

February 27, 2015

The Honorable Charlie Baker
Governor of the Commonwealth
of Massachusetts
Boston, MA 02133

Dear Governor Baker:

On behalf of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), I would like to extend congratulations to you on your recent inauguration as Governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

As you may know, the NRC maintains a robust liaison program with all of the States. Working cooperatively promotes effective communication, greater awareness, and mutual understanding of the policies, activities, and concerns of all parties as related to radiological safety at NRC-licensed facilities.

I am writing to request your appointment of a State Liaison Officer to act as the Commonwealth of Massachusetts's primary liaison to the NRC. Mr. John Giarrusso, Jr. was previously appointed as the State Liaison Officer for Massachusetts. The NRC will continue to work with Mr. Giarrusso unless you appoint a new State Liaison Officer; however, I would appreciate receiving your written affirmation that you desire Mr. Giarrusso to remain as your selected appointee.

I am providing you with a copy 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 "2014-2015 Information Digest," 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. The NRC looks to 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 and other State agencies informed about issues under the NRC's jurisdiction (specifically matters addressing nuclear regulation, nuclear security, nuclear emergency preparedness, and radiological public health and safety) and to provide the NRC with State information on particular nuclear safety, security, and environmental issues.

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 a 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. Although SGI is sensitive unclassified information, it is required to be handled and protected in a manner similar to classified National Security Information.

The NRC also concluded that there is need to ensure that other authorized State officials have access to SGI. Because State Homeland Security Advisors are responsible for homeland security activities in the States, these State officials may also receive copies of NRC security information in coordination with the Department of Homeland Security. This will help ensure that the State Homeland Security Advisor has knowledge of, and access to, this information and can share such information with other authorized State officials.

We will keep you informed of our programs and activities through Mr. Giarrusso or your appointed designee. At the same time, we will continue to work with other individuals in Commonwealth agencies with whom we have established relationships. If you or your staff has any questions concerning this correspondence or wish to obtain additional information about the State Liaison Officer program, please contact Ms. Laura Dudes, Director, Division of Material Safety, State, Tribal, and Rulemaking Programs, Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards, at (301) 415-3340 or by e-mail at Laura.Dudes@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 Massachusetts.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Stephen G. Burns

Enclosures:

1. NRC Brochure,
"State Liaison Officer Program"
2. U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
2014-2015 Information Digest,
NUREG-1350, Volume 26

cc: John Giarrusso, Jr.