May 21, 2010

The Honorable Bill Richardson
Governor of New Mexico
490 Old Santa Fe Trail
Room 400
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 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 to 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, Jon Goldstein, was appointed to another State agency. Until you designate a new State Liaison Officer, the NRC will work on an interim basis with Secretary Ron Curry, New Mexico Environment Department. At the same time, NRC will continue to work with various individuals in State agencies with whom the NRC 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 Mark Shaffer, 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. William Maier, at (817) 860-8267.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Gregory B. Jaczko

cc: Ron Curry
Interim State Liaison Officer