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(FSME-14-084, August, Other, Task Force Report)

August 21, 2014

ALL AGREEMENT AND NON-AGREEMENT STATES STATE LIAISON OFFICERS

NOTIFICATION OF ISSUANCE OF THE 2014 RADIATION SOURCE PROTECTION AND SECURITY TASK FORCE REPORT TO THE PRESIDENT AND CONGRESS (FSME-14-084)

Purpose: To inform you that on August 14, 2014, the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) submitted the third report of the Radiation Source Protection and Security Task Force (Task Force) to the President and Congress, in accordance with Section 651(d) of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (Public Law 109-58) (EPAct).

Background: The EPAct charged the Task Force with: 1) evaluating and providing recommendations relating to the security of radiation sources in the U.S. from potential terrorist threats, including acts of sabotage, theft, or use of a radiological source in a radiological dispersal device; and 2) providing, within 1 year of enactment, and not less than every 4 years thereafter, reports containing recommendations, including recommendations for appropriate regulatory and legislative changes, to the Congress and the President.

On August 15, 2006, the Task Force submitted the first report. At that time, the Task Force found no significant gaps that were not already being addressed, nor made any recommendations for legislative changes. The Task Force identified a number of near-term actions planned or underway to further strengthen regulatory controls and made several recommendations to enhance the overall security of risk-significant radioactive sources. On August 11, 2010, the Task Force submitted the second report, which provided an update on the progress made since the 2006 Task Force report and proposed additional recommendations, in an effort to continue to improve the security of risk-significant radioactive sources in the U.S.

Discussion: Over the last 4 years, the Task Force, which includes membership from fourteen Federal agencies and the Organization of Agreement States, has made significant progress in facilitating and tracking the completion and closeout of a majority of the remaining recommendations from both the previous Task Force reports. The 2014 Task Force report describes the activities, accomplishments, and challenges related to the security of the Category 1 and 2 quantities of radioactive sources listed in the International Atomic Energy Agency's "Code of Conduct on the Safety and Security of Radioactive Sources (IAEA Code of Conduct)," published in 2004, which are considered the most risk-significant sources.

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Domestically, Federal and State Government partners, which comprise this Task Force, have collaborated and continue to collaborate with a common goal of preventing radiological materials from being used for malevolent purposes through the development, harmonization, and implementation of national policies, laws and regulations, and through international involvement and cooperation. The application of these activities is discussed in the previous Task Force reports as well as this third Task Force report, which are all available at http://www.nrc.gov/security/byproduct/task-force.html.

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