



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

June 26, 1997

CHAIRMAN

Mr. Zygmund Domaratzki
Deputy Director General
Head of the Department of Nuclear Safety
International Atomic Energy Agency
Wagramerstrasse 5
P.O. Box 100
A-1400 Vienna, Austria

Dear Mr. Domaratzki:

Thank you for your letter of June 17, 1997, indicating your interest in harmonizing the activities of the International Nuclear Regulators Association (INRA) and International Atomic Energy Agency. I appreciate your support for this initiative, and share your view that regular contact and cooperation among nuclear regulators in a variety of fora significantly enhances nuclear safety worldwide.

As you know, INRA was formally constituted in Paris May 29-30, 1997. The members finalized a terms of reference document which describes how the INRA will be organized, its initial membership, and how it plans to develop working relationships with other national and international nuclear safety and regulatory bodies (see enclosure). We also discussed two broad topics at length, national trends in electric generation and their effect on nuclear safety; and an assessment of effectiveness of nuclear regulatory and safety assistance. The Association expects to meet in the United States in January 1998, and thereafter meet on a twice yearly basis.

During our deliberations, we agreed that a first priority was to establish and consolidate the Association, develop the program of the body, and to determine how it might usefully contribute to enhancing nuclear safety. It was felt that this task should proceed during the initial two-year period before taking a decision on how to involve other national regulatory agencies or other interested organizations. The decision to defer the general issue of membership does not, however, preclude the Association from arranging ad hoc activities with other regulatory bodies or nuclear-related organizations, where such activities are deemed to provide a useful way to advance the Association's objectives. Given your support for, and interest in, the Association, I hope we will be able to include you in our activities at an early date.

To promote the work of INRA, I would like to make a presentation on the organization to interested countries attending the IAEA General Conference in September 1997. I would request your support for this meeting, and have asked Mr. Charles Z. Serpan, Nuclear Safety attache at the U.S. Mission in Vienna, to discuss logistical and other arrangements with you.

Sincerely,

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PDR COMMS NRCC
CORRESPONDENCE PDR

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Comm

Shirley Ann Jackson

Shirley Ann Jackson

Enclosure: As stated



May 29, 1997

**TERMS OF REFERENCE
FOR
THE INTERNATIONAL NUCLEAR REGULATORS ASSOCIATION (INRA)**

PREAMBLE:

The International Nuclear Regulators Association ("Association") is established to influence and enhance nuclear safety, from the regulatory perspective, among its members as well as worldwide.

The Association shall comprise the most senior officials of well-established independent national nuclear regulatory organizations who wish to exchange perspectives on important issues of nuclear safety.

OBJECTIVES

- To establish a forum for the most senior nuclear regulatory officials to exchange views on broad regulatory policy issues (technical, legal, economic, administrative).
- To build a global nuclear safety culture.
- To encourage the most efficient use of resources in areas of common interest.
- To work to enhance the stature of nuclear regulatory organizations worldwide.
- To seek consensus on how nuclear regulatory issues can be approached and implemented; to facilitate international cooperation in regulation.
- To work to advance nuclear safety through cooperation among its members, cooperation with relevant existing intergovernmental organizations (e.g., IAEA, OECD/NEA), with other national nuclear regulatory organizations, and other groups and organizations, as appropriate.
- To identify emerging nuclear regulatory challenges.

ADMINISTRATIVE ARRANGEMENTS:

ARTICLE 1: NAME

The organization established pursuant to these Terms of Reference shall be called the International Nuclear Regulators Association (INRA).

ARTICLE 2: PURPOSE

The Association shall influence and enhance nuclear safety, from the regulatory perspective, among its members as well as worldwide.

ARTICLE 3: ACTIVITIES

The tasks assigned to the Association shall be carried out, both individually and collectively, in conformity with the provisions set forth in these Terms of Reference, to support the common interest of the members. In particular, the Association shall act by consensus to:

1. Promote the exchange of information and experience among members.

2. Review and assess on a continuing basis the effectiveness of the Association's activities.
3. Make recommendations to other responsible bodies, both national and international, concerning issues of nuclear regulatory significance; support international cooperative activities and other nuclear safety initiatives; participate in relevant activities of other bodies concerned with nuclear safety, as appropriate; and review the nuclear safety programs of existing international bodies.
4. Consider, at an early date, the value of convening meetings comprising the most senior officials of a broad range of national nuclear regulatory organizations, relevant existing intergovernmental organizations, and other groups and organizations, as a useful means for advancing the Association's stated objectives.

ARTICLE 4: MEMBERSHIP

Members of the International Nuclear Regulators Association shall be the most senior officials of national nuclear regulatory bodies.

The initial membership takes into account, for each respective country, the size and scope of the nuclear program; the existence of a well-established, independent nuclear regulatory authority; and a firm commitment to the provisions of the Convention on Nuclear Safety.

The Association intends to consider, during an initial period of two years, the most effective way to achieve its objectives and, based on that experience, how to involve other national nuclear regulatory organizations.

ARTICLE 5: LANGUAGE

The working language shall be English.

ARTICLE 6: ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

The Association shall establish the following organizational elements:

- A Chairman shall be chosen by consensus and shall coordinate the work of the Association during his/her period of incumbency.
- The first Chairman shall serve for two years. Thereafter, the designated Chairman shall serve for a period of one year.
- The Chairman shall provide the Secretariat functions during his/her period of incumbency.
- The members shall cover their own expenses for participation in meetings.

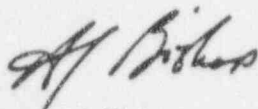
ARTICLE 7: ASSOCIATION MEETINGS

Association meetings shall be held at least annually.

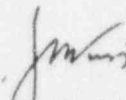
Association meetings shall be organized on the most efficient possible basis.

The agreed consensus of the group will be made publicly available. The confidentiality of the working papers and discussions of the Association shall be protected, as appropriate, to the extent authorized by the respective national laws and policies of its members.

Signed in Paris, on the 29th of May, 1997.



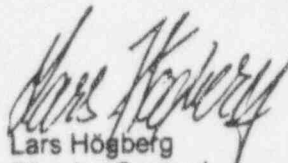
Agnes J. Bishop
President
Atomic Energy Control Board of Canada



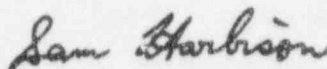
Juan M. Kindelan
President
Consejo de Seguridad Nuclear, Spain



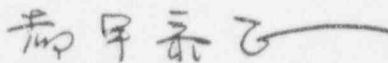
André-Claude Lacoste
Director
Nuclear Installations Safety Directorate,
France



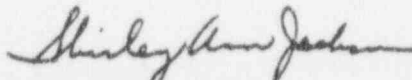
Lars Högberg
Director General
Swedish Nuclear Power Inspectorate (SKI)



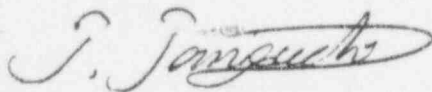
Sam Harbison
HM Chief Inspector of
Nuclear Installations (NII),
United Kingdom



Yasumasa Togo
Chairman
Nuclear Safety Commission, Japan



Shirley Ann Jackson
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Tomihiro Taniguchi
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Energy, MITI, Japan