



**UNITED STATES  
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION  
ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON REACTOR SAFEGUARDS  
WASHINGTON, DC 20555 – 0001**

October 2, 2012

Admiral Kirkland H. Donald, USN  
Director, Naval Nuclear Propulsion Program  
1240 Issac Hull Avenue, Mail Stop 8015  
Washington Navy Yard  
Washington, DC 20376

Dear Admiral Donald:

Please accept this letter of thanks for sponsoring the Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards (ACRS) visits to the Norfolk Naval Base and the Newport News Shipbuilding on September 12-13, 2012.

Captain S. Robert Roth, Commanding Officer of the Harry S. Truman (CVN-75), led an outstanding team that provided us with detailed and informative briefings about many of the supporting nuclear systems within the carrier, including discussions on plant-specific design features, operational conditions and possible challenges. The officers and sailors assigned to us worked diligently to make sure every question was answered accurately and completely. The opportunity to be on board the aircraft carrier was of great value to all of us.

In the same outstanding manner, Mr. Ed Guteski, Director of Engineering, Newport News Shipbuilding, provided us with a memorable visit to the construction site of the Gerald R. Ford (CVN-78) carrier. His team of engineers and technical experts fulfilled all the expectations from our much-anticipated visit to the construction site. We were all left with an appreciation for the difficult tasks being performed and the impressive advances in technology that are taking place.

The professionalism and preparation for these visits was outstanding. The resulting learning experience was invaluable. We recognize the significant amount of effort needed to put together such well-coordinated and informative visits. We look forward to continuing to work with you and your staff on the review of the Gerald R. Ford carrier design over the next year.

We specifically would like to highlight the outstanding support we received from Mr. Thomas Roberts and Mr. Ismael Garcia of your staff in the planning and execution of this visit.

Sincerely,

/RA/

J. Sam Armijo  
Chairman

cc: ACRS Members

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