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To: Travers, William
Date: Thu, Nov 15, 2001 3:49 PM
Subject: EDO Updates

EDO Updates 11/15, 3:30 p.m.

Good afternoon. I recently returned from a productive trip which I believe helped to strengthen our cooperative relationship with fellow regulators in Japan and Taiwan. Taiwan is building two Advanced Boiling Water Reactors (ABWRs) and Japan is operating two ABWRs with another under construction. As in many other countries, there is a strong interest in both Japan and Taiwan in ongoing activities at the NRC. In fact, the Taiwan regulator is preparing to implement a new risk-informed Reactor Oversight Program modeled after NRC's program. This is the sincerest form of flattery and the NRC staff should be proud!

The agency is continuing to give considerable attention to nuclear facility security. Today we issued an advisory to licensees notifying them that, while the overall threat to United States interests worldwide remains high, the period of the extraordinary threat environment (identified by Attorney General Ashcroft on 10/29) has now ended. Licensees will still maintain a high level of security awareness. We will continue to issue updated advisories to licensees regarding appropriate security measures, as necessary.

The NRC has been staffing a desk at the new Office of Homeland Security, which is coordinating the challenges that have arisen since the terrorist attacks with other federal agency representatives. At the Operations Center, we continue to monitor the security status of NRC-licensed facilities. Additionally, we are currently reassessing the appropriate level of effort in the Operations Centers at headquarters and the regions.

My gratitude to the staff for their dedication and professionalism continues unabated. If I were to thank each office, my message would continue for many pages. However, a few are notably worth mentioning.

The IRO staff continues its leadership role in assuring NRC's response through this crisis is coordinated and consistently applied throughout the agency. Members of our safeguards teams have also been pivotal to our success during these past weeks. They are all to be commended for their hard work, commitment, and long hours!

I also want to recognize our PDR staff who have been working to accommodate members of the public who are legitimately seeking information from the agency, while ensuring no sensitive material is released. They have also been working diligently with our external distribution sources in coordinating the withholding of certain information.

I would also like to single out the HR and ADM staff for working quickly and efficiently to ensure that our mail and our employees are safe from the threat of anthrax. Their persistence and hard work has helped to ease anxieties among the staff.

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