

April 26, 2010

Vice Minister LI Ganjie, Administrator  
National Nuclear Safety Administration (NNSA)  
Ministry of Environmental Protection (MEP)  
No. 115, Xizhimen Nanxiaojie  
Beijing, 100035  
People's Republic of China

Dear Vice-Minister LI,

I am very pleased to be planning to visit China the week of May 24, 2010, for the biannual U.S.- China Strategic and Economic Dialogue (S&ED). As you are probably aware, I have been asked to chair the session on Nuclear Safety Cooperation for the United States.

The U.S. has proposed a discussion at the S&ED on a few topics for the session on Nuclear Safety Cooperation, including our continued cooperation on the AP 1000 nuclear reactor. To this end, I have agreed to your proposal to sign an expanded NRC-NNSA Memorandum of Cooperation while in Beijing, including an exchange of inspectors.

I was pleased to hear that in the March 16, 2010, meeting with Mr. Michael Johnson, the Director of NRC's Office of New Reactors, NNSA Director General (DG) Liu Hua proposed the signing of an NNSA-NRC Agreement for Cooperation on High Temperature Gas Cooled Reactor (HTGR) technology along the margins of the S&ED and provided a draft document for consideration. As discussed previously with DG Liu Hua, the NRC is currently developing the technical basis for reviewing a potential HTGR license application in the U.S. and comparative data would be useful to help further validate NRC's analysis codes. NRC will share its results to benefit NNSA in its licensing review of the HTGR currently under construction in China. Therefore, I believe both our agencies would find this work mutually beneficial. I was disappointed to learn that a signing of the agreement on HTGR technology could not be accomplished in time for the S&ED. Though not the same, an exchange of letters stating that MEP and the NNSA would continue to move forward with the proposal would be an important deliverable for the NRC and NNSA that we should highlight at the S&ED.

I look forward to visiting China again and hope to have fruitful discussions with you at the S&ED. I also hope to visit the new construction site of the AP 1000 at Sanmen to have the opportunity to observe your oversight activities in anticipation of potentially having similar safety responsibilities in the future in the U.S. I look forward to receiving your response before our meeting at the S&ED.

Sincerely,

*/RA/*

Gregory B. Jaczko

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