

August 17, 2012

The Honorable Robert Bentley
Governor of Alabama
Montgomery, AL 36130-2751

Dear Governor Bentley:

On behalf of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), I extend our congratulations to your State and all Agreement States on the successful history of the Agreement State Program. It has been over 50 years since the inception of the Agreement State Program. On March 26, 1962, the Commonwealth of Kentucky became the first Agreement State to assume regulatory responsibility for certain radioactive materials under Section 274 of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended. Mississippi, California, and New York soon followed and celebrate a golden anniversary in 2012. Today, 37 States have entered into Agreements with NRC. The Agreement States regulate over 85 percent of the nation's radioactive material licenses.

The Agreement States are an integral partner in the implementation and success of the national materials program. Along with the NRC, the Agreement States have ensured the adequate protection of public health and safety, and the environment from potential hazards or exposure through each programs' licensing, inspection, response to incidents, staffing and training, and enforcement and investigation activities. In addition, the Agreement States and the NRC share in activities such as rule and guidance development, review of events for generic implications and evaluation of program performance.

Although we have had many accomplishments over the years, the coming years will bring new challenges, including the further integration of security into the national materials program, the revision of licensing requirements for the disposal of low-level radioactive waste and a potential major revision to our fundamental radiation protection standards. To meet these challenges and continue the outstanding record of protecting the public from unnecessary radiation, we need to maintain vibrant radiation protection programs. The continuation of a strong working relationship between the NRC and the Agreement States is essential for us to meet these new challenges.

I commend the Agreement States on their successful efforts throughout the years and I wish you continued success in these efforts. I look forward to our agencies continuing to work cooperatively in the future.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Allison M. Macfarlane

Identical letter sent to:

The Honorable Robert Bentley
Governor of Alabama
Montgomery, AL 36130-2751

The Honorable Jan Brewer
Governor of Arizona
Phoenix, Arizona 85007

The Honorable John Hickenlooper
Governor of Colorado
Denver, Colorado 80203-1792

The Honorable Nathan Deal
Governor of Georgia
Atlanta, Georgia 30334

The Honorable Pat Quinn
Governor of Illinois
Springfield, Illinois 62706

The Honorable Steve Beshear
Governor of Kentucky
Frankfort, Kentucky 40601

The Honorable Deval Patrick
Governor of Massachusetts
Boston, Massachusetts 02133

The Honorable Paul R. LePage
Governor of Maine
Augusta, Maine 04333-0001

The Honorable Phil Bryant
Governor of Mississippi
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The Honorable Jack Dalrymple
Governor of North Dakota
Bismarck, North Dakota 58505-0001

The Honorable John Lynch
Governor of New Hampshire
Concord, New Hampshire 03301

The Honorable Susana Martinez
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Santa Fe, New Mexico 87501

The Honorable Mike Beebe
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The Honorable Jerry Brown
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The Honorable Rick Scott
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The Honorable Terry Branstad
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The Honorable Sam Brownback
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The Honorable Bobby Jindal
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The Honorable Martin O'Malley
Governor of Maryland
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The Honorable Mark Dayton
Governor of Minnesota
St. Paul, Minnesota 55155

The Honorable Beverly Perdue
Governor of North Carolina
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The Honorable Dave Heineman
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The Honorable Christopher Christie
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The Honorable Brian Sandoval
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The Honorable Andrew Cuomo
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The Honorable Mary Fallin
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The Honorable Tom Corbett
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The Honorable Nikki Haley
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The Honorable Rick Perry
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The Honorable Robert McDonnell
Governor of Virginia
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The Honorable Scott Walker
Governor of Wisconsin
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The Honorable John Kasich
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The Honorable John Kitzhaber
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The Honorable Lincoln Chafee
Governor of Rhode Island
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Nashville, Tennessee 37243-0001

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The Honorable Christine Gregoire
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