



CHAIRMAN

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

March 27, 2018

The Honorable Ralph Northam
Governor of Virginia
Richmond, VA 23218

Dear Governor Northam:

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 Virginia.

I am writing to request your appointment of a State Liaison Officer to act as the Commonwealth of Virginia's primary liaison to the NRC. Dr. Jeffrey D. Stern, State Coordinator of Emergency Management, was previously appointed as State Liaison Officer for Virginia. I request your written affirmation that you desire Dr. Stern to remain as your selected appointee, unless you choose to appoint a new State Liaison Officer.

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 "2017-2018 Information Digest," which provides information describing the NRC's mission and its regulatory programs.

In 1976, the NRC adopted a recommendation from several State organizations, including the National Governors Association, that each State 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 be 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 will keep you informed of our programs and activities through Dr. Stern or your other selected appointee. At the same time, we will continue to work with other individuals in

Virginia State 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 Mr. Kevin Williams, Acting Director, Division of Materials Safety, Security, State, and Tribal Programs, Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards, at (301) 415-3340 or by e-mail at Kevin.Williams@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 Virginia.

Sincerely,



Kristine L. Svinicki

Enclosures:

1. NRC Brochure, State Liaison Officer Program
2. U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission 2017-2018 Information Digest, NUREG-1350, Volume 29

cc: w/o enclosures

Jeffrey Stern, Virginia Department of
Emergency Management