

November 18, 2016

Mr. Nicholas Hill, Economic Counselor
Embassy of the United States of America
1-10-5 Akasaka, Minato-ku
Tokyo, 107-8420
Japan

Dear Mr. Hill:

I would like to express my sincere appreciation to you and your colleagues for taking time out of your busy schedules to meet with our delegation on October 26, 2016. It was very beneficial to hear the Embassy's perspectives on the issues currently facing Japan's nuclear industry, and to provide some information about the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission's (NRC's) strong relationship with our colleagues at the Nuclear Regulation Authority of Japan (NRA).

As always, our trip to Japan was productive and insightful. We remain pleased with our ongoing collaboration with NRA and gratefully acknowledge the Embassy's kind assistance and hard work in planning and executing these visits. I would like to extend special thanks to Mr. Benjamin Weiner and Mr. Jeremy Edwards, who supported our meetings in Tokyo, and to Ms. Junko Nagahama, who accompanied us on our visit to the Sendai Nuclear Power Station in Kagoshima and served admirably as our interpreter and local historian.

We would be pleased to support the Embassy with information related to any area within the scope of the NRC's responsibilities; if you should need assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me. I hope we have the opportunity to meet again in the future. Until then, I extend my best wishes.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Victor M. McCree
Executive Director
for Operations

November 18, 2016

Mr. Toshio Kodama, President
Japan Atomic Energy Agency
2-2-2, Uchisaiwai-cho, Chiyoda-ku
Tokyo, 100-8577
Japan

Dear President Kodama:

I would like to express my sincere appreciation to you and your colleagues for meeting with our delegation on October 26, 2016. I found your explanation of the Japan Atomic Energy Agency's (JAEA) post-Fukushima Daiichi accident research activities particularly insightful.

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) remains committed to ensuring a prompt and successful conclusion of the draft NRC-JAEA bilateral agreement so that our organizations may enjoy the full benefits of cooperation on severe accident research and other important activities.

I would like to extend an invitation to you and the JAEA staff to join us at the NRC's 2017 Regulatory Information Conference, scheduled for March 14-16, 2017 at the Marriott Bethesda North Hotel and Conference Center in Rockville, Maryland, United States. I believe this conference would be a beneficial opportunity for us to continue the fruitful dialogue we began in your offices.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Victor M. McCree
Executive Director
for Operations

November 18, 2016

Mr. Akihiro Tada, Deputy Commissioner
Agency for Natural Resources and Energy
Ministry of Economy, Trade, and Industry
1-3-1 Kasumigaseki, Chiyoda-ku
Tokyo, 100-8931
Japan

Dear Mr. Tada:

I would like to express my sincere appreciation to you and your colleagues for meeting with our delegation on October 26, 2016. It was very beneficial to hear the Ministry of Economy, Trade, and Industry's (METI's) perspectives on the variety of issues Japan's nuclear industry is currently facing. I particularly appreciated your frank remarks on the importance of a common commitment – across government, industry, and academia – to fostering public trust. This is an important issue around the world, and certainly in the United States, so I look forward to future opportunities to discuss this further with METI.

Following our introductory meeting, your staff provided us with two detailed, informative presentations that deepened our understanding of METI's activities and provided further context about the Japanese nuclear industry that assisted me in my subsequent meetings throughout my visit to Japan. I hope you will convey my thanks to them for their time.

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission remains committed to sustaining its strong partnership with the Nuclear Regulation Authority of Japan and continuing its engagement with METI. I extend my best wishes and look forward to future discussions.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Victor M. McCree
Executive Director
for Operations

November 18, 2016

Mr. Teruyoshi Hayamizu
Councillor, Minister's Secretariat
Ministry of the Environment
1-2-2 Kasumigaseki, Chiyoda-ku
Tokyo, 100-8975
Japan

Dear Mr. Hayamizu:

I would like to express my sincere appreciation to you and your colleagues for meeting with our delegation on October 27, 2016. I found your presentations insightful and our discussions fruitful and productive.

