

March 4, 2003

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

Dear Congressman Markey:

I am writing in further response to your letter of January 8, 2003, concerning the proposed export to Japan of approximately 13 tons of depleted uranium for use as test material in the Rokkasho Nuclear Fuel Reprocessing Plant (NRC Export License Application number XSOU8790). After considering your comments, the views of the Executive Branch, the NRC staff's analysis, and the views expressed by other interested parties, the Commission decided unanimously on February 19, 2003, to authorize the issuance of the requested export license. The license (copy enclosed) was subsequently issued by NRC's Office of International Programs on February 20, 2003.

As promised in my interim response to you on January 28, 2003, I am also enclosing a copy of the Commission Action Paper relevant to this case. The staff's analysis in this Action Paper address the substantive points you made in your letter.

Sincerely,

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Richard A. Meserve

Enclosures:

1. Export License
2. Commission Action Paper