

August 23, 2000

Ms. Judith Melin, Director General  
Swedish Nuclear Power Inspectorate  
SE-106 58 Stockholm  
Sweden

Dear Director General Melin:

This follows up Chairman Meserve's letter to you of March 21, 2000, which informally extended our nuclear safety cooperation while we worked to reach agreement on a renewal text for our long-standing information exchange and cooperation Arrangement.

We very much appreciated SKI's initiative in developing the initial text for consideration, and understand your desire to simplify. We have done our best to meet this goal, while still including all of the items which are essential to fulfill our requirements. You will find Articles 1 and 2 of the attached text (on the Scope and Administration of the Arrangement) substantially abbreviated from the 1994 Arrangement and very close to SKI's suggested text. The Preamble and Article 4 add an extra provision, but again are in the spirit of your proposal. Where we have come to a significant deviation is Article 3 (on Exchange and Use of Information) and the Intellectual Property Addendum, which we have re-inserted in entirety from the original Arrangement. Whether or not we draw on them frequently, it is these provisions which allow NRC to discuss with you information which will be - but is not yet - in the public domain, such as safety documents still in draft, regulatory policies under development, new procedures being considered, and research results not yet fully evaluated. I think we are in agreement that it would be a rare occasion when we might exchange information truly in confidence. So we would expect to generate few if any cases that might actually test your confidentiality provisions.

I ask that you review the attached draft and give us your comments on it. I assure you that it is about as "minimal" as we can make it, so I hope you will keep this in mind. We would like to move forward on formalizing our renewal Arrangement some time within the next few months. We look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

***/RA/ Rhauber for***

Janice Dunn Lee, Director  
Office of International Programs

Enclosure:  
Proposed NRC-SKI Renewal Arrangement  
dated 08/08/2000

Ms. Judith Melin, Director General  
 Swedish Nuclear Power Inspectorate  
 SE-106 58 Stockholm  
 Sweden

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