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Mr. Gerald Hennenhöfer  
Director  
Department of Nuclear Facilities,  
Radiation and Nuclear Waste  
Ministry for Environment and Reactor Safety  
Husarenstrasse 30  
Postfach 120629  
D-53048 Bonn 1  
Germany

Dear Mr. Hennenhöfer:

We recently had an opportunity to discuss the important contribution international cooperation in nuclear regulation can make to safety, especially in research, and the lack of a permanent forum solely devoted to the interests and challenges faced by nuclear regulators worldwide. I have proposed establishing an independent multilateral mechanism, an International Nuclear Regulators Forum (INRF), in which nuclear regulatory officials can exchange views, coordinate approaches and harmonize arrangements, for the safe and secure use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes.

I have accepted an invitation to make a presentation on current and future needs of nuclear regulatory bodies at the NEA Senior Regulators September 12-13, 1996 meeting in Paris. This meeting presents an opportunity to move forward with broader, more in depth discussions.

The enclosed discussion paper has been prepared for meeting participants. To provide a more concrete basis for discussion, a draft Terms of Reference (TOR) has also been included. The TOR was prepared to focus discussion on some concrete alternatives, but should not be taken to represent any fixed views about the role or structure of an INRF.

Your early views on the discussion paper and the TOR would be appreciated prior to the September Senior Regulators meeting.

Sincerely,

Shirley Ann Jackson

Enclosure: As stated

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