

November 9, 2000

Mr. Paul M. Lynch
Assistant Commissioner
Office of Building Performance (PX)
General Services Administration
1800 F Street, N.W., Room 4340
Washington, DC 20405-0002

Dear Mr. Lynch:

The purpose of this letter is to request your assistance in reimbursing the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) for money we expended to remedy damages caused by Juniper Construction Company, a contractor performing work for the General Services Administration (GSA) in the One White Flint North building (OWFN), 11555 Rockville Pike, Rockville, Maryland.

By way of background, GSA awarded a construction contract (WPMOD-98-0080) to Juniper to perform structural repairs in the OWFN garage. The project involved removal and replacement of deteriorated concrete in selected areas of the garage. The work was phased so that areas of the garage were closed to vehicular traffic to allow Juniper access to the entire work site.

During the course of the project, concrete dust entered the electrical switchgear room on the P-2 level of the garage and Juniper was required to perform a thorough cleaning of the room. When the electrical power in the switchgear room was shut off, to allow Juniper to safely work on the equipment, an explosion occurred that destroyed the emergency fire pump control cabinet. NRC obtained the services of Central Armature Works to: a) determine the cause of the explosion; b) determine if the damaged equipment could be salvaged; c) identify the repairs needed to restore service; and, d) complete all repairs. The total cost of the NRC contract was \$68,271.25. Independent investigations conducted by GSA supported the conclusion of Central Armature that Juniper damaged an electrical feeder to the fire pump in the course of working in the garage which, in turn, caused the explosion.

On November 30, 1999, GSA notified Juniper of their liability and of the Government's intention to recover all damages (Enclosure 1). On April 5, 2000, GSA sent a letter to Juniper's insurance company regarding the claim (Enclosure 2). On September 19, 2000, GSA notified Juniper that the remaining funds in the contract (\$48,922) will be deducted to recover a portion of the damages (Enclosure 3). To date, NRC has not received any compensation for the money we spent on the Central Armature contract. Representatives of the GSA Maryland North Service Delivery team suggested this letter as a means to obtain our compensation. One approach suggested was that the RENT credit for our building delegation program could be increased to cover our expenses. Or, preferably, establish a credit which can be used by NRC for future reimbursable services through GSA.

To assist us in our financial planning efforts, please let us know how you want to compensate NRC for these costs by December 1, 2000. Mr. Louis Fisher, Chief, Facilities Branch, will serve as the NRC contact and is available to address any questions you may have. He can be reached on (301) 415-7311 (e-mail LXF@nrc.gov). Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,

/RA/
Michael L. Springer, Director
Office of Administration

Enclosures: As stated

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