

February 21, 2002

Dr. Larry Atkinson  
Chair, Fleet Improvement Committee  
Old Dominion University  
4600 Elkhorn Avenue  
Norfolk, VA 23508

Dear Dr. Atkinson:

I would like to provide the Fleet Improvement Committee with a brief status report on the University of Delaware's progress in designing a replacement vessel for the R/V CAPE HENLOPEN. As of this date, we are still on schedule in our design process as outlined in the timetable presented to FIC in November 1999 (attached).

The Concept Design was completed in October 2001, after which the University immediately proceeded to the Preliminary Design Phase. Bay Marine, Inc., was selected as the principle naval architecture firm, and Noise Control Engineering, Inc., as the primary acoustical consultant. The goal of the Preliminary Design Phase is to have the bid package (including drawings, specifications, and contract) completed by February 2003 so that the shipyard can be selected. The chosen yard will be involved in developing the Final Design. Construction is still forecast to begin in mid-2004. The artist's rendition, 3-dimensional model, and the selection of primary subcontractors, are currently underway.

Because of the estimated completion dates on several key design items (mainly model testing), we anticipate that the next meeting of the Delaware Research Vessel Committee (DRVC) will be in the fall of this year (September). The DRVC will focus primarily on detailed review of the labs, working deck, and accommodations. Their recommendations will be incorporated into the design prior to FIC's review, which we intend to do in November.

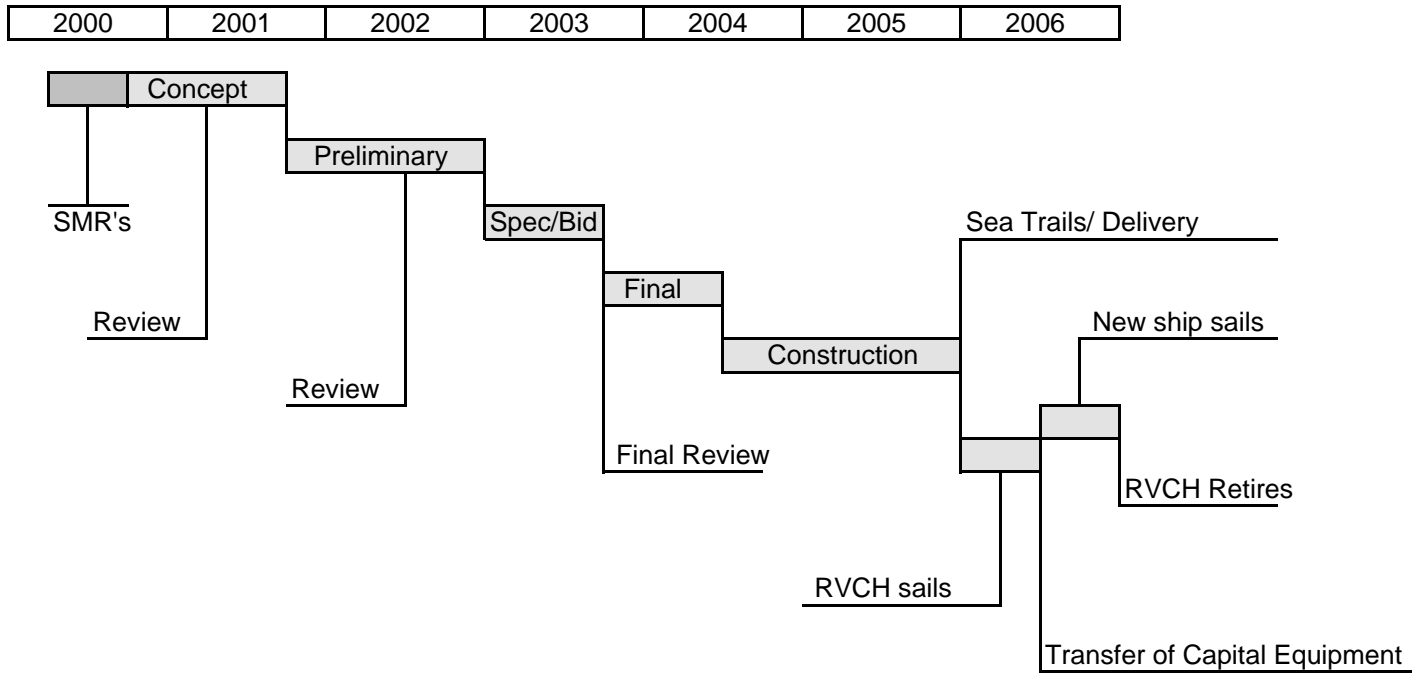
Sincerely,

Matthew J. Hawkins  
Director, Marine Operations

Enclosure

C/c: Dr. Carolyn Thoroughgood, Dean  
Dr. David Kirchman, DRVC Chair  
UNOLS Office  
Ms. Dolly Dieter, NSF  
Ship Program Officer, ONR

**Design and Construction Timetable  
R/V CAPE HENLOPEN Replacement Vessel  
University of Delaware**



**Note:** The "Design-Bid-Verify-Construct" Method Used for Discussion (Glosten Report, 1998)  
 - Good Control Over Design Process  
 - Lowers Technical Risk and Exposure to Claims at Construction