

September 25, 1996

Mr. James L. Witt, Director
Federal Emergency Management Agency
Washington, D.C. 20472

Dear Mr. Witt:

Thank you for your letter to Chairman Jackson dated September 19, 1996, requesting our review and agreement on the shortfalls identified in the Draft Report to the President entitled, "An Assessment of Federal Consequence Management Capabilities for the Response to Nuclear, Biological, or Chemical Terrorism." In light of the Oklahoma City incident and other recent events, we recognize the importance of preparedness to respond to nuclear, biological, and chemical (NBC) terrorist events. As you are aware, we worked closely with other members of the Catastrophic Disaster Response Group (CDRG) Core Group to assess the adequacy of the existing Federal plans in response to NBC incidents.

We continue to believe that the findings of the Draft Report represent our best assessment of the key shortfalls for an NBC event. We also recognize that the scope and magnitude of the followup corrective actions will require extensive work by the Federal community in the coming years. Given the nature of the threat to public health and safety, we believe this effort is both timely and critical.

I look forward to continued cooperation between our agencies in this most challenging task.

Sincerely,

Original Signed by:

E. L. Jordan
Edward L. Jordan, Director
Office for Analysis and Evaluation
of Operational Data

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