

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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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, 2nd 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