

December 7, 2009

MEMORANDUM TO: R. W. Borchardt
Executive Director for Operations

FROM: Brian W. Sheron, Director */RA/*
Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research

SUBJECT: AGREEMENT ON NUCLEAR REACTOR SAFETY RESEARCH
BETWEEN THE U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
AND THE NATIONAL NUCLEAR SAFETY ADMINISTRATION
OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA

The Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research (RES) has now concluded the necessary negotiations to enable the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) to cooperate with the National Nuclear Safety Administration (NNSA) of the People's Republic of China in the Thermal-Hydraulic Code Applications and Maintenance Program (CAMP) and the Cooperative Severe Accident Research Program (CSARP). The research performed under this Agreement will contribute to NRC's goals of leveraging agency resources and expanding our data and knowledge bases for thermal-hydraulic and severe accident analyses.

During the past several years, our cooperative CAMP activities focused on improving the TRAC/RELAP Advanced Computational Engine (TRACE) code, which is NRC's thermal-hydraulic reactor systems code. CAMP member countries use the TRACE code to perform their code assessments and to provide feedback on any code limitations and model improvements. This international participation and feedback contribute significantly to the quality assurance of the code. This enables NRC to use the code to evaluate transient and accident scenarios, assess generic safety issues, and address regulatory and licensing issues for nuclear power plants.

The CSARP participants perform code assessments and provide feedback on any MELCOR code limitations and need for model improvements, if necessary. This international participation and feedback contribute useful insights related to the code's quality and improvements.

CONTACT: N. St. Amour, RES
301-251-7673

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R.W. Borchartd

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NRC and NNSA will participate in these research activities on the basis of mutual benefit and reasonable equity and reciprocity. (b)(4)

(b)(4)

(b)(4)

This Agreement will enter into force upon signature and will remain in effect for 3 years.

NRC's Office of the Chief Financial Officer has reviewed this Agreement and has no objection. NRC's Office of the General Counsel also has reviewed this Agreement and has no legal objection. In addition, NRC's Office of International Programs (OIP) has reviewed and approved this Agreement. The Government of China is in good standing with the U.S. Government, and this Agreement is consistent with U.S. foreign policy toward China. We have previously received Executive Branch approval, via the OIP, to execute this Agreement. The Commission will be advised of this item in an EDO Daily Note and a Weekly Highlight.

Therefore, following the signing ceremony with NNSA, I request that you return one of the two signed copies of the enclosed Implementing Agreement to Mr. Norman St. Amour of my staff via Ms. Cindy Rosales-Cooper, if convenient, and leave the other with NNSA for its records.

Enclosures:

1. Agreement Summary
2. Agreement (2 copies)

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J. Dyer, CFO
M. Maxin, OGC
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N. St. Amour, RES
Agreement File

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OFFICE	RES/PMDA	DSA/CDB	DSA/FSTB	Tech Edit
NAME	D-M. Perez	C. Hoxie	R. Lee	J. Zabel (via email)
DATE	07/01/09	07/09/09	07/13/09	12/02/09
OFFICE	OCFO	OIP	OGC	D. RES
NAME	R. Tiwari (via email)	C. Rosalles-Cooper	M. Maxin (N.St.Amour for)	B. Sheron
DATE	07/14/09	08/03/09	08/10/09	12/07/09

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