

March 29, 2011

Janet Schlueter, Director
Fuel and Materials Safety
Nuclear Generation Division
Nuclear Energy Institute
1776 I Street N.W., Suite 400
Washington, DC 20006

SUBJECT: RESPONSE TO COMMENT REGARDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR INDUSTRY INVOLVEMENT ON ISSUES ADDRESSED BY THE RADIATION SOURCE PROTECTION AND SECURITY TASK FORCE

Dear Ms. Schlueter:

Thank you for submitting comments on the proposed rule (*75 Federal Register* (FR) 33902) for the "Physical Protection of Byproduct Material." Your comments on the proposed rule will be processed through the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission's (NRC's) public rulemaking process. This letter is being provided to you in response to a specific comment regarding the Radiation Source Protection and Security Task Force (Task Force). The comment referred to a request for the NRC to allow substantive opportunities to engage industry over the next 4 years on issues that the Task Force is addressing. I appreciate the comment and would note that the issue of stakeholder involvement in the development process of the next Task Force report to the U.S. President and Congress in 2014 was a topic of discussion at a recent Task Force meeting.

As identified in the first chapter of the quadrennial Task Force report (August 2011), not only have the enhanced interagency relationships significantly improved the number of activities related to radioactive source protection and security, but insight gained through interactions with stakeholders in a number of forums related to specific topics (i.e., September 2008 stakeholder workshop on the security and use of cesium chloride, number of industry meetings and workshops in 2009 to ensure licensee adherence to the National Source Tracking System reporting requirements, etc.) addressed by the Task Force have added to these improvements as well. We recognize that input from industry stakeholders does help inform many decisions made on complex issues. Therefore, in preparation for the implementation of a number of new initiatives recommended in the 2011 Task Force report, the Task Force initiated establishment of a communication process between the Task Force and the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Nuclear Sector Coordinating Council (NSCC), which works under the auspices of the Critical Infrastructure Partnership Advisory Council framework and enables critical infrastructure owners and operators to interact on a wide range of sector-specific strategies, policies, activities, and issues. Through this newly established communication process, private-sector information will be shared or requested from the sector-specific Radioisotopes Subcouncil of the NSCC by the Task Force on various issues, as warranted. This communication vehicle, as well as the continued stakeholder interactions on specific topics addressed by the Task Force, through already-established processes will facilitate the development of well-informed decisions.

J. Schlueter

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Again, I appreciate your comment recognizing that the Task Force continuously strives towards enhancing communication and coordination processes with respect to radiation source protection and security.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Scott W. Moore, Acting Director
Office of Federal and State Materials
and Environmental Management Programs

J. Schlueter

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Again, I appreciate your comment recognizing that the Task Force continuously strives towards enhancing communication and coordination processes with respect to radiation source protection and security.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Scott W. Moore, Acting Director
Office of Federal and State Materials
and Environmental Management Programs

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