



Bruce A Fox
Project Manager
APTIM

11400 Parkside Drive, Suite 400
Knoxville, TN 37932
Bruce.fox@aptim.com

May 11, 2021

APTIM-501513-0009

Mr. Ray Duff
Contracting Officer's Representative
Naval Sea Systems Command
614 Sicard Street SE
Washington Navy Yard, DC 20376-7007

Subject: Surface Ship Support Barge Contract Number N00024-20-C-4139; Request for Approval to Transport SSSB from Virginia to Alabama via Ocean-going Deck Barge

Dear Mr. Duff,

Aptim Federal Services, LLC ("APTIM") is requesting approval from the Naval Sea Systems Command ("NAVSEA") to transport the Surface Ship Support Barge ("SSSB") from Virginia to Alabama via ocean-going deck barge prior to the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission ("NRC") completing their review and approval of the SSSB Decommissioning Work Plan ("DWP"). Actual decommissioning activities at the Alabama Shipyard ("ASY") in Mobile, Alabama will not commence until the NRC completes review and approval of the DWP.

APTIM received custody of the SSSB from NAVSEA through an appropriately issued and signed DD Form 1149 on 18 April 2021. The Radiological Controls program was transferred from Newport News Shipyard ("NNS") to APTIM's Radiological Controls program at that time.

APTIM took physical possession of the SSSB outside of NNS Drydock #2, towed the vessel to Colonna's Shipyard ("CSY") via the James and Elizabeth Rivers, and secured the SSSB to the CSY pier. Since that time, APTIM has completed the following preparations for the upcoming sea tow:

- De-ballasted the SSSB for transfer onto the floating drydock at CSY.
- Completed all on-board materials and equipment securements according to the U.S. Navy Towing Manual and received approval from the Marine Surveyor and NAVSEA.
- Transferred the SSSB from pier-side to the CSY floating drydock.
- Transferred the SSSB from the CSY floating drydock onto the ocean-going deck barge.



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- Completed sea fastening of the SSSB on the ocean-going deck barge in accordance with the U.S. Navy Towing Manual, and approval of the Marine Surveyor and NAVSEA.
- Verified the towing bridle and towing gear is serviceable and meets requirements of the Navy Towing manual and received approval from the Marine Surveyor and NAVSEA.

In addition to physical preparations of the vessel at CSY, the following preparatory actions have been performed at ASY to receive the SSSB:

- The baseline radiological survey has been completed.
- APTIM has commenced the environmental monitoring program and has been collecting data since 23 April. APTIM will collect at least 30 days of data prior to starting the decommissioning work activities in accordance with the DWP.
- The storm water containment system for the SSSB is in place.
- SSSB blocking within the containment system is in progress and will be completed by 21 May.
- Work zone security fencing is in progress and will be completed once the vessel is set inside the containment, prior to starting the decommissioning work.
- Set up of office space for APTIM and the Government is in progress and will be completed and able to be occupied by 24 May.

It should be noted that none of the aforementioned vessel or site decommissioning footprint preparatory items at ASY have been concerns specifically mentioned by the NRC as items that are negatively impacting their review of the DWP.

APTIM will maintain possession of the SSSB throughout transit via ocean-going deck barge to ASY. At ASY, the SSSB will be transferred from the deck barge to land for decommissioning and disposal as described in the DWP.

The expedited transport of the SSSB from Virginia to Alabama has the potential to reduce the following project risks:

- Schedule: Transporting the SSSB to Mobile AL concurrently with NRC completing their review and approval of the DWP reduces the overall project schedule compared to delaying transport until after DWP approval.



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- Weather: Transporting the SSSB from Virginia to Alabama as soon as possible minimizes the risk of transporting during hurricane season.
- Vessel Safety: Transporting the SSSB as soon as possible minimizes potential incidents due to high winds/weather to the vessel and ocean-going barge while moored pier-side at CSY.

APTIM will contact the various Captains of the Port and respective Coast Guard contacts of those locations listed in our Transportation and Tow Plan in the event high seas and winds during the tow force the tug(s) to safe harbor until the weather improves. We will obtain assurance from these contacts that in the event we need to safe harbor due to weather, we will be able to do so.

Based on the foregoing information, APTIM has made the necessary and appropriate preparations for accomplishing sea tow and is requesting NAVSEA approval to commence transporting the SSSB from CSY in Virginia to ASY in Alabama as soon as possible. Upon NAVSEA approval to transport the SSSB from Virginia to Alabama, APTIM's Marine Surveyor will re-mobilize to the vessel at CSY, conduct the tug crew interviews, perform any final inspections, and issue the tow certificate. A formal tow conference will also be conducted with NAVSEA, APTIM, TK Towing, Berard, and our Marine Surveyor prior to initiating the tow.

Please feel free to contact me at Bruce.fox@aptim.com or by phone at 208.901.2142 if you have questions or require additional information while considering your approval.

Sincerely,

Bruce A. Fox
Project Manager