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To: HQ distribution; Regional Distribution
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Subject: EDO Updates

January 7, 2002, 10:30 a.m.

Good morning! I want to pass on a few items which may be of interest to the staff.

As some of you may already know, we are awaiting final approval of the defense appropriations bill which, if granted, will authorize \$36 million for the agency for Homeland Security. The money would cover a review of our safeguards and physical security programs, including existing regulations, policies and guidance related to combating acts of radiological sabotage, access to safeguards information and sensitive security material.

We are working on a sustainable level of staffing at the Operations Center, at the Incident Response Centers in the regions, and in other parts of the agency. The Operations Center is now operating in the monitoring mode. We believe this re-adjusted level will provide the agency and our licensees with the resources necessary to be vigilant, while not expending the extraordinary resources that were necessary earlier. We will continue to send advisories out to various licenses to update them on the threat environment.

We are planning an agencywide awards ceremony to recognize all our employees for their exemplary response to the September 11 terrorist attacks, and will keep you informed of the details.

The Response to Terrorist Acts Task Force has done a good job in delivering some well-developed ideas to the Commission in a short time period, that address policy issues dealing with security and safeguards. These issues, which involve complex policy matters, are under consideration by the Commission - and more broadly, within the entire federal government.

The Commission has recently provided direction on the types of information that may be released by the staff to the public. Guidance will be developed to assist the staff in implementing our policy consistently.

The NRC's external web site has a new design, and we will be adding material gradually as it is reviewed for sensitivity by the staff. I know this will take some time, and I am grateful to the staff for giving this activity its justified high priority and attention.

Since President Bush decided to give us the day off on Christmas Eve, I hope you all had extra time to recuperate after these extremely challenging and difficult last few months. I hope you all have a peaceful, safe and healthy new year.

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