

January 4, 2002

The Honorable Robert E. Wise, Jr.
Governor of West Virginia
Charleston, West Virginia 25305-0370

Dear Governor Wise:

In 1976, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) adopted a recommendation from several State organizations, including the National Governors' Association, that we request each State to appoint a single person to act as liaison to NRC for the purpose of improving Federal/State cooperation. The NRC looks to the Governor-appointed State Liaison Officers to provide a communication channel between the States and the NRC, to be the key person in the State to keep the Governor completely informed on nuclear regulatory and related public health and safety matters, and to provide NRC with answers to questions posed to the States on particular issues.

I am writing to request the continued participation of the State of West Virginia in the NRC's State Liaison Officer program. It is my understanding that the most recent State Liaison Officer, Beattie DeBord, Chief, Radiological Health Program in the West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources, has retired. The individual you select to perform this function should be a State official who can communicate effectively with other State agencies on issues related to the regulation of radioactive material and commercial nuclear power reactors. We will keep you informed of our programs and activities through this individual. At the same time, we will maintain our ties to various individuals in State agencies with whom we have established relationships on specific issues.

The Commission looks forward to the continued participation by the State of West Virginia in the NRC's State Liaison Officer program. I hope that you share the Commission's belief in the value of this program and will advise us of your new appointee at an early date. If you or your staff have any questions or wish additional information, please contact Paul H. Lohaus, Director of NRC's Office of State and Tribal Programs in Headquarters, at 301-415-3340 or Robert Trojanowski, our Region II State Liaison Officer, at 404-562-4427.

I am looking forward to continuing an excellent working relationship with the State of West Virginia.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Richard A. Meserve