

March 24, 2006

Mr. James W. McMahon, Director  
New York State Office of Homeland Security  
Harriman State Office Campus  
1220 Washington Avenue  
Building 7A, Seventh Floor  
Albany, NY 12226

Dear Mr. McMahon:

I am responding to your letter dated January 23, 2006, in which you expressed a concern that some federal agencies, or their regional offices, were undertaking terrorism-related initiatives that were duplicative of, or touch on, related efforts currently underway by the State of New York. You requested that the NRC utilize your Office of Homeland Security to coordinate state agency assistance to avoid unnecessary or redundant work in this critical arena.

In order to avoid duplicating work activities and to provide an efficient method to exchange information of mutual interest, the NRC uses the State Liaison Officer, appointed by the Governor, as our initial point of contact. For incidents involving security or terrorism, we would, and have, contacted your office directly. I have shared your letter with our Office of Nuclear Security and Incident Response (NSIR) who has responsibility to coordinate activities within the Agency involving emergency exercises, including those involving security and terrorism scenarios, and disseminating intelligence information received from other federal offices. NSIR is aware of this Agency approved method for communicating needed information to the State of New York, and has worked with Region I to ensure that you are properly notified of our safeguards activities. We are eager to improve communications and coordination with state offices performing related public safety and security activities, and welcome any suggestions you may have in this regard.

Additionally, the Energy Policy Act 2005 included a provision for the NRC to assign Federal Security Coordinators (FSC) to each of the agency's regional offices. These FSCs will be responsible for, among other things, communicating with State authorities concerning threats and assisting in the coordination of security measures among State authorities as appropriate. The roles and responsibilities of the person are being developed as well as the expected Federal, State and local interfaces. We will keep you informed as those details develop.

Mr. J.W. McMahon

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We appreciate you bringing this matter to our attention, and look forward to working closely with your organization in the future. If there are any additional concerns or information you would like to share with us, please feel free to contact Mr. Raymond Lorson, the regional branch chief for Nuclear Security, Emergency Preparedness, and Incident Response, at (610) 337-5282.

Sincerely,

*/RA/*

Samuel J. Collins  
Regional Administrator

cc:  
Jack Spath, State Liaison Officer, New York

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