



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

March 24, 2000

COMMISSIONER

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

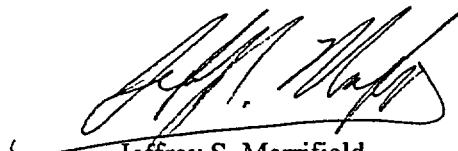
Dear Senator Biden:

I recently had the opportunity to visit the Republic of Korea (ROK) and meet with the U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission's (NRC) regulatory counterparts, the Ministry of Science and Technology (MOST), and the Korean Institute of Nuclear Safety (KINS) to share perspectives on regulating the nuclear industry. During that visit, I also met with senior executives of the sole utility in the ROK, the Korean Electric Power Corporation (KEPCO), to discuss important matters facing the international nuclear industry and its regulators. As you may know, KEPCO is the world's fifth largest utility and currently operates 16 nuclear power plants which produce 41% of the ROK's electricity. KEPCO also provided me with a tour of two of their nuclear power plants, Ulchin and Kori. Lastly, I visited the Korean Atomic Energy Research Institute (KAERI) to discuss current and potential future collaborative research efforts between KAERI and the NRC.

As you are the ranking member of the U.S. Senate Committee on Foreign Affairs, I would like to extend an offer to personally brief you on the results of my visit. This will allow me to share with you my insights on the ROK's nuclear power program.

In the coming days, I will have my staff contact your scheduler about arranging a meeting with you. In the interim, should you or your staff have any questions, please feel free to call me at (301) 415-1855 or Lynne Stauss, my Chief of Staff, at (301) 415-1850.

With best wishes,



Jeffrey S. Merrifield



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