

June 25, 2001

The Honorable Charles A. Kartman
Executive Director
Korean Peninsula Energy Development Organization
600 Third Avenue
New York, New York 10016

Dear Mr. Kartman:

I am responding to an April 13, 2001 letter from your predecessor, Mr. Anderson, requesting NRC consideration of specific assistance to the Korean Peninsula Energy Development Organization (KEDO). I want to affirm the commitment I made to Mr. Anderson to work with the Executive Branch concerning the release of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) codes that KEDO has identified as critical to the ongoing safety review of the Light Water Reactor (LWR) Project in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK). However, since approval has been denied by the Executive Branch in the past to provide even some publicly available software and other information to the DPRK under the Part 810 process, NRC will coordinate its projected safety activities, including the release of computer codes, either directly with individual Executive Branch contacts or through the interagency Sub-Group on Nuclear Export Controls.

The Administration, as you know, has just completed its review of U.S. policy toward the DPRK. We understand that no written guidance will be forthcoming, but that U.S. agencies are requested to help sustain the LWR Project by continuing necessary and useful action with, and reasonable support to, the Department of State and KEDO. The Commission intends to engage in further consultation with the Executive Branch to obtain more specific guidance on the appropriate role and level of NRC engagement with KEDO and the LWR Project. In the interim, I have asked our Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research to review the KEDO requests and to be prepared to respond to them consistent with the forthcoming guidance from the Executive Branch.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Richard A. Meserve

cc: The Honorable Thomas C. Hubbard
Acting Assistant Secretary for East Asian
and Pacific Affairs
U.S. Department of State
Washington, D.C. 20520