

June 6, 2002

The Honorable Tony Knowles  
Governor of Alaska  
P.O. Box 110001  
Juneau, Alaska 99811

Dear Governor Knowles:

I am writing on behalf of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) to inform you of actions which the NRC intends to take to enhance physical protection measures for the transportation of large quantities of radioactive material and spent nuclear fuel. I am requesting your cooperation and assistance in carrying out these actions.

The Commission has directed the NRC staff to develop immediately effective Orders that impose additional physical protection measures on shipments of large quantities of radioactive material and spent nuclear fuel for transport by highway or rail. The Commission has concluded that these enhancements are necessary in the current threat environment. The content of the Orders will be modeled on the transportation advisories that NRC issued on November 8 and revised on December 13, 2001, which were provided to you through your State Liaison Officer. The NRC is taking this action pursuant to its authority under the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended, to protect the common defense and security. Because this authority has not been relinquished to Agreement States, the NRC will be issuing the Orders to both NRC licensees and to licensees of Agreement States who possess, receive, or ship large quantities of radioactive material. Orders will be issued to licensees who have shipped large quantities of radioactive material within the last two years or who intend to ship in the near term. In addition, we will communicate with other licensees not receiving an Order informing them to contact the NRC before shipping large quantities of radioactive materials. Following issuance of the Orders, the Commission intends to conduct a rulemaking whereby we would amend certain regulations to conform with the requirements of the Orders.

We will be soliciting input on the content of the Orders from your State and other stakeholders after the NRC staff has provided the draft Orders to the Commission for its review. We also will provide you with a copy of the Orders directed to licensees within your State upon their issuance. Although this letter contains sensitive information which should not be publicly disclosed, it does not contain Safeguards Information.

  
SENSITIVE INFORMATION  
NOT FOR PUBLIC DISCLOSURE

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If you or your staff have any questions regarding this request, you may contact me, or Mr. Paul H. Lohaus, Director of the NRC Office of State and Tribal Programs at 301-415-3340.

The Commission appreciates your assistance in this very important matter.

Sincerely

*/RA/*

Richard A. Meserve

cc: Douglas Dasher  
Clyde E. Pearce  
Major General Phil Oates

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NOT FOR PUBLIC DISCLOSURE



Non-Agreement States

Identical letter to:

The Honorable Tony Knowles  
Governor of Alaska  
P.O. Box 110001  
Juneau, Alaska 99811  
cc: Douglas Dasher  
Clyde E. Pearce  
MG Phil Oates

The Honorable Tauese Sunia  
Governor of American Samoa  
Executive Office Building  
Third Floor  
Pago Pago, American Samoa 96799  
cc: Pati Faiai  
Leiataua Birdsall V. Ala'ilima

The Honorable John Rowland  
Governor of Connecticut  
210 Capitol Avenue  
Hartford, Connecticut 06106  
cc: Dr. Edward L. Wilds, Jr.  
Vincent DeRosa

The Honorable Ruth Ann Minner  
Governor of Delaware  
Tatnall Building  
William Penn Street  
Dover, Delaware 19901  
cc: Dr. Harry W. Otto  
Robert Brinsfield  
James L. Ford, Jr.  
Philip Cabaud

The Honorable Anthony A. Williams  
Mayor  
John A. Wilson Building  
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20004  
cc: Harold Monroe  
Deputy Major Margaret N. Kellems

The Honorable Carl Gutierrez  
Governor of Guam  
Executive Chamber  
P.O. Box 2950  
Agana, Guam 96932  
cc: Dennis G. Rodriguez  
Jesus T. Sales  
MG Benigno Paulino

The Honorable Benjamin Cayetano  
Governor of Hawaii  
State Capitol  
Executive Chambers  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813  
cc: Jerry Y. Haruno  
Russell S. Takata  
Gary Gill  
MG Edward Correa

