



April 16, 2014

The Honorable Allison M. MacFarlane
Nuclear Regulatory Commission
11555 Rockville Pike, 016 G4
Rockville, MD 20852

Dear Chairman MacFarlane:

On behalf of the AGA's Certificate of Excellence in Accountability Reporting Board of Directors, I would like to congratulate the Nuclear Regulatory Commission for preparing its 2013 Performance and Accountability Report (PAR). We are honored to acknowledge NRC's efforts by awarding the AGA's prestigious *Certificate of Excellence in Accountability Reporting*.

The Certificate of Excellence recognizes outstanding accountability reporting and is the highest form of recognition in Federal government management reporting. NRC has received the *Certificate of Excellence in Accountability Reporting* for thirteen consecutive years.

NRC's Performance and Accountability Report continues to issue an interesting and informative Performance and Accountability Report containing several exemplary elements. Examples are the imaginative use of graphics; the description of the nuclear industry; how radioactive materials are produced, used, and disposed of; and NRC's role in each of the steps; future Challenges and what NRC is doing to address them; and, this year, the statistics on use of social media.

However, there is always an opportunity to improve a Performance and Accountability Report. Hence, the program identifies exemplary practices and then provides several pages of recommendations for improving even the best reports.

The CEAR program's comments and recommendations are provided in the attached document, separated into the following categories:

- **Presentation of information:** These are recommendations for streamlining the report such that the information will be more transparent and accessible to readers
- **Reporting or disclosure deficiencies:** These are matters that warrant attention since the reports did not appear to include all of the elements required by Federal financial reporting guidelines, such as OMB Circular No. A-136.
- **Making the report more useful:** These are comments that would help to make the reports more complete, or would answer questions that a reader may wonder when reading the reports.
- **Editorial Matters:** These are comments surrounding formatting issues or other minor typographical errors that could be avoided in future reports.



The recommendations prepared for NRC have been provided directly to NRC's chief financial officer and acting deputy CFO. Since the reports are an agency product and there are portions provided by the Inspector General, the recommendations for these portions should be shared with the Office of Inspector General (OIG) to improve the PAR's accountability and transparency. The Inspector General's actions to address these recommendations should be included in the response accompanying the transmittal of next year's report to the CEAR program.

Again, we are proud to award NRC the recognition its hard work deserves. Hopefully, with your sustained leadership and commitment, NRC's Performance and Accountability Report will continue this series of awards and serve as a model for excellent reporting by other agencies.

The AGA will present the framed *Certificate of Excellence in Accountability Reporting* to you and the *Award for Excellence in Accountability Reporting* to the persons responsible for preparing the reports at an awards ceremony to be held Wednesday evening, May 21st at the National Press Club. We hope you and your team can join us for the special recognition. More information about this special event will be transmitted shortly. In the meantime, if you have any questions, please feel free to call me at 703.684.6931 x 211.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Relmond P. Van Daniker". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial 'R'.

Relmond P. Van Daniker
Executive Director