

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

Dear Mr. President:

I am enclosing the "Report to Congress on Abnormal Occurrences: Fiscal Year (FY) 2004." The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) is forwarding this report to Congress in accordance with Section 208 of the Energy Reorganization Act of 1974 (Public Law 93-438) and the Federal Reports Elimination and Sunset Act of 1995 (Public Law 104-66), which require the NRC to identify and report abnormal occurrences (AOs) to Congress annually. In the context of the Energy Reorganization Act, an "abnormal occurrence" is an unscheduled incident or event that the Commission determines to be significant from the standpoint of public health or safety.

The enclosed report describes four events at NRC-licensed facilities that meet the criteria to be classified as AOs. One event involved a uranium hexafluoride release at a fuel cycle facility. Another event, also at a fuel cycle facility, revealed excessive uranium concentrations found in ash deposits in various locations in an incinerator. A third event involved a patient undergoing therapeutic brachytherapy treatment. The fourth event involved an unintentional excessive dose of sodium iodide (I-131) administered to a patient. The report also addresses 13 AOs at facilities licensed by Agreement States. [Agreement States are those States that have entered into formal agreements with the NRC pursuant to Section 274 of the Atomic Energy Act (AEA) to regulate certain quantities of AEA licensed material at facilities located within their borders.] During FY 2004, the NRC received notification of 13 events that occurred at Agreement State-licensed facilities, including 8 therapeutic medical events, 3 diagnostic medical events, 1 event involving an unintentional therapeutic dose of I-131 to an embryo/fetus, and 1 event involving an extremity overexposure to a radiopharmacy trainee. All of the events meet the criteria for AO categorization, as defined in Appendix A to the report.

Sincerely,

Nils J. Diaz

Enclosure: As stated