

March 24, 2004

The Honorable Mike Rounds  
Governor of South Dakota  
Pierre, South Dakota 57501

Dear Governor Rounds:

In 1976, the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) adopted a recommendation from several State organizations, including the National Governors' Association, that we request each State to appoint a single person to act as liaison to NRC for the purpose of improving Federal/State cooperation. The NRC looks to the Governor-appointed State Liaison Officers to provide a communication channel between the States and the NRC, to be the key person in the State to keep the Governor completely informed on nuclear regulatory and related public health and safety matters, and to provide NRC with answers to questions posed to the States on particular issues.

It is my understanding that the most recent State Liaison Officer, Bob McDonald, who was the Environmental Project Scientist in the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, has been called to active duty in Iraq. The NRC continues to work with Rick Lancaster, within the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, and, unless you choose a new State Liaison Officer, we will keep you informed of our programs and activities through Mr. Lancaster. At the same time, we will continue to work with various individuals in State agencies with whom we have established relationships on specific issues.

The Commission looks forward to the continued participation by the State of South Dakota in the NRC's State Liaison Officer program. If you or your staff have any questions or wish additional information, please contact Paul H. Lohaus, Director of NRC's Office of State and Tribal Programs at Headquarters at 301-415-3340 or William Maier, our Region IV State Liaison Officer, at 817-860-8267.

I am looking forward to continuing an excellent working relationship with the State of South Dakota.

Sincerely,

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Nils J. Diaz

cc: Rick Lancaster