U.S.NRC
United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Protecting People and the Environment

RIC 2016

Partnering with the States to Protect People and the Environment:
The NRC's State Liaison Officer Program

With support from the NRC RSLOs, the **State Liaison Officers** perform a number of activities, including:

- Keeping their Governors informed on NRC issues, including nuclear regulation, security, and radiological health and safety;
- Informing and coordinating with State and local agencies and counterparts on these matters;
- Answering NRC inquiries and providing the NRC with State information; and
- Providing communications and support to State, local, and Federal emergency agencies during emergency exercises and actual events.

The NRC is committed to protecting people and the environment and one way we accomplish that mission is through effective partnering with the States.

The NRC's **State Liaison Officer Program** was created in 1976 when the NRC adopted a recommendation from several State organizations that each State Governor appoint a single person to act as the liaison to the NRC to help improve cooperation and communication between the NRC and States.

Under the State Liaison Officer Program, each Governor appoints a **State Liaison Officer** to serve as the State's primary liaison to the NRC. State Liaison Officers generally work for State agencies that focus on protecting public health and safety and the environment.

Regional State Liaison Officers (RSLOs) are NRC staff based out of the regions that are the agency's primary point of contact with the States.

The **State Liaison Officer Program** is vital to maintaining effective communications between the States and the NRC.

The **NRC RSLOs** provide the State Liaison Officers with timely and relevant information related to nuclear power plants and fuel cycle facilities.

NRC RSLOs are an integral part of emergency preparedness and incident response. RSLOs are the primary representatives of the NRC to the State and local government and serve as the communications conduit for keeping the Governor and supporting State and local agencies informed of plant conditions and licensee and NRC response.

NRC RSLOs coordinate and support regional communication with other Federal agencies (e.g., FEMA, EPA, OSHA, DOT, etc.)

NRC RSLOs negotiate Memoranda of Understanding and protocols for State and Tribal observation of NRC inspections.

NRC staff should remember to keep the RSLOs and the NMSS Liaison Program Manager (Sarah Lopas) informed of licensing actions and agency efforts that may be of interest to the States. NRC staff play an important part in supporting RSLOs and the State Liaison Officer Program.

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