

February 21, 2007

The Honorable Rod Blagojevich
Governor of Illinois
Springfield, Illinois 62706

Dear Governor Blagojevich:

On behalf of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), I am writing to request that you appoint a State Liaison Officer to act as the primary liaison to the NRC.

In 1976, the 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 a liaison to the NRC for the purpose of improving Federal/State cooperation. The NRC relies on the Governor-appointed State Liaison Officer to provide the primary communication channel between the States and the NRC. The State Liaison Officer serves as the key person in the State to keep the Governor informed on issues under the NRC's jurisdiction (specifically matters addressing nuclear regulation, nuclear security, and radiological public health and safety), and provides NRC with State information on particular nuclear safety, security, or environmental issues.

I understand that the most recent State Liaison Officer, Gary N. Wright, Assistant Director, Division of Nuclear Safety, Illinois Emergency Management Agency, retired on December 31, 2006. In the interim, the NRC will work with Joseph Klinger at the Illinois Emergency Management Agency, until you designate a new State Liaison Officer. 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 of the State of Illinois in the NRC's State Liaison Officer program. If you or your staff have any questions or wish to obtain additional information, please contact Dennis K. Rathbun, Director, Division of Intergovernmental Liaison and Rulemaking, Office of Federal and State Materials and Environmental Management Programs, in headquarters at 301-415-2325 or Roland Lickus, our Region III State Liaison Officer, at 630-829-9660.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Dale E. Klein

cc: Kevin Noone
Division of Nuclear Safety
Illinois Emergency Management Agency