

April 24, 2002

Mr. John Bridgeland
Assistant to the President and Director
of the USA Freedom Corps Office
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20501

Dear Mr. Bridgeland:

In response to Executive Order 13254 establishing the USA Freedom Corps and the President's memorandum of March 12, 2002, directing Federal agencies to identify and report on existing service opportunities and regulatory barriers to additional opportunities, I am pleased to provide the following information on volunteer service opportunities at the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC). The Commission supports the objectives of Executive Order 13254 and is proud of its public service mission and of its employees's community activities.

The NRC offers its employees numerous service opportunities, some of which are focused within the agency and others oriented to the wider extended community. The agency's external service opportunities are generally organized and publicized to employees by the appropriate agency office. These efforts encourage NRC employees to become active in their local communities throughout the Washington Metropolitan area. Because of NRC's location in Maryland, many of our volunteer programs support Montgomery County initiatives. For example, some NRC employees participate in the Montgomery County, Maryland Adopt-A-Road program, in which teams clear local streets of debris, or engage in partnering with the County to assist local businesses to begin or improve their recycling programs.

Many volunteer opportunities are advertised on the employee Web site through a Volunteer Opportunity Bulletin Board. For example, postings on the Volunteer Bulletin Board as of this writing include opportunities to assist clients of Montgomery County's Victim Assistance and Sexual Assault Program by providing crisis counseling and companion services to victims of rape and assault, to visit with blind or visually impaired persons in their homes to read and run errands, and to deliver meals for the Jewish Social Service Agency's Kosher Meals on Wheels program.

Another external service opportunity in which NRC employees participate is the Volunteers in Schools program. Agency employees volunteer their service and time to work with students and staff at the first grade through college levels in association with schools throughout the Washington metropolitan area and to a lesser degree in areas surrounding our four regional offices. NRC volunteers lecture in classrooms, participate in career awareness seminars, serve as science fair mentors and judges (a special NRC award is provided at the annual Montgomery Area Science Fair), provide hands-on science demonstrations about how math and science are used in jobs and in everyday life, serve as tutors and mentors, host field trips, and counsel and instruct students about nuclear energy and safety.

The numerous internal service possibilities for NRC employees are typified by the many “grassroots” service initiatives organized by employees and employee groups and supported by the NRC in terms of space and employee intranet bulletins. These include efforts such as those of the agency chapter of Blacks in Government to collect food and toys for the needy during the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays.

The NRC fosters a spirit of service in the accomplishment of its mission, as well as in outside service possibilities. The Commission deeply appreciates the significant volunteer work performed by NRC employees who serve as EEO counselors and on our EEO advisory committees and subcommittees. Their contribution has been essential to an effective EEO and diversity management program. This belief has been expressed to NRC employees in many ways, including employee announcements, statements by the Commissioners in public meetings, and in documents published for reporting purposes to other Federal government agencies. The agency’s mentoring program is another avenue for volunteer expression, allowing experienced NRC employees to volunteer to serve as mentors to junior employees, affording them the opportunity for one-on-one discussions about career goals and strategies. All of these workplace volunteer initiatives are publicized regularly through internal communications media.

The Commission does not believe there are any Federal regulatory and programmatic barriers in NRC which would inhibit participation in community and other service activities.

If you have further questions regarding the NRC’s inventory of Federal service opportunities, please contact Mr. Paul E. Bird, Director of NRC’s Office of Human Resources. Mr. Bird can be reached at (301) 415-7516 or peb@nrc.gov.

Sincerely,

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Richard A. Meserve