

A.J. Eggenberger, Chairman  
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## DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

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January 4, 2007

Admiral Kirkland H. Donald, USN  
Deputy Administrator of Naval Reactors  
National Nuclear Security Administration  
Naval Sea Systems Command  
Washington Navy Yard  
1240 Isaac Hull Avenue, SE, Stop 8010  
Washington, D. C. 20376-8010

Dear Admiral Donald:

Thank you for your letter of June 1, 2006, which provided the recent Naval Reactors reports on radiological waste disposal and environmental monitoring, occupational safety and health, and occupational radiation exposure, as well as the annual overview of the program.

The Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board (Board) takes great pleasure in noting the first successful cruise of the *USS Virginia* (SSN-774). This event marks another milestone of Naval Reactors continued excellence in quality, safety, reliability, and operability. Along with the October 2006 chemical and radiological release for unrestricted future use of the S1C Prototype Reactor Site in Windsor, Connecticut, this demonstrates a cradle-to-grave commitment to provide militarily effective nuclear propulsion plants and ensure their safe, reliable, and long-lived operation.

The Naval Reactors program embodies the basic premise behind Integrated Safety Management that safety must be integrated into operational management programs. From the Bettis and Knolls Atomic Power Laboratories to the release of shipyards and prototype plants for unrestricted use, the nation can always count on the Naval Reactors Program to do work safely.

The Board congratulates you once again for sustained superior performance. We extend our best personal wishes to you and your staff.

Sincerely,

A. J. Eggenberger  
Chairman

c: The Honorable Samuel W. Bodman