

December 27, 2011

The Honorable Haley Barbour  
Governor of Mississippi  
Jackson, Mississippi 39205

Dear Governor Barbour:

Thank you for supporting the State of Mississippi's participation in the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission's (NRC's) 2011 National State Liaison Officers (SLO) Conference held in Rockville, Maryland, on November 1 and 2, 2011. Governor-appointed SLOs, along with NRC officials and other Federal agency representatives, participated in this successful government-to-government meeting.

The SLO Conference is typically held every two years, and is fully funded by the NRC. Historically the meeting has been well received by both Federal and State partners, and this year's meeting was no exception. State representatives and NRC senior management had the opportunity to discuss issues of mutual interest, including: the Japan earthquake and tsunami, power reactor licensing, emergency response, radioactive waste disposal and transportation, handling and sharing of sensitive and security-related information, tritium groundwater leakage, SLO roles and responsibilities, and the National Academy of Sciences' cancer-risk study. The conference also included a tour of the NRC Operations Center, and was followed by an optional one-day training opportunity regarding the mission and operations of the NRC.

Since its inception in 1976, the SLO Program has played a vital role in the NRC's communications with States. The Commission adopted the SLO Program after several State organizations, including the National Governors Association, recommended that the Commission request each State to appoint a single person to act as a liaison to the NRC to help improve Federal and State cooperation and communication. The SLO informs the Governor's office of issues under the NRC's jurisdiction, including matters addressing nuclear regulation, nuclear security, and radiological public health and safety. The Governor-appointed SLOs also provide the NRC with State information on particular nuclear safety, security, and environmental issues.

The events that took place in Japan earlier this year reinforced the importance of collaboration and cooperation between Federal and State agencies. The NRC is committed to maintaining a strong relationship with our State partners, and we will continue to inform you of our programs and activities through your appointed SLO. We will also continue to solicit your participation in public meetings and workshops, as well as other opportunities for stakeholder involvement and input, including the biennial National SLO Conference. For your information, I have enclosed the following:

- The *State Liaison Officer Program* brochure, providing an overview of the SLO program; and
- The agenda for the 2011 National SLO Conference, “Working Together to Protect People and the Environment.”

If you or your staff have any questions concerning this correspondence, or wish to obtain additional information about the SLO program, please contact Dr. Josephine Piccone, Director, Division of Intergovernmental Liaison and Rulemaking, Office of Federal and State Materials and Environmental Management Programs, at (301) 415-7278 or by email at [Josephine.Piccone@nrc.gov](mailto:Josephine.Piccone@nrc.gov).

Sincerely,

*/RA/*

Gregory B. Jaczko

Enclosures:

1. NRC Brochure “State Liaison Officer Program”
2. 2011 National SLO Conference Agenda

cc: B. J. Smith

Similar letter sent to:

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