

November 5, 2003

The Honorable David L. Hobson, Chairman
Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development
Committee on Appropriations
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

On behalf of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), I am pleased to provide a Status Report on the Development of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the NRC and the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), in response to the conference report accompanying the Energy and Water Development Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2003 (H.R. Rep. No. 107-681). The enclosure summarizes the status of the development of a MOU between NRC and OSHA to define their respective responsibilities for radiation safety at the ten Department of Energy Science laboratories being considered for potential external regulation by NRC and OSHA. The bottom line is that both agencies have been working cooperatively. However, because of the considerable differences at the various DOE laboratories, it is premature to make recommendations on a division of responsibility between the two agencies until the scheduled ten audits are complete.

Please contact us if we can be of further assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Nils J. Diaz

Enclosure:
Status Report

cc: Representative Peter Visclosky

November 5, 2003

The Honorable Pete V. Domenici, Chairman
Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Mr. Chairman:

On behalf of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), I am pleased to provide a Status Report on the development of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the NRC and the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), in response to the conference report accompanying the Energy and Water Development Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2003 (H.R. Rep. No. 107-681). The enclosure summarizes the status of the development of a MOU between NRC and OSHA to define their respective responsibilities for radiation safety at the ten Department of Energy Science laboratories being considered for potential external regulation by NRC and OSHA. The bottom line is that both agencies have been working cooperatively. However, because of the considerable differences at the various DOE laboratories, it is premature to make recommendations on a division of responsibility between the two agencies until the scheduled ten audits are complete.

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Sincerely,

/RA/

Nils J. Diaz

Enclosure:
Status Report

cc: Senator Harry Reid