

May 3, 2009

Mr. Bryan O'Connor, Chief
Safety and Mission Assurance
National Aeronautics and Space Administration
Washington, DC 20546-0001

Dear Mr. O'Connor:

On behalf of the Commissioners, the Executive Director for Operations, and the entire staff of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, I want to offer my appreciation for your willingness to present a seminar on the Safety and Mission Assurance Challenges of NASA's New Exploration Initiatives. I also would like to extend our most sincere apologies for needing to cancel the seminar at the last minute due to an unannounced evacuation drill at our seminar location.

I very much appreciated your gracious attitude toward this very unfortunate disruption and your willingness to reschedule the seminar for another time. I know that many of our staff were keenly looking forward to your presentation and will be particularly pleased that you plan to return. We will contact your staff to make the arrangements.

In addition, I especially appreciated the opportunity that you extended to salvage the situation by suggesting an impromptu meeting with my staff and I that included Dr. Michael G. Stamatelatos, Director, Safety and Assurance Requirements Division, of your staff. I was delighted to have been provided the chance to exchange insights with you and Michael on ways that we can continue to work together effectively under our memorandum of understanding.

I very much look forward to seeing you again, hopefully in the near future and under more favorable circumstances.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Brian W. Sheron, Director
Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research

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ADAMS Accession No.: ML091510005

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DATE	06/01/09	06/01/09	06/03/09	06/02/09	06/03/09

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