

October 25, 2000

MEMORANDUM TO: Chairman Meserve  
Commissioner Dicus  
Commissioner Diaz  
Commissioner McGaffigan  
Commissioner Merrifield

FROM: Janice Dunn Lee, Director /RA/  
Office of International Programs

SUBJECT: INVITATION TO CHINA TO PARTICIPATE IN CAMP

The purpose of this memorandum is to inform the Commission that the Office of Research intends to invite the Chinese nuclear safety authorities, the National Nuclear Safety Administration (NNSA), to join NRC's international Thermal-Hydraulic Code Applications and Maintenance Program (CAMP). Their participation would be under the terms of the NRC-NNSA Protocol on Cooperation in Nuclear Safety Matters. An invitation was previously extended in a letter to NNSA Deputy Director General Qiao Zhi, dated October 3, 1997. At that time, the NNSA did not have sufficient resources to pay the required membership fee and other costs of participation.

Currently, the membership fee is \$50,000 per year plus in-kind technical contributions. In consideration of NNSA's continuing financial constraints, the NRC will waive the first year of CAMP membership fee for China, providing that the NNSA provides NRC with recently generated thermal-hydraulic data relevant for code assessment. This is consistent with past practice.

We have been careful in our dealings with China and will continue to provide codes only to the NNSA, our regulatory counterpart, for use in their domestic reactor program. (Earlier versions of the RELAP code (contained in CAMP) were previously provided to the NNSA on this basis.) Each code requested by the NNSA is carefully considered and the Executive Branch is consulted as necessary prior to making any commitment. We have denied code requests from China's nuclear industry to avoid having the codes used and cited by Chinese groups working on projects outside of China.

The timing is now good to invite the NNSA to join CAMP. On Friday, the EDO will leave for China where he will be involved in the IAEA and NRC PSA Applications Workshop, meet with the NNSA senior staff, and make a site visit to the Qinshan Nuclear Power Station. I have asked him to carry over the CAMP letter of invitation, and to discuss the terms of their participation in the program.

I will continue to keep the Commission informed of our cooperative program with China.

cc:    SECY  
          OGC  
          EDO  
          OCA  
          OPA  
          CFO  
          CIO  
          NRR  
          NMSS

The timing is now good to invite the NNSA to join CAMP. On Friday, the EDO will leave for China where he will be involved in the IAEA and NRC PSA Applications Workshop, meet with the NNSA senior staff, and make a site visit to the Qinshan Nuclear Power Station. I have asked him to carry over the CAMP letter of invitation, and to discuss the terms of their participation in the program.

I will continue to keep the Commission informed of our cooperative program with China.

cc: SECY  
OGC  
EDO  
OCA  
OPA  
CFO  
CIO  
NRR  
NMSS

DISTRIBUTION:

ADAMS IP-2A-10  
MPeterson

JDLee  
OIP r/f

RHauber

KBurke

DOCUMENT NAME: G:\CHINA\ChinaCodes.wpd

ACCESSION NO.: ML003762970

To receive a copy of this document, indicate in the box: "C" = Copy without enclosures "E" = Copy with enclosures  
"N" = No copy

| OFFICE | OIP/Team B |  | OIP/Team B |  | OIP/DD   |  | OIP/D    |  |
|--------|------------|--|------------|--|----------|--|----------|--|
| NAME   | KBurke     |  | MPeterson  |  | RHauber  |  | JDLee    |  |
| DATE   | 10/25/00   |  | 10/25/00   |  | 10/25/00 |  | 10/25/00 |  |

OFFICIAL RECORD COPY