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To: Dyer, NRR *

AUTHOR: SEN Pete Domenici

AFFILIATION: CONG

ADDRESSEE: CHRM Nils Diaz

SUBJECT: Concerns briefing on the Multinational Design Approval Program (MDAP) and its relationship to the DOE's on-going Generation IV International Forum program

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COMMITTEE ON
 ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6150

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 December 6, 2005

The Honorable Nils J. Diaz
 Chairman
 U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
 Washington, D.C. 20580

Dear Mr. Chairman,

Thank you for your recent briefing on the Multinational Design Approval Program (MDAP) and its relationship to the Department of Energy's on-going Generation IV International Forum program. I am pleased that the Commission has formally approved Stage 1 of MDAP Program for implementation. I support and encourage both of these programs, and I see their integration as important to our efforts to increase energy security through the increased use of safe, secure and reliable nuclear energy.

The DOE, is in a unique position to facilitate the integration of the MDAP into GIF as a framework for more efficient and effective regulatory review and approval. GIF is a technology roadmap intended to encourage greater use of nuclear energy through international cooperation in research and development. MDAP is a natural counterpart to GIF in that MDAP, in particular the anticipated Stage 2, should facilitate a substantial degree of standardization and multinational acceptance of safety-approved designs. I have encouraged DOE's involvement and cooperation with the NRC on the MDAP effort.

Again, thank you for your briefing. The NRC has a key role to play in establishing the appropriate framework to enhance the protection of health and safety and the environment for the beneficial use of civilian nuclear energy, and I appreciate your leadership in this regard.

Sincerely,



Pete V. Domenici
 Chairman