

May 22, 2006

Mr. Maurice Magugumela, Chief Executive Officer
National Nuclear Regulator
PO Box 7106
Centurion 0046
PRETORIA

Dear Mr. Magugumela:

Thank you for your letter, dated April 21, 2006, to Carl J. Paperiello, then Director of the Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research (RES). Since Dr. Paperiello retired on April 30, 2006, I have been appointed RES Director. In your letter, you invited the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (USNRC) to participate in meetings with the South African National Nuclear Regulator (NNR). You suggested that those meetings could occur in conjunction with the High-Temperature Reactor (HTR) Technology conference in Johannesburg, South Africa, in October 2006.

We appreciate the invitation and see this interaction as part of our continuing efforts to maintain awareness of domestic and international activities related to gas-cooled reactor technology. Also, the issues that you identified for discussion relate to issues we have proposed to discuss with the South African Pebble Bed Modular Reactor company, PBMR (Pty) Ltd, during our pre-application review of the pebble-bed reactor design. In particular, these issues include licensing-basis event selection; system, structure, and component classification; and defense-in-depth.

We will contact you as soon as we can commit to participate in the proposed NNR-USNRC interaction. In the interim, please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Brian W. Sheron, Director
Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research

Mr. Maurice Magugumela, Chief Executive Officer
National Nuclear Regulator
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