

February 8, 2013

Commissioner Christopher Recchia
Department of Public Service
State of Vermont
112 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05620-2601

Dear Commissioner Recchia:

I am pleased to learn of your appointment as the State Liaison Officer to the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) for the State of Vermont. Please allow me to welcome you and provide some general information about the role of the State Liaison Officer in serving as the principal communications liaison between the NRC and your State.

The State Liaison Officer Program was established in 1976 in response to recommendations from the National Governors Association and other organizations to improve cooperation between NRC and the States. The NRC relies on the Governor-appointed State Liaison Officer to provide the primary communication channel between the State and the NRC. The State Liaison Officer serves as the key person in the State to keep the Governor informed on issues under the NRC's jurisdiction (specifically matters addressing nuclear regulation, nuclear security, and radiological public health and safety), and provide NRC with State information on particular nuclear safety, security, or environmental issues.

I am attaching an agency procedure (enclosure 1 - Management Directive 5.2, "Cooperation with States at Commercial Nuclear Power Plants and Other Nuclear Production or Utilization Facilities") that contains NRC's policy on cooperation with States and more detailed information about the State Liaison Officer program and responsibilities. I encourage you to review and become familiar with this document. If you would like to access it electronically, it can be found at: <http://pbadupws.nrc.gov/docs/ML1022/ML102220529.pdf>.

Communications

We are placing you on special mailing and e-mail distribution lists so that on a regular basis you receive copies of NRC documents and reports to keep you informed of matters that have an impact on, or are of interest to, States. Also, NRC conducts national State Liaison Officers' meetings, usually every 2-3 years, and regional meetings as needed, to discuss matters of mutual regulatory interest. The next national meeting will be in fall 2013, and we will provide you more information as the details are worked out.

Mr. Doug Tiff and Ms. Nancy McNamara, our Regional State Liaison Officers in the NRC Region I Office, located in King of Prussia, Pennsylvania, will be your main contacts for routine communications. Mr. Tiff and Ms. McNamara will be contacting you soon, if they have not already done so, to provide more detailed information about the NRC and the State Liaison Officer function and discuss any questions that you may have.

I encourage you to visit NRC's website at www.nrc.gov, where you will find a variety of information about who we are and what we do. I would like to highlight the "Stay Connected"

section (located on the left side of the main page), which contains links to multiple social media tools that can help you stay informed on NRC news. One of these features, "RSS feeds," allows you to subscribe to a variety of agency updates and may be particularly useful. Please see the following webpage for more information: <http://www.nrc.gov/public-involve/listserver.html>.

Handling of Sensitive Information

The State Liaison Officer also serves as the primary individual responsible for handling sensitive information, including Safeguards Information (SGI), from the NRC. The State Liaison Officer is responsible for ensuring that recipients of such information have a "need-to-know," and for implementing the appropriate measures for storing and protecting the information from unauthorized disclosure in accordance with Title 10 of the Code of Federal Regulations Part 73.21. We are enclosing NRC Regulatory Guide 5.79 (enclosure 2, also available electronically at: <http://pbadupws.nrc.gov/docs/ML1032/ML103270219.pdf>), "Protection of Safeguards Information," which describes a method that NRC considers acceptable for use in implementing the specific requirements for the protection of SGI. The Regulatory Guide provides guidance on establishing an information protection system that addresses: (1) information to be protected, (2) conditions for access and maintenance of the records associated with the access granting process, (3) protection while in use or storage, (4) preparation and marking of documents or other matter, (5) reproduction of matter containing SGI, (6) external transmission of documents and material, (7) processing of SGI on electronic systems, (8) removal from the SGI category, and (9) destruction of matter containing SGI.

We may also have, on occasion, the need to share classified national security information with your State, which carries significant additional requirements. Such information can only be shared with individuals authorized to receive and handle classified information within your State organization and transmitted over a secure transmission line. If such a situation should arise, we will contact you to request identification of: (1) a person(s) with an active Federal security clearance, and (2) the secure communications equipment telephone number available to that person.

In closing, the NRC's cooperative relationships with States are essential to accomplishing the agency's mission of protecting public health and safety, providing for common defense and security, and protecting the environment. We also hope this relationship will be mutually beneficial in assisting in your State's activities, as appropriate. You will be serving an important role in continuing this vital relationship. We look forward to working with you.

C. Recchia

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Please feel free to contact Mr. Tiff at 610-337-6918 and Ms. McNamara at 610-337-5337 anytime. In the event of their unavailability, please do not hesitate to call me at NRC Headquarters at 301-415-7278, or June Cai of my staff at 301-415-5192, concerning any questions you may have.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Josephine M. Piccone, Director
Division of Intergovernmental Liaison
and Rulemaking
Office of Federal and State Materials
and Environmental Management Programs

Enclosures:

1. Management Directive 5.2, Cooperation with States at Commercial Nuclear Power Plants and Other Nuclear Production or Utilization Facilities
2. Regulatory Guide 5.79, "Protection of Safeguards Information"

C. Recchia

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