

January 28, 2003

The Honorable Edward J. Markey
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Markey:

I am writing on behalf of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) in response to your letter of January 8, 2003, concerning the proposed export of approximately 13 tons of depleted uranium to Japan for use at the Rokkasho Reprocessing Plant (application number XSOU8790). I will forward the Commission's decision on the export license application once that decision is made.

The questions raised in your letter relate to the current policies of the U.S. Government with respect to cooperation with other Governments in areas of potential nuclear proliferation concern. As a result, we have consulted with the Executive Branch. On January 22, 2003, we received a letter from the State Department (Enclosure 1), which responds directly to the questions you have raised and also responds to related questions submitted by NRC staff on December 24, 2002 (Enclosure 2). Earlier, on December 16, 2002, the Executive Branch had provided NRC with its formal views supporting approval of the license application (Enclosure 3).

The staff will now complete its review and analysis of this export request, taking into full consideration the views of the Executive Branch and the views expressed in your letter and by other interested parties. The staff's analysis and recommendation will then be considered by the Commission, which will make a final decision on the case, probably within the next several weeks. At that time, we will promptly advise you of this decision and provide you a copy of the related Commission paper, which documents the staff's analysis and recommendations.

I welcome your interest in this proposed export. Please let me know if I can be of further assistance.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Richard A. Meserve

Enclosures:

1. Letter from the State Department to NRC, dated Jan. 22, 2003
2. Letter from NRC to the State Department, dated Dec. 24, 2002
3. Letter from the State Department to NRC, dated Dec. 16, 2002