



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

June 26, 1997

CHAIRMAN

Mr. John L. Erickson
State of Washington
Department of Health
Division of Radiation Protection
Agricultural Center, Building 5
P.O. Box 47827
Olympia, Washington 98504-7827

Dear Mr. Erickson:

I am responding to your letter of April 9, 1997, regarding State participation in the Commission's efforts on external regulation of the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE). The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) recently created a Task Force to develop a plan for NRC regulation of certain DOE nuclear facilities. The issues that you have raised, particularly the need for close coordination with Agreement States and the need to determine whether machine-generated radiation and naturally occurring radioactive material will be included in the external regulation provided by NRC, are within the scope of the Task Force Charter. The issue you raised regarding DOE contractor exemptions will also be referred to the Task Force, for consideration, during its discussions.

NRC intends to ensure a coordinated approach with the affected States on the tasks related to this undertaking. The importance of State participation also was emphasized by the State participants in the Commission's Strategic Assessment process. These participants indicated that the States may be establishing a special committee to address the DOE external regulation issue. It would be very helpful to NRC's coordination efforts if a central point of contact with the States was designated. NRC will be contacting the Organization of Agreement States and the Conference of Radiation Control Program Directors to discuss the best structure for State participation.

NRC appreciates your concerns and will contact you soon concerning the initial activities of the Task Force.

I trust that this reply responds to your concerns.

Sincerely,

Shirley Ann Jackson

cc: Robert Quillin, OAS
William Dornsife, CRCPD
Michael Mobley, State of Tennessee
Dr. John Volpe, State of Kentucky

9707070209 970626
PDR COMMS NRCC
CORRESPONDENCE PDR

