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September 16, 1999

Literal translation of September 2, 1999, letter from
Director General, Comisión Nacional de Seguridad Nuclear
y Salvaguardias, México

Translated by Nils J. Diaz

It has been a pleasure for us to have your participation. We appreciate your presentation and your opinions that, like always, contribute to the improvement of the nuclear community, and in this particular case, the Mexican nuclear community.

In relation to the document COMNJD-99-004, my view points are as follows: With respect to Area 1 [telephone link], I am pleased to inform you that CNSNS is presently contracting for the design and installation of a local network for the transmission of voice, data and video to use the existing technological advances for internal and external communications. This installation, I am sure, would allow us to establish "more reliable communication links" between U.S. NRC's Emergency Operations Center and CNSNS. Surely, once the CNSNS network is defined, we could determine what would be the best manner to establish the communication.

With respect to Area 2 [codes], as we have said before, we consider that the participation of CNSNS in those programs will contribute to reinforce our evaluation capabilities. The proposed action is totally adequate and also very attractive.

Finally, Area 3 [emergency plans cooperation] appears to be a novel idea that, properly administered, i.e., carefully planning the processes and the timing to avoid political arguments on "losing national sovereignty" or on CNSNS not having the technical capability to conduct them, would contribute new learning to regulated and regulators. On the other side, such an activity, to prepare an emergency exercise jointly, would be proof for the general public and authorities of the real worth of the long established cooperation between the U.S. NRC and CNSNS.

In summary, the proposed activities are viable and we would be pleased to participate.

With warm regards,

Jose Luis Delgado Guardado
Director General
CNSNS, Mexico

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B. Establishment of a reliable communication link between the NRC Operations Center and the CNSNS

Based upon Incident Response Operations (IRO) review of a letter from CNSNS to Commissioner Diaz dated 9/2/99, it is clear that the Mexican authorities are undertaking an aggressive program to design and install a local network for transmission of voice, data and video using state-of-the-art communications technology. The staff recommends a meeting between the Mexican telecommunications contractors and NRC telecommunications and Operations Center staffs to assure that, once the CNSNS system is in place, the CNSNS and NRC Operations Center can be linked in the most reliable, cost effective way possible.