

October 24, 2006

Deputy Director General Tomihiko Taniguchi  
Department of Nuclear Safety and Security  
International Atomic Energy Agency  
Wagramer Strasse 5  
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Vienna  
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Dear Deputy Director General Taniguchi:

Thank you for your letter of September 12, 2006, and your offer to have the IAEA act as co-secretariat for the Multinational Design Evaluation Program (MDEP). As was discussed during our meeting with Director General ElBaradei at the General Conference, I believe that having co-Nuclear Energy Agency/IAEA secretariats would overly complicate the management of the MDEP. This issue was also discussed at the recent MDEP Policy Group meeting where it was agreed that the IAEA could contribute as an active participant in the project. As the MDEP progresses, I expect that the MDEP Policy Group will re-evaluate the best methods for managing the project. The Commission recognizes the important work of the IAEA and looks forward to the IAEA's involvement in this important initiative.

Sincerely,

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Dale E. Klein