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**From:** William Travers  
**To:** Travers, William  
**Date:** 1/31/02 3:57PM  
**Subject:** EDO Updates

EDO Update 1/31/02, 3:45 p.m.

Good afternoon.

This past weekend, I was invited to Mexico City to celebrate the 23rd anniversary of the founding of their country's regulatory agency. Our colleagues in Mexico are appreciative of our collaboration over the years.

Chairman Meserve gave a compelling speech about nuclear facilities and security in the post- 9/11 environment at the National Press Club on January 17. His remarks, including a subsequent question and answer session, are available on our web site, at <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/commission/tr/2002/>

I and other NRC managers has been continuing to attend meetings at the Office of Homeland Security (OHS) that cover a variety of issues. One such issue is combat air patrols - their effectiveness in protecting critical infrastructure, their significant cost, and the measures that could be put in place for passenger and aviation protection. Also at a recent meeting, various representatives of the energy sector were briefed on topics including sharing of information, interface with first responders to an emergency, and protection against bio-terrorism. NRC was recognized for our excellent input to the planned OHS threat advisory system.

The staff worked on comments requested by OHS which involved their "vertical information sharing initiative." This could have implications for the NRC because it defines a new category of information called "Sensitive Homeland Security Information" that we may need to incorporate and apply to certain NRC documents. It also discusses a network for sharing information during emergency events. This will likely involve information sharing with State and local governments, as well as our licensees.

We are pleased that a representative from OHS, Major General Bruce Lawlor, will be attending our ceremony to recognize employees who made significant sacrifices in responding to the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks. The ceremony will be held on March 21, and you will be receiving more details shortly.

We recently issued an advisory to various licensees which updated the threat environment as it relates to information provided by the FBI regarding data posted on municipal and state web sites. We also issued an advisory on aircraft crashes, however, no specific threat has been identified and no specific action by our licensees was requested.

On a lighter note, you may be interested in knowing that our compassionate colleagues in Region III may have played a role in saving a polar bear's life. The bear was suffering from hyperthyroidism, and his weight had slipped from 900 to 600 pounds. The Region III staff authorized a licensed veterinarian to administer Iodine-131 at a zoo (rather than a typical veterinary clinic) in Duluth, Minnesota, where the necessary contamination controls were put in place. We understand Bubba the bear has responded well and is on the path to recovery. There is no end to the good deeds that NRC staff can perform!

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