



**UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON REACTOR SAFEGUARDS
WASHINGTON, DC 20555 – 0001**

May 6, 2013

Admiral John M. Richardson, USN
Director, Naval Nuclear Propulsion Program
1240 Issac Hull Avenue, Mail Stop 8015
Washington Navy Yard
Washington, DC 20376

Dear Admiral Richardson:

I would like to thank you on behalf of the Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards (ACRS) for sponsoring our visit to the USS George H. W. Bush (CVN-77) on April 17-18, 2013. The opportunity to visit a U.S. Navy carrier at sea has been a once in a lifetime event for me and my colleagues. Witnessing daytime and nighttime flight operations, as well as the skills and professionalism of the officers and crew of young men and women has been a fascinating and inspiring experience.

Captain Brian Luther, Commanding Officer of the USS George H. W. Bush and his outstanding team provided a warm welcome, detailed and informative briefings, and tours of the ship, including the propulsion plant and control spaces. Our observations of control room operational drills were very informative and relevant to our current review of the power plant design for the USS Gerald R. Ford (CVN-78). The officers and sailors who briefed us demonstrated a thorough knowledge of the complex systems and components for which they were responsible, and answered all of our questions.

I would also like to acknowledge the outstanding support we received from Mr. Thomas Roberts and Mr. Ismael Garcia of Naval Reactors. We appreciate their efforts in the planning and execution of this well-coordinated and informative visit.

Sincerely,

/RA/

J. Sam Armijo
ACRS Chairman

cc: ACRS Members

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ACRS Chairman

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