



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

April 6, 2015

Mr. James Watzin, Director
Mars Exploration Program
Science Mission Directorate
National Aeronautics and Space Administration
Washington, D.C. 20546-0001

Dear Mr. Watzin:

Thank you for your recent letter making us aware of a pending request in the January 2016 timeframe for the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) to designate a technical advisor to the Interagency Nuclear Safety Review Panel (INSRP) that will be formed to review the safety analysis of NASA's Mars 2020 Mission.

We will be pleased to support NASA's mission to Mars in terms of NRC's participation on the INSRP in accordance with Presidential Directive/National Security Council Memorandum #25. The NRC has supported the INSRP in past missions in the role of technical advisor since 1977.

We look forward to helping the National Aeronautics and Space Administration ensure the safe launch of the Mars 2020 Mission as you continue your mission to explore our neighbors in space.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Brian W. Sheron, Director
Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research

cc. Dr. Frank Groen

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ADAMS Accession No.: ML15086A476

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