



COMMISSIONER

UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555

March 2, 2005

The Honorable Jeff Bingaman
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Bingaman:

I recently had the opportunity to lead a U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) delegation to India to meet with the Indian Atomic Energy Regulatory Board and other Indian governmental officials and to visit a variety of civilian nuclear facilities. This visit was part of NRC's implementation of the nuclear cooperation component of Phase Two of the United States government's Next Steps in Strategic Partnership (NSSP) with India.

This trip provided me with a much higher appreciation of the Indian capabilities in the civilian nuclear sector, as well as a greater understanding of the importance that the Indian Government places on the nuclear cooperation component of the NSSP. Ambassador Mulford believed that you would be interested in the results of this continued dialogue in your capacity as member of the Senate India Caucus. The Ambassador suggested that I offer you a short briefing on the results of my visit and current Indian views of the NSSP.

In the coming days, I will have my staff contact your scheduler to see if there is a convenient time in your schedule. In the meantime, please contact me at 301-415-1855 if I may be of assistance.

With warm regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeffrey S. Merrifield", written over a horizontal line.

Jeffrey S. Merrifield

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