



CHAIRMAN

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

March 21, 2000

Ms. Judith Melin, Director General  
Swedish Nuclear Power Inspectorate (SKI)  
SE-106 58 Stockholm  
Sweden

Dear Ms. ~~Melin~~ <sup>Judith</sup>:

Thank you for your letter of February 24, 2000. I agree to the informal continuation of our nuclear safety cooperation while the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) and the Swedish Nuclear Power Inspectorate (SKI) actively negotiate a renewal of our long-standing information exchange and general cooperation arrangement.

I appreciate the SKI's initiative in drafting a renewal text for consideration. I have passed your proposal to our Office of International Programs (OIP) for coordination of NRC's internal review. This will involve our Office of General Counsel as well as our Offices of Nuclear Reactor Regulation and Nuclear Regulatory Research. Ms. Janice Dunn Lee, OIP Director, will forward the agency comments, which may be substantial. The SKI, as you know, has considerably simplified the original arrangement and a quick review indicates that some of the deleted provisions may well be essential to NRC.

When we have developed an agreed text, the NRC will seek U.S. Government interagency clearance, the final step before we can sign the renewal arrangement. We will send you our comments as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Richard A. Meserve", written over a circular scribble.

Richard A. Meserve

DF02