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THE UNDER SECRETARY OF THE NAVY
WASHINGTON DC 20350-1000

SEP 27 2012

MEMORANDUM FOR THE CHAIRMAN, NUCLEAR WEAPONS COUNCIL

**SUBJECT: Navy Perspective of W78/W88-1 Life Extension Program Phase 6.2,
"Analysis of Alternatives/Feasibility Study"**

**Reference: (a) Nuclear Weapons Council (NWC) Chairman memo, dated 18 June 2012,
Analysis of Alternatives/Feasibility Study**
**(b) Department of Energy National Nuclear Security Administration Letter
dated August 27, 2012**

On behalf of Secretary of the Navy, I am responding to the reference (a) request to participate in and resource the Phase 6.2, "Analysis of Alternatives/Feasibility Study," for the W78/W88-1 Life Extension Program (LEP). While the Department of the Navy (DON) recognizes the objectives the Nuclear Weapons Council (NWC) is attempting to achieve with this LEP, we do not support commencing the effort at this time.

Navy is not scheduled to start W88 life extension planning until Fiscal Year (FY) 2020 for an initial operational capability scheduled for FY2028, and therefore the effort is not funded. The DON estimate for the W78/W88-1 LEP Phase 6.2 study is approximately \$43 million. Additionally, the uncertainty of the National Nuclear Security Administration's (NNSA) ability to execute its currently programmed work, as evidenced by the Office of the Secretary of Defense/Cost Assessment and Program Evaluation (OSD/CAPE) of NNSA's program and costs assessments, raises questions as to the feasibility of effectively accomplishing this new emergent work. Finally, the NWC's recently directed stockpile strategic planning effort should be completed before any effort is commenced, as its conclusions may recommend against the concept. Similarly, as stated in reference (b), NNSA cannot commit to completion of this study until completion of the CAPE study, completion of the NWC long-range plan, and resolution of FY13-15 budget issues. We support delaying this study effort until the mid 2020s as Commander, USSTRATCOM notionally suggests in his July 13, 2012 briefing to the NWC.

My point of contact for this matter is VADM W. M. Skinner who can be reached at (703) 695-6315.

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