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USNRC/OIP:EDOROSHUK
01/09/01 301/415-2775
NP/NEA:RJSTRATFORD

USNRC/OIP:JDLEE
EAP/K:DAVIDSHEAR

PRIORITY MEXICO CITY PRIORITY

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: OVIP, ENRG, TECH, OTRA, TRGY, MX

SUBJECT: PROPOSED OFFICIAL VISIT TO MEXICO BY U.S. NUCLEAR
REGULATORY COMMISSIONER JEFFREY S. MERRIFIELD (FEBRUARY 7 - 9,
2001)

1. SUMMARY. FOLLOWING IS A REQUEST FOR THE U.S. EMBASSY
MEXICO CITY'S COUNTRY CLEARANCE AND SUPPORT OF AND ASSISTANCE
WITH THE PLANNED FEBRUARY 7 - 9 VISIT TO MEXICO BY U.S.
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION (USNRC) COMMISSIONER JEFFREY S.
MERRIFIELD AND ACCOMPANYING USNRC DELEGATION. END SUMMARY.
2. WITH THE CONCURRENCE OF THE U.S. EMBASSY MEXICO CITY,
USNRC COMMISSIONER JEFFREY S. MERRIFIELD WILL MAKE AN OFFICIAL
VISIT TO MEXICO FEBRUARY 7 - 9 TO: A) HOLD MEETINGS WITH
SENIOR NUCLEAR SAFETY AND REGULATORY OFFICIALS REPRESENTING
THE COMISION NACIONAL DE SEGURIDAD NUCLEAR Y SALVAGUARDIAS
(CNSNS) AND THE LAGUNA VERDE NUCLEAR POWER FACILITY; (C) MAKE
A FACILITY VISIT TO THE LAGUNA VERDE NUCLEAR POWER FACILITY;
(D) PAY A COURTESY CALL ON THE SECRETARY OF ENERGY, MEXICO;
AND (E) PAY A COURTESY CALL ON THE AMBASSADOR OR CHARGE
D'AFFAIRES AND RECEIVE A COUNTRY TEAM BRIEFING.
3. COMMISSIONER MERRIFIELD WILL BE ACCOMPANIED BY MR. ELLIS
W. MERSCHOFF, REGIONAL ADMINISTRATOR, U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY

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COMMISSION, REGION IV, AND MS. MARGARET M. DOANE, LEGAL ASSISTANT TO COMMISSIONER MERRIFIELD.

4. THE PRIMARY FOCUS OF COMMISSIONER MERRIFIELD'S VISIT WILL BE TO RECEIVE PRESENTATIONS AND HOLD DISCUSSIONS WITH REGULATORS FROM MEXICO ON VARIOUS TOPICS INCLUDING NUCLEAR SAFETY AND REGULATION, SPENT FUEL AND RADIOACTIVE WASTE MANAGEMENT, RADIATION PROTECTION, AND AGING MANAGEMENT. COMMISSIONER MERRIFIELD WISHES TO INCLUDE DISCUSSIONS WITH THE SECRETARY OF ENERGY AND OTHER SENIOR NUCLEAR OFFICIALS IN MEXICO AS APPROPRIATE. AT THE STOPS INDICATED IN PARA. 5, COMMISSIONER MERRIFIELD IS INTERESTED IN LEARNING ABOUT THE TOPICAL AREAS NOTED ABOVE AS WELL AS EMERGENCY PLANNING AND OTHER CURRENT NUCLEAR ISSUES.

5. THE USNRC PROPOSES THE FOLLOWING ITINERARY/AGENDA FOR GUIDANCE AND PLANNING PURPOSES, BUT EMBASSY SHOULD FEEL FREE TO MAKE WHATEVER ADJUSTMENTS ARE NECESSARY TO ACCOMMODATE SCHEDULING REALITIES:

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 7

DEPART HOUSTON'S GEORGE BUSH AIRPORT FOR MEXICO CITY VIA CO #1831 AT 7:53 A.M. ARRIVE MEXICO CITY AT 10:14 A.M.

A.M. OR P.M.	COURTESY CALL ON U.S. AMBASSADOR/CHARGE D'AFFAIRES AND COUNTRY TEAM BRIEFING
A.M.	MEETING WITH DIRECTOR GENERAL AND SENIOR OFFICIALS, CNSNS.
1:00-3:00 P.M.	LUNCH BREAK
P.M.	COURTESY CALL ON SECRETARY OF ENERGY, MEXICO
P.M.	MEETING WITH SENIOR NUCLEAR INDUSTRY OFFICIALS
EVENING	DINNER HOSTED BY COMMISSIONER MERRIFIELD

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 8

DEPART MEXICO CITY FOR VERACRUZ VIA AM #3621 AT 6:55 A.M.
ARRIVE VERACRUZ AT 7:45 A.M.

A.M.	VISIT TO LAGUNA VERDE NUCLEAR POWER FACILITY
3:00-5:00 P.M.	LUNCH BREAK (JOINED BY LAGUNA VERDE PLANT OPERATIONS OFFICIALS IF POSSIBLE)
EVENING	OPEN

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 9

DEPART VERACRUZ FOR HOUSTON'S GEORGE BUSH AIRPORT AT 7:30 A.M. VIA CO #1474. ARRIVE HOUSTON AT 9:44 A.M. DEPART HOUSTON FOR WASHINGTON REAGAN AIRPORT AT 11:13 A.M. VIA CO #1460. ARRIVE WASHINGTON REAGAN AIRPORT AT 3:00 P.M.

