

July 11, 2000

The Honorable Benjamin A. Gilman, Chairman
Committee on International Relations
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515-2211

Dear Mr. Chairman:

Thank you for your letter of June 12, 2000, regarding potential Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) involvement in implementation activities under the 1994 Agreed Framework with the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK). The NRC, as you know, has been asked by the U.S. Department of State to support the efforts of the Korean Peninsula Energy Development Organization (KEDO) to enhance nuclear safety in the DPRK. In our information-gathering process, we scheduled an open meeting with KEDO and the Department of State on June 13, 2000. They briefed the NRC on 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.

A briefing with your staff took place June 28, 2000, as you requested. Please contact me if I can be of further assistance.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Richard A. Meserve

cc: Representative Sam Gejdenson