

The Role of the State Liaison Officer

In 1976, the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (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 (SLO) to be the primary communication channel between the State and the NRC. The SLO 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 nuclear safety, security, and environmental issues.

The NRC brochure entitled, "State Liaison Officer Program," provides additional background information describing the role of the SLO (Attachment 1). Information about the NRC's mission and its regulatory programs are contained in the NRC's "Information Digest," at <https://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/nuregs/staff/sr1350/>. The information digest is also included as Attachment 2 for your convenience.

Since inception of the State Liaison Officer Program, SLO responsibilities have continued to evolve. Following the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, the NRC increased its security-related communications with the Governor-appointed SLOs. The NRC will coordinate security-related information with the appointed SLO, unless a different State official is designated to handle security-related information. The type of security-related information that the NRC will share with the State will be sensitive unclassified information, including Safeguards Information (SGI). The SGI is a special category of sensitive unclassified information authorized by Section 147 of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended. Although SGI is sensitive unclassified information, it is required to be handled and protected from inadvertent and unauthorized disclosure in a manner similar to classified National Security Information.