



UNITED STATES  
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION  
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# 5

February 9, 2000

Note to: Dave Lange, OEDO  
From: Ron Hauber, OIP *RH*  
Subject: Report from the DBI Operating Company

I would appreciate your assistance in the handling of the attached letter and report.

Betty Wright and I met with Mr. Davergne several months ago, at his request, to answer questions about NRC's export licensing regulations. However, Mr. Davergne spent much of the meeting explaining the history and significance of efforts his company has devoted to the development of a small accelerator-reactor which would use thorium as its fuel, and the company's interest in building a 1/4 MW demonstration project.

When he seemed to be looking for some expression of endorsement or support of this effort from NRC, I explained that NRC is a regulatory agency and that unless his company was at the point of considering whether to apply for NRC design certification or export license, he might better pursue his interests with Bill Magwood at the Department of Energy, to determine any U.S. government interest in the design or in a demo project.

Subsequently, Mr. Davergne sent me the attached "company confidential" report, and has solicited an expression of interest from "the Department." (I have not checked with DOE to see if they received a similar letter.)

At any rate, despite the reference to the Philippines, I would like to refer this matter to the OEDO for any follow-up.

cc w/o attach: Trip Rothschild, OGC

B/C