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

October 14, 1977

Honorable Gerard Smith  
US Special Representative for  
Non-Proliferation Matters  
S/AS  
Room 1004  
Department of State  
Washington, D. C. 20520

cc Ben info  
Nye  
Boyer  
Lambert

Refer NRC  
Boc (R)

Dear Mr. Ambassador:

On behalf of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission I request that we participate in US efforts in support of the International Nuclear Fuel Cycle Evaluation and in the INFCE organizational meeting to be held in Washington October 19-21.

NRC possesses special expertise in several of the areas to be covered by INFCE, including the environmental, safety, safeguards, and physical protection aspects of reprocessing, separated plutonium, plutonium recycle, fast breeders, spent fuel management and waste disposal, and alternative advanced reactor and fuel concepts. Moreover, many of the subjects to be considered by the INFCE appear to bear directly on matters being addressed by the NRC. For example, we have performed extensive work and held public hearings on the Generic Environmental Statement on the Use of Mixed-Oxide Fuels, which included consideration of most of these subjects. We have also recently undertaken re-assessments and studies of the environmental effects of the back end of the fuel cycle relative to the licensing of facilities for long-term storage of high-level wastes or spent fuel. The General Accounting Office has also requested that the NRC staff provide its views on the regulatory implications of alternate fuel cycle and reactor concepts.

We believe NRC can make a positive contribution to INFCE by providing staff experts to work on or in support of appropriate INFCE Working Groups and by participating in interagency reviews of INFCE drafts and position papers. In particular, we would hope to participate closely in all work relating to the regulatory feasibility of various advanced reactors, alternate fuel cycles, and proposed safeguards modifications.

We consider it very important for NRC representatives to attend the October 19-21 meeting as observers and participate in planning discussions before and during the meeting. We will also designate NRC

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Honorable Gerard Smith

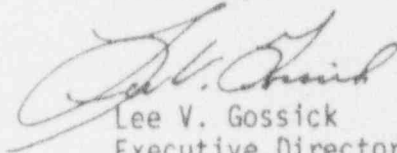
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staff members who are available to participate in, and provide support to, the INFCE Working Groups in the areas of our interest and expertise. ||

We look forward to the INFCE organizational meeting and close cooperation with the Department in the INFCE program.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "L. V. Gossick".

Lee V. Gossick  
Executive Director for Operations