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RUSSIA READY TO JOIN LWR PROJECT FOR N. KOREA: ENERGY OFFICIAL

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The head of Russia's Federal Atomic Energy Agency (Rosatom) said Thursday Moscow was ready to join the project to build light-water reactors (LWRs) under an agreement reached Monday as part of a deal to end the North's nuclear weapons ambitions.

Alexander Rumyantsev said in a news conference that, "We are ready to join the project for the construction of the nuclear plants (for North Korea) if all political problems are resolved."

The Russian official noted North Korea's reentry into the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty (NPT) and International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) will make it easy for Moscow to cooperate with the North in the nuclear energy sector.

He was referring to the six-point joint statement signed in Beijing Monday at the end of the fourth round of the six-party talks on ending North Korea's nuclear weapons ambitions.

Under the agreement, North Korea is to abandon its nuclear weapons and related programs in return for security and economic guarantees.

The agreement, however, conditions the provision of the LWRs on the North's joining in the NPT and IAEA safeguards.