

June 20, 2006

Mr. Maurice A. Mallin
Director
Global Security Engagement and Cooperation
Office of International Policy
National Nuclear Security Administration
U.S. Department of Energy
1000 Independence Ave., S.W.
Washington, DC 20585

Dear Mr. Mallin,

I am responding to the electronic mail message from Mr. John Kerr of your staff, dated May 9, 2006, concerning Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) involvement in the biennial International Training Course on State Systems of Accounting for and Control of Nuclear Materials (ITC-SSAC). NRC is familiar with this program, and delivered presentations during the course for a number of years. While in recent years NRC has only delivered one presentation on the U.S. SSAC, we are open to further involvement, as appropriate, consistent with availability of appropriate staff and the venue of the course.

NRC appreciates the National Nuclear Security Administration's (NNSA) contacting NRC to ensure interagency alignment on this request. As previously indicated during several recent phone conversations with Mr. Kerr, the NRC staff does not plan to actively promote or provide staff support for ITC-SSAC visitors to NRC licensee facilities in general, or to the University of Missouri facility in particular. NRC will also not make an assessment about the merits of the practical course exercise. Even in the context of a U.S. Government-sponsored international training course, the decision to grant access to visitors is the responsibility of the licensee. The NRC intends to remain neutral with regard to this request, and any others of this nature which NNSA may co-host with the International Atomic Energy Agency in the future. Therefore, you are free to address this planned visit directly with the management of the licensee. NRC staff has notified the University of Missouri of the NRC position concerning this request.

With respect to future requests to bring international visitors to NRC licensees, we request that you continue the practice of providing NRC with prior notification that you will be contacting one of our licensees to solicit interest in accepting international visitors. As with this request, NRC will then be in a position to communicate with its licensees, acknowledge that we are aware of the pending request, identify potential interface concerns, and solicit post-visit feedback on the value and effectiveness of the visit.

If you have additional questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Janice Dunn Lee
Director
Office of International Programs

Mr. Mallin

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/RA/

Janice Dunn Lee
Director
Office of International Programs

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