

April 1, 2013

The Honorable Alejandro García Padilla  
Office of the Governor  
San Juan, PR 00902-0082

Dear Governor Padilla:

On behalf of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), I am writing to request your appointment of a State Liaison Officer to act as the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico's primary liaison to the NRC. I understand that the most recent State Liaison Officer, Dr. Rosa Perez-Perdomo, the previous Secretary of Health, has recently left office. I am providing you with two copies of the NRC brochure entitled, *State Liaison Officer Program*, which provides background information on, and describes the role of, the State Liaison Officer. I am also enclosing a copy of the NRC "2012-2013 Information Digest," NUREG-1350, Vol. 24, which provides information describing NRC's mission and its regulatory programs.

In 1976, the 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 to help improve Federal/State cooperation. Historically, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico has also been requested to appoint a liaison to the NRC. The NRC looks to the Governor-appointed State Liaison Officer to provide the primary communication channel between the Commonwealth and the NRC. The State Liaison Officer would serve as the key person in the Commonwealth to keep the Governor informed about issues under the NRC jurisdiction (specifically matters addressing nuclear regulation, nuclear security, nuclear emergency preparedness, and radiological public health and safety) and to provide the NRC with information on particular nuclear safety, security, and environmental issues from the Commonwealth.

Since inception of the State Liaison Officer Program, State Liaison Officer responsibilities have continued to evolve. Following the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, the NRC increased its security-related communications with the Governor-appointed State Liaison Officers. Your appointed State Liaison Officer will serve as the recipient for sensitive unclassified information, including Safeguards Information (SGI), from the NRC. SGI is a special category of sensitive unclassified information authorized by Section 147 of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended, to be protected from inadvertent release and unauthorized disclosure. Consistent with the requirements set forth in Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* (10 CFR) §73.21, SGI is sensitive unclassified information, which is handled and protected similarly to classified National Security Information.

There may also be a need to ensure that other authorized Commonwealth officials have access to SGI. As such, your appointed State Liaison Officer is authorized to share SGI with personnel after he/she has established that they have a need to know and that they have met the access requirements specified in 10 CFR §73.22(b). Certain personnel who have a need to

know have been relieved of the fingerprinting and background check requirements specified in 10 CFR §73.22(b). That list of individuals can be found in 10 CFR §73.59.

We will keep you informed of our programs and activities through your appointed designee. At the same time, we will continue to work with other individuals in your Commonwealth agencies with whom we have established relationships. If you or your staff have any questions concerning this correspondence or wish to obtain additional information about the State Liaison Officer program, please contact Ms. Deborah Jackson, Deputy 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 [Deborah.Jackson@nrc.gov](mailto:Deborah.Jackson@nrc.gov).

I thank you in advance for your assistance. The Commission looks forward to your response and to continuing an excellent working relationship with the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico.

Sincerely,

**/RA/**

Allison M. Macfarlane

Enclosures:

1. NRC Brochure, *State Liaison Officer Program*
2. U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
2012-2013 Information Digest,  
NUREG-1350, Volume 24

Similar letter sent to:

The Honorable Alejandro Garcia Padilla  
Office of the Governor  
San Juan, PR 00902-0082

The Honorable Mike Pence  
Office of the Governor  
Indianapolis, IN 46204-2797  
cc: J. Duwve

The Honorable Phil Bryant  
Office of the Governor  
Jackson, MS 39205  
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The Honorable Steve Bullock  
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Helena, MT 59620-0801  
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The Honorable Jay Inslee  
Office of the Governor  
Olympia, WA 98504-0002  
cc: M. Guichard

The Honorable C. L. "Butch" Otter  
Office of the Governor  
Boise, ID 83702  
cc: M. Dietrich