

February 19, 2008

The Honorable Richard B. Cheney
President of the United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Mr. President:

On behalf of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), and in accordance with Section 651(d) of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (EPAAct) (Public Law 109-58), I am providing to you both a classified and a public version of the National Academies (NA) report entitled, "Radiation Source Use and Replacement." The classified version will be delivered to you under separate cover. This report is the result of the NA's NRC-sponsored study of industrial, research, and commercial uses of radiation sources and contains a number of recommendations. NRC is committed to working with its Federal partners, the Agreement States, and our licensees to address the report's recommendations.

This report is one of three comprehensive studies that were initiated by the EPAAct to assess the technological alternatives to radiation sources. In August 2006, the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) submitted a report to Congress, "Alternatives to Industrial Radioactive Sources," which contained a survey of industrial applications, summarized existing programs, and outlined a strategic research and development program plan for technologies providing alternatives to certain radiation sources. The EPAAct also established the Task Force on Radiation Source Protection and Security, which was chaired by the NRC and consists of representatives from 13 additional Federal agencies, in consultation with the Organization of Agreement States and the Conference of Radiation Control Program Directors. NRC submitted the Task Force Report to the President and the Congress on August 15, 2006. The NRC will utilize both the Cesium Chloride and Alternative Technologies subgroups of the Task Force, as well as other mechanisms, to promptly address the issues identified in the NA report and other reports prepared on this subject.

The NRC and the Agreement States are also working with radioactive source vendors, the Department of Homeland Security, and DOE's National Nuclear Security Administration to further enhance the security of the radiation sources and devices described in the NA report. Additionally, in September 2007, NRC approved a multi-year comprehensive action plan to resolve recommendations made by the U.S. Government Accountability Office, the U.S. Senate Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations, and NRC's Office of the Inspector General

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regarding the security of radioactive sources. As these actions demonstrate, the NRC is dedicated to ensuring the security of these radiation sources in our mission to protect public health and safety and the environment.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Dale E. Klein

Enclosure: As stated

Identical letters sent to:

The Honorable Richard B. Cheney
President of the United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Nancy P. Pelosi
Speaker of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Hillary Rodham Clinton
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Edward J. Markey
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Barbara Boxer
Chairman, Committee on Environment
and Public Works
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510
cc: Senator James M. Inhofe

The Honorable Thomas R. Carper
Chairman, Subcommittee on Clean Air
and Nuclear Safety
Committee on Environment and Public Works
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510
cc: Senator George V. Voinovich

The Honorable John D. Dingell
Chairman, Committee on Energy and Commerce
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515
cc: Representative Joe Barton

The Honorable Rick Boucher
Chairman, Subcommittee on Energy
and Air Quality
Committee on Energy and Commerce
United States House of Representatives
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cc: Representative Fred Upton

The Honorable Jeff Bingaman
Chairman, Committee on Energy
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cc: Senator Pete V. Domenici

The Honorable Joseph I. Lieberman
Chairman, Committee on Homeland Security
and Governmental Affairs
United States Senate
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cc: Senator Susan Collins

The Honorable Bennie G. Thompson
Chairman, Committee on Homeland Security
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515
cc: Representative Peter T. King