



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
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November 17, 2021

Ronald Rogers, Director
Division of Radiological Health
Mississippi State Department of Health
3150 Lawson St.
P.O. Box 1700
Jackson, MS 39215-1700

SUBJECT: STATE LIAISON OFFICER APPOINTMENT

Dear Mr. Rogers:

I am pleased to learn of your appointment as the Mississippi Director of Radiological Health. Within this role, your predecessor (B.J Smith) served as the Mississippi State Liaison Officer (SLO) to the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC). I would like to take this opportunity to provide you some general information about the role of the SLO in serving as the principal communications liaison between the NRC and your State.

The SLO 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 SLOs to act as the primary communication channel between the States and the NRC. The SLO 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 have included with this letter an NRC brochure – NUREG/BR-0520, "State Programs at the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission" (Enclosure 1) – that describes some of the NRC's interactions with States, including the SLO Program. "U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission State Liaison Officer Program" (Enclosure 2), describes the program in greater detail, including the responsibilities of the SLO.

Also enclosed you will find an NRC procedure – Management Directive 5.2, "Cooperation with States at Commercial Nuclear Power Plants and Other Nuclear Production or Utilization Facilities" (Enclosure 3). This management directive contains the NRC's policy on cooperation with States and more detailed information about the SLO program and responsibilities. I encourage you to review this document.

Communications

Mr. Bill Maier, our Regional SLO in the NRC Region IV office, located in Arlington, Texas, will be your primary contact for routine communications. You will continue to receive copies of NRC documents and reports on a regular basis to keep you informed of matters that are of interest to your State. In addition, I encourage you to visit the NRC's Web site at www.nrc.gov, where you will find information about the agency's mission and programs. The "Stay Connected" section contains links to multiple social media tools that can help you stay informed of NRC-related news. One of these features, "RSS feeds," allows you to subscribe to a variety of agency

updates and may be particularly useful. Also, the NRC conducts a National State Liaison Officer Conference, usually every 2-3 years, and regional meetings as needed, to discuss matters of mutual regulatory interest. We will keep you informed of the next scheduled conference.

Handling of Sensitive Information

The SLO serves as the primary individual in the State who is responsible for handling sensitive information, including Safeguards Information (SGI), from the NRC. The SLO 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* 73.21. Please find enclosed NRC Regulatory Guide 5.79, "Protection of Safeguards Information" (Enclosure 4). This document describes a method that the NRC considers acceptable for use in establishing an information protection system and implementing the specific requirements for the protection of SGI.

In closing, I want to emphasize that 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 hope that this relationship will be beneficial for both the State of Mississippi and the NRC. Your role in continuing this vital relationship is important. We look forward to our continued work with you.

Since the SLO is the principal State official responsible for keeping the Governor informed of important information concerning the NRC and its licensees, we request that each Governor formalize the SLO appointment in a letter to the NRC chairman. We have updated our procedures, websites and contact lists to identify you as the Mississippi SLO following Mr. Smith's retirement. I would urge you, however, to seek generation of an official appointment letter from Governor Reeves' office.

Please feel free to contact Mr. Bill Maier at (817) 200-1267. Bill may be reached via e-mail at bill.maier@nrc.gov. In the event of his unavailability, please do not hesitate to contact Mr. Jeffery Lynch of my staff at (301) 415-5041 or jeffery.lynch@nrc.gov.

Sincerely,



Signed by Anderson, Brian
on 11/17/21

Brian Anderson, Branch Chief
State Agreement and Liaison Programs Branch
Division of Materials Safety, Security, State
and Tribal Programs
Office of Nuclear Material Safety
and Safeguards

Enclosures:
As Stated

cc: B. Maier (w/o Enclosures)

SLO Welcome Letter to Ronald Rogers new SLO in Mississippi DATE November 17, 2021

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DATE	Nov 16, 2021	Nov 16, 2021	Nov 17, 2021	

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