I was particularly impressed with your detailed explanation of the ongoing activities the Ministry of the Environment is undertaking to continue decontaminating areas affected by the Fukushima Daiichi accident to enable residents to return to the region. The scope of this challenge is truly daunting, and the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) offers its continued support and solidarity to the Government of Japan.

The NRC also remains committed to sustaining a strong partnership with the Nuclear Regulation Authority of Japan (NRA). As you know, we are pleased to host a group of five talented NRA inspectors for one-year assignments in the United States this year. We hope that the knowledge they glean from these assignments will benefit NRA as a whole, as the agency undertakes the significant effort of reframing its inspection program to a risk-informed approach.

I hope we have the opportunity to meet again in the future. Until then, I extend my best wishes.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Victor M. McCree
Executive Director
for Operations

November 18, 2016

Dr. Hajimu Yamana
Nuclear Damage Compensation
and Decommissioning Facilitation
Corporation
2-2-5 Toranomon, Minato-ku
Tokyo, 105-0001
Japan

Dear Dr. Yamana:

I would like to express my sincere appreciation to you and your colleagues for meeting with our delegation on October 27, 2016. I found your presentations insightful and our discussions fruitful and productive.

I am impressed with the actions the Nuclear Damage Compensation and Decommissioning Facilitation Corporation (NDF) has taken to date to address an exceptionally daunting task. I strongly agree with your assessment that an open dialogue between NDF and the Nuclear Regulation Authority of Japan (NRA) is necessary to ensure that decommissioning activities at the Fukushima Daiichi site are completed in a safe and timely fashion. As I articulated during our meeting, the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) stands ready to support both NDF and NRA as appropriate in this regard.

As always, we welcome you to attend the NRC's annual Regulatory Information Conference, scheduled for March 14-16, 2017. I hope we have the opportunity to meet again in the near future. Until then, I extend my best wishes.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Victor M. McCree
Executive Director
for Operations

November 18, 2016

Dr. Takeshi Yokoo, Acting Head
Nuclear Risk Research Center
Central Research Institute of the
Electric Power Industry
1-6-1 Otemachi, Chiyoda-ku
Tokyo, 100-8126
Japan

Dear Dr. Yokoo:

I would like to express my sincere appreciation to you and your colleagues for meeting with our delegation on October 26, 2016. I found your presentations insightful and our discussions fruitful and productive.

The Nuclear Risk Reduction Center (NRRC) has already made substantial achievements since its creation two years ago, and the program of work for the coming months and years is impressive. I am grateful that the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff, both past and present, has been able to contribute to these important activities and I hope that our organizations will deepen their collaboration in the future.

In particular, I believe that an open dialogue between the NRC and NRRC on our countries' respective probabilistic risk assessment (PRA) projects – in Japan at Ikata Unit 3 and Kashiwazaki-Kariwa Units 6 and 7, and in the United States at Vogtle Units 1 and 2 – would be mutually beneficial. The NRC would be pleased to keep you informed of the progress of other PRA-related activities as well, such as the results of the upcoming seismic PRAs at approximately 20 sites in the United States and the outcome of the upcoming joint NRC-industry Risk-Informed Steering Committee meeting later this month.

I hope we have the opportunity to meet again in the future. Until then, I extend my best wishes.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Victor M. McCree
Executive Director
for Operations

November 18, 2016

Mr. Rei Sutou, General Manager
Sendai Nuclear Power Station
Kyushu Electric Power Co., Inc.
1765-3, Gumizaki-cho, Satsumasendai-city
Kagoshima, 895-0132
Japan

Dear Mr. Sutou:

I would like to express my sincere appreciation to you and Deputy General Manager Kenichi Yonemaru for taking time out of your busy schedules to provide such a detailed and informative tour of the Sendai Nuclear Power Station to the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) delegation on October 28, 2016. We recognize that, during a scheduled maintenance outage, your time is extremely valuable, and we are grateful that you spent nearly a full day with us. Also, thanks to your thoughtful accommodations, we were not bothered by the heavy rain.

