

October 10, 2008

The Honorable Kenneth L. Wainstein
Assistant to the President for Homeland
Security and Counterterrorism
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. Wainstein:

On behalf of the U.S Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) I am responding to your September 23, 2008 request regarding the NRC's Pandemic Plan. I am pleased to certify that the NRC is addressing the elements of pandemic planning set forth in the "Key Elements of Departmental Pandemic Influenza Plans" checklist. The NRC Pandemic Plan consists of an agency plan that promulgates agency-wide concepts, guidance, and policy. The NRC also has developed individual office plans that supplement the agency plan with specific procedures and details. The agency plan has been integrated into the NRC Continuity of Operations (COOP) Plan so that there is a consistent approach in how a pandemic event will be addressed.

NRC offices prioritized all their functions into five levels within Federal Stage 5, from near-normal operations to COOP, to provide a more situation-sensitive response as recommended by the Homeland Security Council. The agency's Primary Mission Essential Function—to respond to safety and security incidents involving regulated activities—will be maintained under all conditions. The NRC will also revise its plans as necessary to address the new and revised planning elements in the updated checklist you provided. Additionally, agency and office plans will be reviewed annually and will be revised as appropriate to reflect any changes in Federal guidance, new information regarding the threat, and the availability of relevant response capabilities and technologies.

I appreciate this opportunity to benefit from the guidance that was developed by the Homeland Security Council through the shared ideas of the interagency process. The guidance will help ensure that the NRC will be able to fulfill its mission in the face of a pandemic event.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Dale E. Klein