

very high degree of confidence that the risks are not significant.

6. The potential effect on marine animals of exposure to low-level radiation was investigated. It was concluded, on the basis of the fact that no releases are authorized in Canadian waters, that the only risk of exposure is from accidental minor releases. It was also determined, on the basis that no such minor releases have ever been detected in Canada, that their frequency, if above zero, is probably very low and that their impact would be insignificant on marine animals.

7. The long term health effects on humans of direct and indirect exposure to low-level radiation was investigated. It was concluded, on the basis of the fact that it is Canadian policy that there shall be no releases of radioactive material in Canadian waters and that none has ever been detected, that the probability of minor releases is very low (accidental or otherwise). It was also determined that even exaggerated levels of routine releases, if they were permitted (which they are not) would result in negligible effects. From this information, it was concluded that the impact on human health is likely to be insignificant.

8. The economic impact of the local procurement and tourism/recreation activities enjoyed by crews of visiting NPVs/NCVs was considered. It was determined that this impact is probably significant and positive.

9. The social impact of the presence in the community of potentially large numbers of allied military personnel was considered. It was determined, on the basis of the fact that the port communities visited by NPVs and NCVs have a long history of such visits, and social and recreational facilities to accommodate them are well established, that the impacts are likely to be insignificant.

10. Water quality and waste disposal issues associated with the routine disposal of ship sewage, grey water, and garbage were considered. It was determined, on the basis of the similarity between the activities undertaken by NPVs/NCVs and other visiting ships, that the incremental impacts are not significant.

11. The effects of the presence of these vessels on harbour traffic and the provision of berthing services were considered. It was determined that harbour facilities have evolved to provide sufficient capacity to ensure no significant adverse impacts.