

August 14, 2014

The President
The White House
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

In accordance with Section 651(d) of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (Public Law 109-58), I am providing the enclosed report documenting the efforts of the Radiation Source Protection and Security Task Force (Task Force). The Task Force is chaired by the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) and includes members from 14 Federal agencies and the Organization of Agreement States, which represents all State governments that regulate the use of radiation sources.

The Energy Policy Act charged the Task Force with 1) evaluating and providing recommendations relating to the security of radiation sources in the United States from potential terrorist threats, including acts of sabotage, theft, or diversion for use in a radiological dispersal device; and 2) providing, within one year of enactment of the Act and not less than every four years thereafter, reports to the President and Congress, with recommendations, including recommendations for appropriate regulatory and legislative changes.

On August 15, 2006, the Task Force submitted its first report. While the Task Force found no significant gaps that were not already being addressed, it did identify a number of near-term actions planned or underway to further strengthen regulatory controls and made several additional recommendations to enhance the overall security of risk-significant radioactive sources. On August 11, 2010, the Task Force submitted its second report, which provided an update on the progress made since the 2006 Task Force report and proposed additional recommendations for improving the security of risk-significant radioactive sources in the United States.

The 2014 Task Force report identifies important progress that continues to be made in fostering and tracking the completion and closeout of the remaining recommendations from previous Task Force reports. Eleven of the 2006 Task Force recommendations and actions and six of the 2010 recommendations have been completed and closed out over the last four years. This report describes the activities, accomplishments, and challenges related to securing Category 1 and 2 quantities of radioactive sources, the most risk-significant sources listed in the International Atomic Energy Agency's Code of Conduct (2004). Three new recommendations with regard to these risk-significant sources are introduced in the latest Task Force Report, including topics covering cybersecurity; disposition/disposal financial planning or other mechanisms; and the transition to effective alternative technologies.

Largely, the report reflects a consensus position from the Task Force. However, some Task Force member agencies differed on some limited text in the report, principally as a reflection of the variation in the missions of the agencies represented on the Task Force. The most notable difference is in the area of non-radioactive technologies as replacements for sealed sources. Several member agencies believe that public perception and cost represent the major challenges to a wider acceptance of alternative non-radioactive technologies. The NRC has concluded through its public policy-making process¹ that, in addition to the often higher cost of new technologies, the comparable efficacy of these replacement technologies has not yet been demonstrated. Regardless of this difference, all members support efforts to further reduce security risks by developing alternative technologies as replacements for, in particular, cesium chloride. The Task Force is confident that Chapter 3 of the report, "Progress in the Area of Alternative Technologies," provides a balanced discussion of this matter. The Task Force will continue to monitor developments and to address this important issue.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me. I may be reached by phone at (301) 415-1750.

Respectfully,

/RA/

Allison M. Macfarlane

Enclosure:
Radiation Source Protection and
Security Task Force Report

¹ See Chapter 3, page 49, for a discussion on the NRC's policy statement on protection of cesium-137 chloride sources.

Identical letter sent to:

The President
The White House
Washington, DC 20500

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden, Jr.
President of the United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable John Boehner
Speaker of the House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable John Shimkus
Chairman, Subcommittee on Environment
and the Economy
Committee on Energy and Commerce
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515
cc: Representative Paul Tonko

The Honorable Barbara Boxer
Chairman, Committee on Environment
and Public Works
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510
cc: Senator David Vitter

The Honorable Fred Upton
Chairman, Committee on Energy
and Commerce
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515
cc: Representative Henry A. Waxman

The Honorable Ed Whitfield
Chairman, Subcommittee on Energy
and Power
Committee on Energy and Commerce
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515
cc: Representative Bobby L. Rush

The Honorable Sheldon Whitehouse
Chairman, Subcommittee on Clean Air
and Nuclear Safety
Committee on Environment and Public Works
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510
cc: Senator Jeff Sessions

The Honorable Thomas R. Carper
Chairman, Committee on Homeland Security
and Governmental Affairs
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510
cc: Senator Tom Coburn

The Honorable Mike McCaul
Chairman, Committee on Homeland Security
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515
cc: Representative Bennie G. Thompson

The Honorable Mary L. Landrieu
Chairman, Committee on Energy
and Natural Resources
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510
cc: Senator Lisa Murkowski