

EDO Principal Correspondence Control

FROM: DUE: 10/19/01 EDO CONTROL: G20010430
DOC DT: 09/25/01
FINAL REPLY:

Robert A. Laurie
California Energy Commission

TO:

Merschhoff, RIV

FOR SIGNATURE OF : ** GRN ** CRC NO:

Collins, NRR

DESC:

ROUTING:

Nuclear Plant Safeguards from Terrorist Actions

Travers
Paperiello
Kane
Norry
Craig
Burns/Cyr
Virgilio, NMSS
Wessman, IRO
Lohaus, STP
Merschhoff, RIV
Matthews, ERCT

DATE: 10/03/01

ASSIGNED TO: CONTACT:
NRR Collins

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS OR REMARKS:

Response will be prepared by the ERCT.

Template: EDO-001

E-RIDS: EDO-01

CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION

ROBERT A. LAURIE
COMMISSIONER

Mr. Ellis W. Merschoff
Regional Administrator
NRC Region IV
611 Ryan Plaza Drive, Suite 400
Arlington, Texas 76011-8064

September 25, 2001

Re: Nuclear Plant Safeguards from Terrorist Actions

Dear Mr. Merschoff:

As a result of the recent attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon, the Energy Commission has received numerous inquiries regarding the ability of the two operating nuclear power plants in California to withstand similar attacks. I, therefore, am seeking information from you so that I, in turn, can respond to California officials and members of the public in regards to such. Accordingly, a response to the following questions would be appreciated:

1. Did the NRC recommend or order that nuclear power plants go to their highest state of readiness following the attack on September 11? What are the repercussions of each?
2. What are the health, safety and environmental consequences of an aircraft attack upon California's nuclear facilities, similar to that which took place on September 11? What can be done now to mitigate against such an attack? What can our citizens do to prepare for such an attack?
3. To the extent that such information is not classified, please advise as to what types of terrorist events NRC includes in the design basis threat. Will aircraft attacks be included in modifications of the design basis threat?
4. Is the NRC proposing or analyzing any modifications to safety requirements in light of the September 11 attack including increasing the control zones?
5. Did the NRC or Department of Transportation issue special safety directives to shippers and carriers of radioactive materials, explosives or dangerous chemicals or materials following the September 11 attack?
6. Will the NRC consider restoring its previous levels of security drills instead of relying on self-assessments at nuclear facilities?
7. Will the NRC consider utilizing the military for plant defense?

EDO --G20010430

Mr. Merschoff
September 25, 2001
Page 2

Your consideration of these questions is deeply appreciated.

Sincerely,



ROBERT A. LAURIE
Commissioner and State Liaison Officer

Cc: The Honorable Gray Davis
Governor, State of California

The Honorable Mary D. Nichols
Secretary for Resources