman Meserve:

Thank you for your letter regarding the role of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) in the Federal government's response to terrorism. As you know, the President has tasked me to oversee the development of a coordinated national effort for domestic preparedness against weapons of mass destruction (WMD). Your letter is particularly timely and will provide very useful information for Joe Allbaugh as he establishes the Office of National Preparedness at FEMA. The Office of National Preparedness is tasked to coordinate all Federal WMD consequence management programs, and, working with the Department of Justice, to ensure that all facets of our response to the threat from WMD are coordinated and cohesive. My own team reviewing this issue is now being assembled. I am sure they will find your offer of assistance helpful as they examine the complex issues associated with preparedness for a WMD event. Clearly, the NRC will have an important part to play in support of this effort.

Regarding the role of the NRC in the broader response to terrorism, my staff has provided your letter to the National Security Council staff for further action.

Again, thank you for your advice and recommendations in the crucial matter of protecting the physical safety of our Nation and its citizens against the use of weapons of mass destruction.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dick Cheney". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping tail.

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

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