

March 27, 2006

The Honorable Rick Perry
Governor of Texas
State Capitol
P.O. Box 12428
Austin, TX 78711

Dear Governor Perry:

I am responding to your letter dated February 21, 2006, to Chairman Diaz. I have considered your request that the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) copy the Chairman of the Texas Radiation Advisory Board (the Board) on official correspondence sent to the State of Texas. I agree that the Board should be kept up-to-date on Federal nuclear regulatory issues; however, copies of official correspondence from the NRC are already sent to several parties within your State.

The NRC has a long-standing and established protocol for communicating current Federal nuclear regulatory issues to appropriate individuals in each State. Specifically, NRC routinely provides general correspondence, as well as State-specific correspondence, to the Governor-appointed State Liaison Officer (SLO) and the Radiation Control Program Director (RCPD) in all States. This protocol was established to provide consistency and continuity in our dissemination of information to the States, as well as ensuring that the same information is made available to all States. The NRC leaves it up to the individual States on whether or not and how that information is provided to their respective radiation advisory boards. Please be aware that not all States have a radiation advisory board. NRC is aware that the Texas RCPD has a specific staff member that acts as a liaison to the Board and is responsible for keeping the Board informed of NRC and other pertinent correspondence.

Most of NRC's communications to our licensees and the States on current nuclear regulatory issues are publically available and can be found on the NRC website: <http://www.nrc.gov/>. The NRC's Office of State and Tribal Programs (STP) also maintains a website specific to State issues and correspondence. The STP website can be found at: <http://www.hsrp.doe.gov/nrc/>. I encourage the Board members to fully utilize these valuable resources. Most of our correspondence is communicated electronically and NRC notifies the responsible State officials when the correspondence is issued, as stated above.

I encourage and commend your efforts to keep the Board apprised of current nuclear regulatory issues, and appreciate the support you give to radiation protection in your State. I look forward to continuing the cooperative working relationship that has been established between NRC and the State of Texas.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Janet R. Schlueter, Director
Office of State and Tribal Programs

cc: Michael S. Ford, CHP, Chairman
Texas Radiation Advisory Board

Roger Mulder, TX SLO
Richard Ratliff, TX RCPD

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