

September 23, 2011

Professor Eberhard Roos, Managing Director  
Materialprüfungsanstalt Universität Stuttgart  
Postfach 801140  
D-70511 Stuttgart, Germany

Dear Professor Roos:

Your colleagues and friends at the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) want to congratulate you on your successful tenure as the Managing Director of the Materialprüfungsanstalt (MPA) Universität Stuttgart. Under your leadership, MPA has maintained and enhanced its well-deserved reputation for being at the forefront of applied materials technology. Fortunately, for NRC and other nuclear stakeholders around the world, much of MPA's research during your tenure has been relevant to commercial nuclear technology. This research has maintained a strong focus on fostering the safe application of nuclear technologies. Having Professor Kussmaul and you as MPA's only Directors for more than 40 years has been advantageous because your guidance has encouraged MPA to maintain its focus on safety research and has provided leadership within the German nuclear industry in promoting structural mechanics and metallurgical excellence worldwide.

You have been a strong advocate for collaboration among international materials researchers, and NRC has benefited from many fruitful interactions with MPA during your tenure. Your support of many informational and staff exchanges between MPA and NRC has enriched our research activities and helped the agency fulfill its research objectives. Specifically, the NRC-sponsored safety research pertaining to reactor pressure vessel integrity, environmental fatigue effects, piping integrity, and nondestructive evaluation has been furthered by the collaboration and support provided by MPA. With MPA's assistance, NRC has been able to revise many regulations pertaining to these technical areas in a manner that seeks to achieve balanced regulatory requirements that provide reasonable assurance of primary pressure boundary safety while minimizing extraneous or nonsafety significant features.

You also have been a solid proponent of knowledge transfer during your tenure as Director. MPA founded the international journal, *Nuclear Engineering and Design (NED)*, which has been a particularly important forum for both publication of NRC-sponsored research results and for keeping abreast of the latest research findings related to structural and material behavior in nuclear applications. Your support of NED over the last 8 years has helped promote more efficient research as these findings and lessons-learned have been shared among the international community. In addition, the MPA seminars have fostered timely communication of current research plans, findings, and status. You have been a driving force behind these seminars and have ensured that the seminars are representative of global research activities and that the topics are relevant to current safety issues.

E. Roos

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We have mixed emotions about your retirement and we are sad to see the departure of such a distinguished friend and colleague. However, we remain excited and hopeful that vibrant collaboration between NRC and MPA will continue through your successor for the foreseeable future. We wish you all the best and hope you have a happy and rewarding retirement.

Sincerely,

*/RA/*

Jennifer L. Uhle, Deputy Director  
Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research  
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission

cc: Professor Karl F. Kussmaul  
Schöne Weg 90  
D72766 Reutlingen, Germany

Chuck Serpan  
5510 Bradley Blvd.  
Bethesda, MD 20814

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