

May 1, 2000

The Honorable Charles Kartman
U.S. Special Envoy for the Korea Peace Talks
and U.S. Representative to KEDO
United States Department of State
Washington, D.C. 20520

Dear Mr. Ambassador:

I am responding to your letter of March 31, 2000 requesting U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) support of the Korean Peninsula Energy Development Organization (KEDO) efforts to enhance nuclear safety in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK). The Commission recently scheduled a presentation by KEDO on June 13, 2000 through the Agreed Framework Division of the Department of State to ensure that the Commission is fully informed on the status of KEDO's efforts. In addition, because NRC is a fee-based agency, we are also awaiting follow up from Mr. Holum's briefing to the Commission regarding possible funding to support any potential NRC involvement. Once the Commission is briefed by KEDO and we receive feedback on the potential source of funding, the Commission will develop a decision regarding the type of interaction that would be appropriate between KEDO and NRC.

In the interim, I suggest that we continue to consider each request for NRC participation in a KEDO activity on a case-by-case basis. This could allow some discreet interaction when and if it seems to be in the best interest of nuclear safety.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Richard A. Meserve