

ACTION ITEM

DATE RECEIVED: 06/15/00

CORRESPONDENCE DATE: 06/12/00

TICKET NUMBER: LTR-00-0386

AUTHOR/REQUESTER & AFFILIATION:

JOE KNOLLENBERG

ADDRESSEE:

Richard Meserve

SUBJECT: NRC'S COOPERATION WITH NORTH KOREA

ACTION: Prepare response for Chairman Signature - Commission Correspondence

DUE DATE:
JUNE 30, 2000

ASSIGNED TO:
DCC

COPIES:
JDL/RDH/ELD

COMMENTS: ERIDS = SECY-05 OWNER = OIP, SECY, OCM
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**OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
CORRESPONDENCE CONTROL TICKET**

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ACTION OFFICE: OIP

AUTHOR: JOE KNOLLENBERG
AFFILIATION: REP
ADDRESSEE: RICHARD MESERVE
SUBJECT: NRC'S COOPERATION WITH NORTH KOREA

ACTION: Information
DISTRIBUTION: RF, OCA TO ACK, ~~PLS~~

LETTER DATE: 06/12/2000

ACKNOWLEDGED No

SPECIAL HANDLING: COMMISSION CORRES

NOTES:

FILE LOCATION: ADAMS

DATE DUE: 06/30/2000 **DATE SIGNED:**

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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-2211

June 12, 2000

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OFFICIAL CONDUCT

Paul F. Welday
CHIEF OF STAFF

Mr. Richard A. Meserve
Chairman
United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, DC 20555

Dear Chairman Meserve:


I have recently become aware of a State Department request for the USNRC to engage in the training of North Korean nuclear regulators and safety advisors under the Korean Energy Development Organization framework. I am referring to a March 31, 2000 letter to you from Ambassador Charles Kartman. I am writing to express my serious reservations concerning the USNRC's involvement in this area, including but not limited to the source of funding for any such activities.

As a senior member of the House Appropriations Subcommittees on Energy and Water and Foreign Operations, it is my opinion the USNRC is the world's foremost regulatory agency when it comes to nuclear technology. Notwithstanding the high esteem I hold for your organization, it is my firm belief that Congress must be consulted before the USNRC takes any action in this regard.

As of this writing, I have not been made aware of either the scope or the level of participation of the USNRC in any possible training of North Korean nuclear regulators. Furthermore, Congress has neither authorized nor appropriated funds for these activities. Given the significance of this matter, it is extremely important that Congress remain well-apprised of any and all discussions taking place between the State Department and the USNRC. I would like to request a meeting with you and your staff during which time you can hopefully provide me with a thorough briefing as to how the USNRC plans to proceed.

I look forward to your response. Please contact my office at (202) 225-5802 with any questions.

Sincerely,


Joe Knollenberg
Member of Congress