

July 11, 2000

The Honorable Joseph K. Knollenberg  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515-2211

Dear Congressman Knollenberg:

Thank you for your letter of June 12, 2000, expressing your reservations about potential Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) involvement in safety training being planned by the Korean Peninsula Energy Development Organization (KEDO). The NRC, as you know, has been asked by the U.S. Department of State to support KEDO efforts to enhance nuclear safety in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK).

As we discussed in your office on June 23, 2000, the Commission, as part of its decision-making process, held an open meeting with KEDO and the Department of State on June 13, 2000. They explained the background of the initiative, the interactions with the DPRK, the status of the Light Water Reactor Project, the nuclear safety confirmation system which KEDO has set up, and the areas in which KEDO and the Department of State think the NRC might make a contribution in implementation activities.

The Commission is still gathering information. We have made no decision on this matter and it will take us some time to sort through the complexities associated with any nuclear safety assistance to the DPRK. In the event the Commission decides to participate in the implementation activities, NRC would seek reimbursable funding from the Executive Branch and KEDO.

I appreciated the opportunity to meet with you and I look forward to future interactions.

Sincerely,

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Richard A. Meserve