

December 4, 2007

The Honorable Richard B. Cheney
President of the United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Mr. President:

On behalf of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), I want to inform you that NRC's project to monitor the location of radioactive sources of concern, the National Source Tracking System (NSTS), is now expected to begin operation in December 2008. This new date is a delay from the original estimate due primarily to the need to address outstanding system security issues.

The NSTS has a key role in improving NRC's ability to track radioactive sources, thereby permitting earlier detection and prevention of loss or theft. The system will track transactions of sources from the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) and from NRC and Agreement State licensees throughout their lifecycles. The project, which is the product of a joint study by NRC and DOE, is informed by international efforts that culminated in the Code of Conduct on the Safety and Security of Radioactive Sources, issued by the International Atomic Energy Agency in January 2004. Although development of the NSTS was coordinated with multiple Federal and State agencies, NRC is solely responsible for developing the appropriate hardware and software and for overall system operation. The Energy Policy Act of 2005 required NRC to issue regulations to establish the system. NRC issued the regulations on November 8, 2006, and on October 19, 2007, issued an amendment to the regulation changing the date by which licensees must report data to the system to January 31, 2009. NRC will continue to maintain and update annually an interim inventory of radioactive sources of concern throughout the U.S. until the NSTS is fully implemented.

If the date for NSTS operation should change, I will communicate the new date to you. I would be happy to provide any further information you need or to discuss this subject with you at your convenience.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Dale E. Klein

Identical letter sent to:

The Honorable Richard B. Cheney
President of the United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Thomas R. Carper
Chairman, Subcommittee on Clean Air
and Nuclear Safety
Committee on Environment and Public Works
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510
cc: Senator George V. Voinovich

The Honorable Barbara Boxer
Chairman, Committee on Environment
and Public Works
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510
cc: Senator James M. Inhofe

The Honorable Rick Boucher
Chairman, Subcommittee on Energy
and Air Quality
Committee on Energy and Commerce
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable John D. Dingell
Chairman, Committee on Energy and Commerce
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515
cc: Representative Joe Barton

The Honorable Byron Dorgan
Chairman, Subcommittee on Energy
and Water Development
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510
cc: Senator Pete V. Domenici

The Honorable Peter J. Visclosky
Chairman, Subcommittee on Energy
and Water Development
Committee on Appropriations
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515
cc: Representative David L. Hobson

The Honorable Joseph I. Lieberman
Chairman, Committee on Homeland Security
and Governmental Affairs
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510
cc: Senator Susan M. Collins

The Honorable Bennie G. Thompson
Chairman, Committee on Homeland Security
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515
cc: Representative Peter T. King

The Honorable Henry A. Waxman
Chairman, Committee on Oversight
and Government Reform
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515
cc: Representative Tom Davis

The Honorable Kent Conrad
Chairman, Committee on the Budget
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510
cc: Senator Judd Gregg

The Honorable John M. Spratt, Jr.
Chairman, Committee on the Budget
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515
cc: Representative Paul Ryan