6. EMBASSY IS REQUESTED TO PROVIDE SUPPORT AND ASSISTANCE TO THE TRAVELERS BY DESIGNATING A VISIT CONTROL OFFICER, MEETING AT AIRPORT AND ASSISTING WITH DEPARTURE WHILE TRAVELERS ARE IN MEXICO CITY; ARRANGING AND CONFIRMING HOTEL RESERVATIONS (3 SINGLES) IN MEXICO CITY; CONFIRMING HOTEL RESERVATIONS TO BE MADE BY CNSNS IN VERACRUZ; ARRANGING APPOINTMENTS INDICATED IN MEXICO CITY IN PARA. 5; ARRANGING DINNER TO BE HOSTED BY COMMISSIONER MERRIFIELD ON THE EVENING OF FEBRUARY 7 AND PROPOSING GUEST LIST; CONFIRMING LAGUNA VERDE FACILITY VISIT IN VERACRUZ, WHICH IS TO BE ARRANGED BY CNSNS; ADVISING ON CURRENT NUCLEAR SAFETY AND ENERGY ISSUES; PROVIDING AND/OR MAKING ARRANGEMENTS FOR GROUND TRANSPORTATION WHILE IN MEXICO CITY (A CAR AND DRIVER FOR THE COMMISSIONER AND DELEGATION); AND OTHER SERVICES, AS NEEDED. THE USNRC WILL PROVIDE EMBASSY WITH REQUISITE AGENCY FISCAL DATA AGAINST WHICH TO CHARGE ALL GENERAL EXPENSES INCURRED (TRANSPORTATION AND REPRESENTATIONAL) AS SOON AS EMBASSY PROVIDES ESTIMATES OF COSTS FOR THE INDICATED GROUND TRANSPORTATION, DRIVER OVERTIME, AND OTHER EXPENSES DIRECTLY ASSOCIATED WITH SUPPORT OF THIS OFFICIAL TRAVEL. EMBASSY IS WELCOME AND INVITED TO ACCOMPANY COMMISSIONER MERRIFIELD ON FACILITY VISIT AND TO ALL SCHEDULED MEETINGS.

7. FULL BIOGRAPHICAL DATA ON COMMISSIONER MERRIFIELD FOLLOWS:

JEFFERY S. MERRIFIELD WAS SWORN IN AS A COMMISSIONER OF THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION ON OCTOBER 23, 1998. PRIOR TO ASSUMING THAT POST, HE HAD SERVED FOR SEVERAL YEARS AS A SENIOR COUNSEL AND LEGISLATIVE ASSISTANT TO TWO UNITED STATES SENATORS AND AS A WASHINGTON, D.C., ATTORNEY, SPECIALIZING IN ENVIRONMENTAL AND REGULATORY ISSUES.

IMMEDIATELY BEFORE JOINING THE NRC, MR. MERRIFIELD WAS MAJORITY COUNSEL AND STAFF DIRECTOR OF THE SENATE SUBCOMMITTEE ON SUPERFUND, WASTE CONTROL AND RISK ASSESSMENT UNDER THE CHAIRMANSHIP OF SENATOR ROBERT SMITH (R-NH). DURING NEARLY FOUR YEARS IN THAT ASSIGNMENT, HE DRAFTED LEGISLATION DEALING WITH SOLID AND HAZARDOUS WASTE DISPOSAL AND CLEANUP REGULATION. IN ADDITION, HE ADVISED SENATOR SMITH, WHO WAS ALSO CHAIRMAN OF THE SUBCOMMITTEE ON STRATEGIC FORCES, ON ENVIRONMENTAL MATTERS INVOLVING FACILITIES OF THE DEPARTMENTS OF DEFENSE AND ENERGY.

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FROM SEPTEMBER 1992 TO JANUARY 1995, MR. MERRIFIELD WAS AN ASSOCIATE OF THE WASHINGTON, D.C., LAW FIRM OF MCKENNA & CUNEO, WHERE HE REPRESENTED A BROAD RANGE OF CLIENTS ON ENVIRONMENTAL, CONTRACTING AND REGULATORY ISSUES.

IN EARLIER SERVICE ON CAPITOL HILL, MR. MERRIFIELD WAS A LEGISLATIVE ASSISTANT, FIRST TO SENATOR GORDON HUMPHREY (R-NH), FROM JANUARY 1987 TO DECEMBER 1990, AND SUBSEQUENTLY TO SENATOR SMITH, FROM DECEMBER 1990 TO JULY 1992. HE FOCUSED PRIMARILY ON ENVIRONMENTAL, ENERGY, TRANSPORTATION AND AGRICULTURE ISSUES.

MR. MERRIFIELD, A NATIVE OF ANTRIM, N.H., MAJORED IN POLITICAL SCIENCE AND HISTORY AT TUFTS UNIVERSITY, WHERE HE RECEIVED HIS BACHELOR OF ARTS DEGREE, MAGNA CUM LAUDE, IN 1985. HE RECEIVED HIS DOCTOR OF JURISPRUDENCE DEGREE FROM GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY LAW CENTER IN 1992.

MR. MERRIFIELD IS MARRIED AND HAS TWO SONS AND A DAUGHTER. HE IS A MEMBER OF THE BAR OF BOTH NEW HAMPSHIRE AND THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA.

8. IF ADDITIONAL INFORMATION IS NECESSARY, EMBASSY SHOULD CABLE THE DEPARTMENT TO PASS TO THE USNRC FOR BETH DOROSHUK OR FAX HER DIRECTLY AT 301/415-2395; TELEPHONE:301/415-2775. YY

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