

March 26, 2003

The Honorable Mark Warner
Governor of Virginia
Richmond, Virginia 23219

Dear Governor Warner:

In 1976, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (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 looks to 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 jurisdiction of NRC including nuclear regulatory, security, and radiological public health and safety matters, and to provide NRC with State information on particular nuclear safety, security, or environmental issues.

The NRC will continue to work with Arthur S. Warren, Chief, Radiological Planning, Virginia Department of Emergency Management, and, unless you designate a new State Liaison Officer, we will keep you informed of our programs and activities through Mr. Warren. At the same time, we also will continue to work with other individuals in State agencies with whom we have established relationships.

As a result of the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks, the NRC has taken actions to enhance security at nuclear power plants and other nuclear facilities. In that regard, we have increased our communications with the Governor-appointed State Liaison Officers. State Liaison Officers' responsibilities have changed and are continuing to evolve. Moreover, there is an increased need to ensure that other State officials with a "need to know" (e.g., State Homeland Security Advisors) have access to information that may be classified or sensitive unclassified which includes safeguards information. State Liaison Officers also need to exercise the appropriate precautions to protect the information from unauthorized disclosure.

We ask that your appointed State Liaison Officer continue to serve as the primary recipient for sensitive unclassified information including safeguards information from NRC. We also ask that the State Liaison Officer serve as the primary individual responsible within your State for sharing such information 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.

On occasion, NRC's Director of the Office of Nuclear Security and Incident Response will provide information directly to your State Homeland Security Advisor. Therefore, we also would ask that you provide the NRC with the name of this individual. In these cases, we will also provide a copy of the information to your State Liaison Officer. In addition, if we receive threat

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information involving nuclear facilities in your State, we will communicate that information to both your State Homeland Security Advisor and State Liaison Officer. Once we receive your designations, NRC staff will work with your State Liaison Officer and your State Homeland Security Advisor to request additional information including: 24-hour State contacts; an individual authorized to handle classified information; and a facility or facilities in the State having secure communications equipment.

The Commission looks forward to the continued participation by the Commonwealth of Virginia in the NRC's State Liaison Officer program. We would appreciate your response within 30 days of receipt of this letter. If you or your staff have any questions or wish to obtain additional information, please contact Paul H. Lohaus, Director of NRC's Office of State and Tribal Programs in Headquarters at 301-415-3340 or Robert Trojanowski, our Region II State Liaison Officer, at 404-562-4427. I thank you in advance for your assistance and look forward to continuing an excellent working relationship with the Commonwealth of Virginia.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Richard A. Meserve

cc: Arthur S. Warren
Robert Trojanowski