

March 17, 2006

Dr. Sergey Tzotchev, Chairman
The Bulgarian Nuclear Regulatory Authority
69 Shipchenski Prokhod Blvd
1574 Sofia,
BULGARIA

Dear Dr. Tzotchev,

It was a pleasure speaking with you at the annual NRC Regulatory Information Conference. I hope that you and Mr. Vlahov found the meetings insightful. I am writing this letter to inform you of our receipt of the proposed comments and changes to the draft NRC-BNRA Arrangement for the Exchange of Technical Information and Cooperation in Nuclear Safety Matters suggested by the BNRA in an e-mail to me from Alexander Rogatchev on March 2, 2006. We have reviewed the proposed changes and are in agreement. The text of the Arrangement as it is now is acceptable to the NRC.

Since the BNRA has no further comments on the draft text, we will now move forward with the other necessary processes required for signing an international agreement. The NRC will be sending the draft text of the Arrangement to our Executive Branch for their review and clearance in the very near future. Completion of this process, which averages a duration of four to six months, is required before signing the Arrangement. We believe that we will obtain the necessary clearance in order to sign the Arrangement with the BNRA along the margins of the IAEA General Conference to be held in the month of September 2006 in Vienna, Austria. Additionally, we will look to the BNRA to provide a copy of the text in Bulgarian should you desire to sign the Arrangement in your national language as well as English. If this is the case, we ask that you provide us with the Bulgarian version as soon as possible so that we can obtain the necessary language authentication.

The NRC is very pleased to be signing this Arrangement with the BNRA. We believe that formalizing our cooperative activities under this Arrangement represents a monumental step in our bilateral relationship with Bulgaria. Should you have any further questions on the Arrangement, please contact Cindy Rosales Bush of my staff. She can be reached at (301) 415-1168 or cer2@nrc.gov.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Janice Dunn Lee, Director
Office of International Programs

cc: Alexander Rogatchev

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Sincerely,

/RA/

Janice Dunn Lee, Director
Office of International Programs

cc: Alexander Rogatchev

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