We appreciated having the opportunity to see the many safety enhancements Kyushu Electric Power Company has implemented on-site following the Fukushima Daiichi accident, and to draw parallels between these enhancements and those undertaken at nuclear power plants in the United States. It is always useful to see first-hand how regulatory requirements are put into practice at licensed facilities. In addition, as I indicated during the visit, we were quite impressed with your facility's strong operating record throughout its history.

The NRC recognizes the many challenges the Japanese nuclear industry continues to face in the aftermath of the accident. As a strong partner to the Japan Nuclear Regulation Authority (JNRA), we will continue to work closely with JNRA on matters related to the safe operation of nuclear facilities in both of our countries.

I hope we have the opportunity to meet again in the future. Until then, I extend my best wishes.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Victor M. McCree
Executive Director
for Operations

November 18, 2016

Mr. Yasuhiro Shimizu, Secretary General
Nuclear Regulation Authority of Japan
1-9-9 Roppongi-First Bldg 9F
Roppongi, Minato-ku, Tokyo
Japan

Dear Secretary General Shimizu:

I would like to express my sincere appreciation to you and your colleagues for hosting the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) - Nuclear Regulation Authority of Japan (NRA) Steering Committee meeting on October 25, 2016. I found our discussions fruitful and productive, and I believe that the already close relationship between our organizations has been further strengthened as a result of this meeting.

In particular, I would like to thank you for the frank, open dialogue on issues of mutual significance such as risk-informed regulation, the current status of decommissioning and remediation efforts at the Fukushima Daiichi site, and potential issues impacting the integrity of reactor building penetrations. I am pleased that the assignment of five NRA inspectors at the NRC continues to be beneficial for both sides, and look forward to working closely with you to ensure that they derive maximum benefit from the remainder of their time in the United States.

Finally, I would like to gratefully acknowledge the tour of your emergency center that NRA provided our delegation. I found it extremely useful, and appreciated your spending additional time with us to accommodate the tour.

I look forward to our next Steering Committee meeting in March 2017 on the margins of the NRC's Regulatory Information Conference. I extend my best wishes to you and your staff.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Victor M. McCree
Executive Director
for Operations

November 18, 2016

Mr. Shunichi Tanaka, Chairman
Nuclear Regulation Authority of Japan
1-9-9 Roppongi-First Bldg 9F
Roppongi, Minato-ku, Tokyo
Japan

Dear Chairman Tanaka:

It was an honor and a pleasure to meet with you during my recent visit to Japan. I would like to thank you for taking time out of your busy schedule to have a fruitful discussion with me about the continued cooperation between the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) and the Nuclear Regulation Authority of Japan (NRA).

The NRC-NRA Steering Committee meeting on October 25, 2016 was productive and insightful. Among other topics, we discussed our agencies' ongoing collaboration on risk-informed regulation, including progress in the assignments of the five NRA inspectors currently working at the NRC. As I mentioned during my meeting with you, the NRC remains committed to ensuring that these inspectors have a positive experience during their time in the United States, and will return to Japan with knowledge and insights that will benefit the NRA's mission and activities.

I would also like to express my gratitude to Mr. Yutaka Hara, Director of NRA's International Affairs Office, and Mr. Tooru Karasawa, Nuclear Safety Specialist in the International Affairs Office, for accompanying us on a very beneficial visit to the Sendai Nuclear Power Station.

Again, thank you for the opportunity to meet with you. I extend my best wishes to you and the Commissioners and look forward to seeing you all again soon.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Victor M. McCree
Executive Director
for Operations

November 18, 2016

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Nuclear Regulation Authority of Japan
1-9-9 Roppongi-First Bldg 9F
Roppongi, Minato-ku, Tokyo
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Victor M. McCree
Executive Director
for Operations

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