

March 13, 2001

MEMORANDUM TO: William D. Travers
Executive Director for Operations

FROM: Ashok C. Thadani, Director
Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research

SUBJECT: REPORT ON TRIP TO SOUTH AFRICA FOR DISCUSSIONS ON
THE PEBBLE BED MODULAR REACTOR (PBMR)

On February 26 thru March 2, 2001, Mr. Thomas L. King and I visited South Africa and held discussions with various organizations there with respect to the status of and plans for the PBMR in South Africa. The PBMR is a 110 Mwe high temperature gas-cooled reactor with on-line refueling capability whose concept was originally developed and tested in Germany and is currently, at smaller scale, being tested in China. The South Africa (SA) government is potentially interested in PBMR as a source of electricity to meet their growing demand. The organizations visited and individuals contacted are show in Attachment 1, along with the agenda for the week.

The trip was organized and hosted by the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) which was very helpful and supportive in achieving our objectives. Their staff and others in their delegation in attendance were:

- Dr. Gail Marcus, Deputy Director, Office of Nuclear Energy, Science and Technology, DOE-NE
- Mr. Mark Roth, Director International Cooperation Program, DOE-NE
- Robert Whitesel, Policy Analyst DOE-NNSA
- Dr. Ralph Bennett, Director, Advanced Nuclear Energy Idaho National Engineering and Environmental Laboratory
- Mr. Kenneth Apt, Safeguards Engineer, Los Alamos National Laboratory

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Portions withheld - Ex. 4

Information in this record was deleted
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Act, exemptions 4
FOIA- 2003-0037

cc/4

Agenda and Individuals ContactedFebruary 26, 2001

- U.S. Embassy, Pretoria, SA:
 - John W. Blaney, Deputy Chief of Mission
 - James F. Freund, Regional Resources Officer
 - Paul M.T. White, Resources Specialist
- NECSA:
 - Fanie Ventner, Fuels Manager, PBMR, Ltd.
 - Robert Peters, Fuels Engineer, PBMR, Ltd.
 - Charles S B Piani, PhD, Manager: Safari-1 Research Reactor
 - W. van Zyl de Villiers Ph, Divisional Manager: Nuclear Technology
 - Karel Fouché, General Manager: Pelindaba Nuclear Institute

February 27, 2001

- Eskom:
 - Dr. Steven Lennon, Executive Director, Resources and Strategy
 - Mervin Harris, Head Client Office
 - A K (Tony) Stott, Sci Nat MSc (London) AEP (Unisa), Environmental and Nuclear Services Manager
 - Premysl (Premek) Skopal, Chief Engineer PBMR Client Office
 - David Lowton, CEng, MIEE, MINucE, Chief Engineer - Safety Assessment & Licensing
 - W.D. (Dave) Wynne, PBMR EIA Project Manager
- PBMR, Ltd.
 - David R. Nicholls - CEO
 - Albert Koster, Nuclear Safety Manager
 - Sakkie Du Plessis, Mechanical Designer
 - Wynn Roscoe, Manager Management Services
 - Reuben R. Garrett, Manager, International Construction (Exelon)

February 28, 2001

- NNR:
 - Nchakha Moloi, Acting Chief Executive Officer
 - G A Clapison, Senior Manager Power Reactors
 - Sietse Van Der Woude, Senior Manager Mining, Waste & Nuclear Technology
 - Tim Hill, Manager: Koeberg Project
 - Dr A Mysen Msc, Phd, MinucE, Manager PBMR
 - TseLiso B Maqubela, Manager Nuclear Technology and Waste Projects

- R A Kirk BMet, C.Eng, MSc, BA, Manager Reactor Assessment Department
- Thiagan Pather, Manager Scientific and Technical Services

March 1, 2001

- DME:
 - Smunda S Mokoena, Deputy Director-General Energy
 - Schalk de Waal PhD, Director Nuclear Energy

March 2, 2001

- Eskom Generation (Koeberg Plant) - Capetown
 - Mervin Harris, Head Client Office
 - Reuben R. Garrett, Manager, International Construction (Exelon)