

February 20, 2006

The Honorable Robert L. Ehrlich, Jr.
Governor of Maryland
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Dear Governor Ehrlich:

In 1976, the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) adopted a recommendation from several State organizations, including the National Governors Association, that the NRC request each State to appoint a single person to act as a liaison to the NRC for the purpose of improving Federal/State cooperation. The NRC looks to the Governor-appointed State Liaison Officer to provide the primary communication channel between the States and the NRC. It is anticipated that the State Liaison Officer would serve as the key person in the State to keep the Governor informed on issues under the jurisdiction of NRC (specifically matters addressing nuclear regulation, nuclear security, and radiological public health and safety), and to provide NRC with State information on particular nuclear safety, security, or environmental issues.

I am writing to request that you appoint a State Liaison Officer to act as the primary liaison to the NRC. It is my understanding that the most recent State Liaison Officer, Thomas Snyder, Director, Air, and Radiation Management Administration, Maryland Department of the Environment, has resigned. Until you appoint a new State Liaison Officer, the NRC staff will work with Roland Fletcher, Manager, Radiological Health Program, Air and Radiation Management Administration, Maryland Department of the Environment. At the same time, the NRC staff will continue to work with 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 Maryland in the NRC's State Liaison Officer program. If you or your staff have any questions or wish to obtain additional information, please contact me; Janet R. Schlueter, Director of NRC's Office of State and Tribal Programs in headquarters at 301-415-3340; or Robert Bores, our Region I State Liaison Officer, at 610-337-5213.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Nils J. Diaz