



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
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PDR

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CHAIRMAN

Dr. N. Ponomarev-Stepnoy
Vice President
Kurchatov Institute
Russian Research Centre
Kurchatov Square
Moscow 123182
Russia

Dear Dr. Ponomarev-Stepnoy:

Thank you for your letter of October 8, 1993, concerning possible participation of the Kurchatov Institute in the resolution of Material Control and Accounting (MC&A) and other non-proliferation issues in Russia. The Kurchatov Institute may be able to provide assistance in the following areas where NRC is supplying direct assistance to Russia.

In the area of MC&A, the NRC is working with the Department of Energy and the designated Russian officials from GAN and MINATOM, Messrs. Yuri Volodin and Victor Gubanov, under the Safe and Secure Dismantlement (SSD) of Nuclear Weapons Program. Actual cooperative work is expected to begin in the near future under the U.S.-Russia agreement which was signed on September 2, 1993. Under this program, there will be a need for the development of technical support capability in MC&A and physical protection to support joint GAN-NRC efforts. Specific areas of assistance can be more fully discussed among NRC, GAN, and the Kurchatov staff after final agreement is reached with Russian officials on the U.S. program plan for proposed activities.

In a separate context from the SSD program, I recently had the opportunity to discuss GAN's interest in MC&A with Mr. Alexander Gutsalov, GAN First Deputy Chairman, during his visit to the NRC in November 1993. He was receptive to the Kurchatov Institute's providing additional direct support in this area. If you or another representative of the Institute are interested in discussing MC&A support options, Mr. James Taylor, NRC's Executive Director for Operations, is prepared to initiate these discussions.

Finally, an additional area in which the Kurchatov Institute may be able to participate is the probabilistic safety assessment (PSA) of a VVER-1000 reactor. This endeavor could potentially be a significant contributor to safety of that reactor class. With Agency for International Development funding, the NRC would work with GAN and qualified Russian institutes to provide technical help to perform the PSA.

I would welcome any thoughts you may have on these important areas.

Sincerely,

Ivan Selin

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