

July 26, 2000

Mr. Thomas B. Cochran, Director
Nuclear Program
Wade Green Chair of Nuclear Policy
Natural Resources Defense Council
1200 New York Avenue, N.W., Suite 400
Washington, D.C. 20005

Dear Mr. Cochran:

Thank you for your letter of June 7, 2000, expressing your reservations about potential U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) involvement in safety training being planned by the Korean Peninsula Energy Development Organization (KEDO). As you know, the NRC 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).

We held an open meeting with KEDO and the Department of State on June 13, 2000. They briefed the NRC on the background of the initiative, their 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. Your views are welcome and will be considered carefully.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Richard A. Meserve

July 26, 2000

Mr. Christopher E. Paine, Senior Researcher
Natural Resources Defense Council
1200 New York Avenue, N.W., Suite 400
Washington, D.C. 20005

Dear Mr. Paine:

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Richard A. Meserve