

April 23, 2007

The Honorable Michael Chertoff  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of Homeland Security  
Washington, D.C. 20528

Dear Mr. Secretary:

On behalf of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), I am responding to your letter of March 22, 2007, in which you requested that the Radiation Source Protection and Security Task Force reevaluate the list of radioactive sources that warrant enhanced security and protection. Specifically, you requested that the Task Force reevaluate the list of radionuclides of concern using a methodology similar to that described in Section 3.2.3 of the August 2006 Task Force report and including radionuclides available world-wide.

As noted in your letter, recommendation 3-1 of the Task Force report states, "The Task Force recommends that the U.S. Government periodically reevaluate the list of radioactive sources that warrant enhanced security and protection to assess their adequacy in light of the evolving threat environment." In the spirit of this recommendation, I have asked the Task Force to consider your request for reevaluation of the radioactive source list. The next meeting of the Task Force is April 25, 2007, and this topic has been placed on the agenda. Since your agency is represented on the Task Force, the Commission is confident that necessary coordination between our agencies will occur on this matter.

If you or your staff have any questions, please contact me or Dr. Charles L. Miller, Director of NRC's Office of Federal and State Materials and Environmental Management Programs. Dr. Miller serves as the NRC point person for Task Force activities and may be reached by phone at (301) 415-7197, or by e-mail at CLM1@nrc.gov.

The Commission appreciates your continued interest in the safeguarding of radioactive sources and looks forward to working with you in this regard.

Sincerely,

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Dale E. Klein