The Honorable Dirk Kempthorne  
Governor of Idaho  
State Capitol  
700 West Jefferson, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
Boise, Idaho 83702  
cc: Douglas Walker  
Lieutenant Duane Sammons  
MG John F. Kane

The Honorable Frank O'Bannon  
Governor of Indiana  
206 State House  
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204  
cc: Howard W. Cundiff  
John H. Ruyack  
Melvin J. Carraway  
Clifford Ong

The Honorable John Engler  
Governor of Michigan  
P.O. Box 30013  
Lansing, Michigan 48909  
cc: Flint C. Watt  
David W. Minnaar  
Captain Dan Smith  
Lieutenant Colonel Stephen D. Madden

The Honorable Jesse Ventura  
Governor of Minnesota  
130 State Capitol  
75 Constitution Avenue  
St. Paul, Minnesota 55155  
cc: Jan Malcolm  
Linda Bruemmer  
John R. Kerr  
Charles R. Weaver, Jr.

The Honorable Bob Holden  
Governor of Missouri  
Missouri Capitol Building  
Room 216  
Jefferson City, Missouri 65101  
cc: Ron Kucera  
Charles Hooper  
Jerry B. Uhlmann  
Col. Timothy M. Daniel

The Honorable Judy Martz  
Governor of Montana  
P.O. Box 0801  
Helena, Montana 59620  
cc: Roy Kemp  
James Greene

The Honorable James McGreevey  
Governor of New Jersey  
125 West State Street  
P.O. Box 001  
Trenton, New Jersey 08625  
cc: Bradley M. Campbell  
Jill Lipoti, Ph.D.  
Kent Tosch  
Kathryn Flicker

The Honorable Juan Babauta  
Governor of Northern Mariana Islands  
Caller Box 10007  
Capitol Hill  
Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands 96950  
cc: Joaquin A. Tenorio, Ph.D.  
Jerry Crisostomo


The Honorable Mark Schweiker  
Governor of Pennsylvania  
Room 225  
Main Capitol Building  
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17120  
cc: David J. Allard  
John Bahnweg  
Earl Freilino

The Honorable Sila Calderon  
Governor of Puerto Rico  
La Fortaleza  
P.O. Box 9020082  
San Juan, Puerto Rico 00902  
cc: Gladys Gonzalez  
Mayra Toro  
Attorney General Annabelle Rodriguez

The Honorable William Janklow  
Governor of South Dakota  
500 East Capitol Avenue  
Pierre, South Dakota 57501  
cc: Bob McDonald  
John Robertson  
John A. Berheim  
Deb Bowman

The Honorable Howard Dean, M.D.  
Governor of Vermont  
109 State Street  
Montpelier, Vermont 05609  
cc: Christine S. Salembier  
Raymond N. McCandless  
Lieutenant Col. Thomas A. Powlovich  
Sec. Kate O'Connor

The Honorable Charles Turnbull  
Governor of Virgin Islands  
Government House, 21-22  
Kongens Gade  
Charlotte Amalie  
St. Thomas, Virgin Islands 00802  
cc: Dean C. Plaskett, Esq.  
BG Cleave A. McBean



The Honorable Mark Warner  
Governor of Virginia  
State Capitol  
Richmond, Virginia 23219  
cc: Arthur S. Waren  
Leslie P. Foldesi  
Brett A. Burdick  
John Hager

The Honorable Bob Wise  
Governor of West Virginia  
State Capitol Complex  
Charleston, West Virginia 25305  
cc: Dan Hill  
Colonel H. E. Hill, Jr.  
Joe Martin

The Honorable Scott McCallum  
Governor of Wisconsin  
State Capitol  
P.O. Box 7863  
Madison, Wisconsin 53707  
cc: Edward J. Gleason  
Paul S. Schmidt

The Honorable Jim Geringer  
Governor of Wyoming  
State Capitol  
Room 124  
Cheyenne, Wyoming 82002  
cc: David A. Finley  
Captain L. S. Gerard  
Attorney General Hoke MacMillan