



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

February 23, 2000

CHAIRMAN

Mr. John Carlson
Director General
Australian Safeguards
and Non-Proliferation Office
R G Casey Building
John McEwen Crescent,
Barton ACT 0221
AUSTRALIA

Dear Director General Carlson:

Thank you for your letter of February 3, 2000 inviting a team of experts from the U.S. to visit Lucas Heights, Sydney, New South Wales, before the second week of March, 2000, to view physical protection arrangements at the SILEX Systems Limited facility and to discuss the arrangements for classification and transfer of sensitive information. Your letter also proposes a reciprocal visit of an Australian team in May, 2000, to a USEC facility at Paducah, Kentucky.

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff is currently consulting with the Department of Energy (DOE) on the composition of a U.S. team and the limitations imposed by the pending status of the SILEX Agreement. Those discussions should produce a coordinated DOE-NRC response to you in the next few days, which I hope will prove satisfactory.

The Commission appreciates the close and cooperative relations which have existed between our respective organizations on nuclear non-proliferation and international safeguards matters, and we look forward to continued cooperation on SILEX issues.

Sincerely,

Richard A. Meserve

cc: L. Wilcher, DOE
R. Sadlier, Embassy of Australia

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ANOs*

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