



**UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001**

May 22, 2014

Ms. Myria Roque
Radiation Safety Officer and
Trustworthy and Reliability Officer
Puerto Rico Department of Health
Post Office Box 70184
San Juan, PR 00936-8184

SUBJECT: NEW STATE LIAISON OFFICER APPOINTMENT FOR PUERTO RICO

Dear Ms. Roque:

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

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 the NRC and the States. The NRC relies on the Governor-appointed State Liaison Officers 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 provides the NRC with State information on these 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 the 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. It can be accessed electronically at:
<http://pbadupws.nrc.gov/docs/ML1022/ML102220529.pdf>.

Communications

Mr. John Pelchat and Mr. Edwin Lea, our Regional State Liaison Officers in the NRC Region II Office, located in Atlanta, Georgia, will be your main contact for routine communications. Mr. Pelchat and Mr. Lea will provide more detailed information about the NRC and the State Liaison Officer function and discuss any questions that you may have.

In addition, NRC conducts National State Liaison Officers Conferences usually every 2-3 years and regional meetings as needed to discuss matters of mutual regulatory interest. The next national conference will likely be held in the fall of 2015. We will provide you more information about the conference as well as opportunities to help shape the agenda as it gets closer to that timeframe.

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 Web page for more information: <http://www.nrc.gov/public-involve/listserver.html>. In addition, the State Liaison Officer Program Web page can be found at: <http://www.nrc.gov/about-nrc/state-tribal/fst-liaison.html#state>.

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. Please find enclosed NRC Regulatory Guide 5.79, "Protection of Safeguards Information" (Enclosure 2, also available electronically at: <http://pbadupws.nrc.gov/docs/ML1032/ML103270219.pdf>). This document 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 you, representing Puerto Rico, which carries significant additional requirements. Such information can only be shared with individuals authorized to receive and handle classified information 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 for the Puerto Rico Department of Health, as appropriate. You will be serving an important role in continuing this vital relationship. We look forward to working with you in this capacity.

M. Roque

3

Please feel free to contact Mr. Pelchat at 404-997-4427, and Mr. Lea at 404-997-4567. 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 DJackson for/

Christopher G. Miller, 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"

cc w/o enclosures:

J. Pelchat, RII
E. Lea, RII

M. Roque

3

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cc w/o enclosures:

J. Pelchat, RII

E. Lea, RII

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