

February 9, 2001

Mr. George L. Jones
Accounting and Information Management Division
United States General Accounting Office
Washington, D.C. 20548

RE: GAO Project Number 801603

Dear Mr. Jones:

The two attached documents are the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission's responses to your questionnaires regarding federal telecommunications obligations and management practices. The survey forms were provided to us by David Solenberger of your Kansas City office. Our responses were developed by my office in coordination with NRC's Chief Financial Officer, who is responsible for the data on agency obligations.

At the NRC, all telecommunications procurement and contracting decisions are made with the approval of the Chief Information Officer. In addition, our policy is to acquire agency telecommunication services through General Services Administration consolidated contracts, such as Federal Technology Services (FTS 2001) and the Washington Interagency Telecommunications System. Local area and specialized requirements are satisfied through other interagency contracts and, when necessary, through direct procurement by NRC.

The information you requested is quite complex. It requires a thorough understanding of technical issues associated with the NRC telecommunications, voice, and data systems. This is particularly true in identifying the financial commitments by the NRC organizations within the categories you requested. In order to prepare a response that accurately portrays the use of telecommunications-related financial obligations across our entire agency, it was necessary to establish a joint effort between the Offices of the Chief Information Officer and the Chief Financial Officer, to obtain information from the NRC regional offices, and to carefully analyze and clarify the responses; a process that consumed more time than was originally anticipated.

Thank you for the opportunity to participate in this project. We are looking forward to receiving our copy of the executive guide you will be producing and anticipate that the NRC, along with many other agencies, will benefit from sharing our methods for meeting the telecommunications challenges of the recent past and those anticipated in the future.

Sincerely,

/Original signed by/

Stuart Reiter
Acting Chief Information Officer

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Stuart Reiter
Acting Chief Information Officer

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