

September 17, 2008

The Honorable Bill Richardson
Governor of New Mexico
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87501

Dear Governor Richardson:

On behalf of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), I am writing to invite you to designate a State Liaison Officer to act as the State of New Mexico's primary liaison to the NRC. In 1976, the Commission adopted a recommendation from several State organizations, including the National Governors Association, that we request each State appoint a single person to act as a liaison to the NRC for the purpose of improving Federal and State cooperation. The NRC relies on the Governor-appointed State Liaison Officer to serve as the primary communication channel for the State. The State Liaison Officer informs the Governor of issues under NRC's jurisdiction such as nuclear regulation, nuclear security, and radiological public health and safety, and informs the NRC of State issues, such as nuclear safety, security, or environmental issues.

I understand that the most recent State Liaison Officer, Derrith Watchman-Moore, resigned on August 7, 2008, for a position with the Navajo Housing Authority. Until you designate a new State Liaison Officer, the NRC will work with Jon Goldstein, Deputy Secretary of the New Mexico Environment Department. At the same time, the NRC will continue to work with various individuals in State agencies with whom the agency has established relationships on specific issues.

The Commission looks forward to the continued participation of the State of New Mexico in the NRC's State Liaison Officer program. If you or your staff have any questions or wish to obtain additional information, please have them contact James Luehman, Acting Director of NRC's Division of Intergovernmental Liaison and Rulemaking, Office of Federal and State Materials and Environmental Management Programs, at (301) 415-7278, or NRC's Region IV State Liaison Officer, Mr. Bill Maier, at (817) 860-8267.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Dale E. Klein

cc: Jon Goldstein
Interim State Liaison Officer

Sarah Cottrell
Policy Advisor on Environment and Energy