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STATEMENT REGARDING THE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND ARMENIA ON COOPERATIVE THERMAL-HYDRAULIC CODE APPLICATIONS AND MAINTENANCE RESEARCH AND SEVERE ACCIDENT RESEARCH, WITH ADDENDUM, SIGNED AT ROCKVILLE AND YEREVAN FEBRUARY 11 AND 24, 2004

Explanation of the Agreement

This three-year Agreement serves as a vehicle for formally continuing the cooperative research between the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (USNRC) and the Armenian Nuclear Regulatory Authority (ANRA) for thermal-hydraulic code applications, maintenance research, and severe accident research, which has been conducted by them informally since 1998. The Agreement describes the respective responsibilities of the USNRC and ANRA and provides for administration of the joint program. The intellectual property provisions of the Agreement (Art. V and an addendum to the Agreement) are in keeping with U.S. interagency agreed standards. Nonproprietary information exchanged will be allowed unrestricted distribution; proprietary and confidential or privileged information, as agreed, will be exchanged and protected under existing national laws and policies. The U.S. Department of State's AID program will help support ANRA participation in the Thermal-Hydraulic and Code Applications and Maintenance Program and Cooperative Severe Accident Research Program. These obligations are subject to the availability of funds.

Background Information on Negotiations

NRC and ANRA have conducted joint research in the area of thermal-hydraulic code applications, maintenance research, and severe accident research since 1998. NRC and ANRA, recognizing the value of this cooperation, wished to formalize their roles through conclusion of an agreement. The Agreement was signed by representatives of the USNRC (at Rockville, Md. on February 11, 2004) and by ANRA (at Yerevan on February 24, 2004) and entered into force on February 24, 2004; with effect from May 31, 2003.

Effect of the Agreement

This Agreement establishes on a formal basis the ongoing cooperation between USNRC and ANRA in the fields of thermal-hydraulic code applications, maintenance research, and severe accident research. This research contributes to assuring the continued safe operation of power reactors in both countries and throughout the world.

Legal Authority

The Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended, 68 Stat. 919; 42 U.S.C. 2011, *et seq.*, and the Energy Reorganization Act of 1974, as amended, 88 Stat. 1233; 42 U.S.C. 5801.

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