

April 10, 2003

The Honorable Richard B. Cheney  
President of the United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Mr. President:

I am forwarding the NRC's "Report to Congress on Abnormal Occurrences, Fiscal Year 2002." This report on events involving radioactive materials use is required by Section 208 of the Energy Reorganization Act of 1974 (Public Law 93-438). In the context of the act, an abnormal occurrence (AO) is an unscheduled incident or event that the Commission determines to be significant from the standpoint of public health or safety. The Federal Reports Elimination and Sunset Act of 1995 (Public Law 104-66) requires that AOs be reported to Congress annually.

The report describes three AOs at facilities licensed by the NRC. One event involved performance deficiency resulting in reactor head degradation at a nuclear power plant, the second event involved a gamma stereotactic radiosurgery misadministration and the third event involved an overexposure of a radiopharmacist at a materials facility. The report also discusses seven events at facilities licensed by Agreement States. Agreement States are states which have entered into a formal agreement with the NRC pursuant to Section 274 of the Atomic Energy Act (AEA) to regulate certain quantities of AEA material at facilities located within their borders. Currently, there are 32 Agreement States. One of the Agreement State AOs involved elevated radiation levels from a package during its transport, three events involved radiography overexposures and three events involved medical misadministrations, two therapeutic and one diagnostic. In addition, Appendix C of the AO report, "Other Events of Interest," describes three nuclear power reactor events, including a generic event of interest regarding an emerging issue involving reactor vessel head degradation, one event involving accountability failure at a fuel cycle facility, and four materials events.

Sincerely,

**/RA/**  
Nils J. Diaz

Enclosure: "Report to Congress on Abnormal  
Occurrences, Fiscal Year 2002"

April 10, 2003

The Honorable J. Dennis Hastert  
Speaker of the United States  
House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Mr. Speaker:

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