

December 20, 1999

Mr. Joseph P. Zimmer
U.S. Department of Energy
Naval Nuclear Propulsion Program
Director, Reactor Plant Safety Analysis
Office of Nuclear Energy Science and Technology
Deputy Assistant Secretary for Nuclear Reactors
Washington, DC 20585

SUBJECT: NRC EFFORT FOR THE REVIEW OF THE VIRGINIA CLASS SUBMARINE
REACTOR PLANT (TAC NO. MA6509)

Dear Mr. Zimmer:

As requested in paragraph IV.B.(b) of the Interagency Agreement between the Naval Nuclear Propulsion Program (NNPP) and the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), this letter gives an estimate of the NRC staff effort needed in Fiscal Year (FY) 2000 through FY 2003 for the review of the Safety Analysis Report and supporting safety analyses for the VIRGINIA Class submarine reactor plant.

Our resource estimates for the Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation (NRR) and the Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards (ACRS) staffs are as follows:

	FY 2000	FY 2001	FY 2002	FY 2003
NRR	150 hours	1500 hours	5400 hours	450 hours
ACRS	400 hours	400 hours	800 hours	80 hours

The current rate for labor in the reactor regulatory program is \$141 per hour and should be applied to the FY 2000 hour estimate. This rate is reviewed yearly and could change. Our estimates are based on statements in your letter of May 11, 1998 (Z#C98-00051), comparing the VIRGINIA Class submarine review with the review of the SEAWOLF Class submarine that was performed by the NRC staff during the 1993-1994 time frame. These estimates may be subject to revision as additional information is provided to NRC by the NNPP about the review, and as technical issues are addressed as the review is conducted.

To allow for continued preliminary preparation within NRC for conducting the VIRGINIA Class review, we request that the work task identified in paragraph IV.B.(a) be funded for FY 2000 in the amount of \$77,550 and that the Interagency Agreement be modified accordingly. If you have any questions about this estimate or the Interagency Agreement as applied to the review of the VIRGINIA class submarine, please contact Alexander Adams at 301-415-1127.

Sincerely,
Original signed by
Samuel J. Collins, Director
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Project No. 705

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*See previous concurrence

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