August 14, 2006

Ms. Toni Hardesty, Director
Idaho Department of Environmental Quality
1410 North Hilton
Boise, ID 83706

Dear Ms. Hardesty:

I am pleased to learn of your appointment as the State Liaison Officer to the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) for the State of Idaho.

The NRC looks to the Governor-appointed State Liaison Officer to provide the primary communication channel between the States and the NRC. It is anticipated the State Liaison Officer would serve as the key person in the State to keep the Governor informed on issues under the jurisdiction of NRC (specifically matters addressing nuclear regulation, nuclear security, and radiological public health and safety), and to provide NRC with State information on particular nuclear safety, security, or environmental issues.

The State Liaison Officer also serves as the primary individual responsible for sharing sensitive unclassified information, including Safeguards Information, from NRC with other designated State officials, for ensuring that recipients of such information have a “need-to-know,” and for implementing the appropriate measures for storing and protecting the information from unauthorized disclosure in accordance with Title 10 of the Code of Federal Regulations Part 73.21. Enclosed is a copy of NUREG-0794, “Protection of Unclassified Safeguards Information,” which is intended to assist persons who possess Safeguards Information in establishing an information protection system. However, because of the State Homeland Security Advisors’ responsibility for homeland security activities in the States, these State officials will also be provided copies of NRC security information in coordination with the Department of Homeland Security. This will help ensure that the State Homeland Security Advisor has knowledge of and access to this information and can also share such information with other authorized State officials on a need-to-know basis.

We would appreciate your informing us of your 24-hour contact information, for cases in which we may have need to share information with you after regular business hours. We may also have, on occasion, the need to share classified national security information with the State. Therefore, we would also appreciate your identifying an individual authorized to receive and handle classified information within your State organization. Additionally, we would appreciate your identifying the location, contact and telephone number of the facility (or facilities) having secure communications equipment in the event that we may need to transmit information over a secure transmission line.

We are placing you on special mailing and e-mail distribution lists so that on a regular basis you will receive copies of NRC documents and reports to keep you informed of matters that have an impact on, or are of interest to, States. Also, NRC conducts national State Liaison Officers' meetings, usually every three years and regional meetings as needed, to discuss matters of mutual regulatory interest.

Mr. William Maier, our Regional State Liaison Officer in the NRC Region IV Office, located in Arlington, Texas, will be your main contact for routine communications at 817-860-8267. In the event of his unavailability, please do not hesitate to call me at Headquarters or Rosetta Virgilio of my staff at 301-415-3340, concerning any questions you may have.

Sincerely,

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

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