

May 28, 2003

Mr. Peter Sasgen
7816 Roanoke Street
Philadelphia, PA 19118

Dear Mr. Sasgen:

I am responding to the e-mail message you sent to the Office of Public Affairs, Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), on May 6, 2003. In your message, you asked the NRC staff to provide you with information about the radiation levels one would encounter within a submarine reactor compartment, or from physical contact with a nuclear submarine reactor vessel. In addition, you asked for information about "anti-radiation" suits worn by nuclear industry workers to protect them from reactors.

Regarding the information you requested about submarine radiation levels, the NRC does not regulate the military application of nuclear power and would not have the specific information you are requesting. For information about naval nuclear propulsion plants, please contact the Naval Nuclear Propulsion Program. The Naval Nuclear Propulsion Program oversees the design, construction, operation, and maintenance of the U.S. Navy's nuclear propulsion plants. The point of contact is Kevin Davis. His address is:

Commander
Code NAVSEA 08V
Naval Sea Systems Command
1240 Isaac Hull Ave. SE Stop 8050
Washington Navy Yard DC 20376-8050

You also asked about the clothing worn by nuclear workers to protect them in the environment in which they work. The garment used is commonly known as an "Anti-C," short for anti-contamination. The complete outfit typically includes a full-length cotton jump suit, rubber gloves and overshoes, along with a cotton hood. As its name suggests, Anti-Cs protect the nuclear worker from contaminating his or her clothing or skin when working in an environment where radioactive contamination is suspected or has been detected, and are effective at controlling the spread of contamination. Anti-Cs are not designed to protect the wearer from the biological effects of penetrating radiation (e.g., gamma or neutron radiation), but do provide protection from certain types of radiation with limited penetration ability (e.g., alpha and beta).

Mr. Peter Sasgen

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I hope that this information will be useful to you in addressing your concerns. The NRC staff would like to thank you for your interest in the this matter.

Sincerely

/RA/

Scott W. Moore, Acting Director
Project Directorate II
Division of Licensing Project Management
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Mr. Peter Sasgen

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I hope that this information will be useful to you in addressing your concerns. The NRC staff would like to thank you for your interest in the this matter.

Sincerely
/RA/

Scott W. Moore, Acting Director
Project Directorate II
Division of Licensing Project Management
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

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