

October 16, 2001

John D. Vernarr  
1179 Bluestone Drive  
Bethlehem, PA 18017

Dear Mr. Vernarr:

I am responding to your letter dated September 27, 2001, in which you suggested that the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) should take certain actions regarding the plant information available in final safety analysis reports (FSARs). Specifically, you recommended that the NRC develop new guidelines to restrict the level of detailed design information presented in FSARs for nuclear power plants. You also recommended that the NRC mandate that nuclear power plant licensees must revise the FSARs for their facilities following the new guidance, and that public access to nuclear power plant FSARs must be restricted until they are revised.

Shortly after the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001, the NRC removed certain plant-related information from its public-access Web site. At this time, the NRC does not plan to recommend that licensees revise the FSARs for their nuclear power plants on the basis of the existing security situation. The Commission will consider the issue you raised, along with many other security-related issues, during its ongoing reevaluation of the agency's safeguards and security programs, which has been undertaken at the Chairman's direction in the wake of the terrorist attacks. This reevaluation will be a top-to-bottom analysis involving all aspects of the agency's safeguards and security programs, and will involve pertinent information from other Federal law enforcement, intelligence, and military agencies. If, as a result of that review, the Commission considers it necessary for the agency or its licensees to revise documents containing plant design information, the NRC will take appropriate actions.

I appreciate the opportunity to respond to your concern, and I hope that I have adequately addressed the issues you raised. Please do not hesitate to contact me at (301) 415-1453 if you have any further questions.

Sincerely,

**/RA/**

John A. Zwolinski, Director  
Division of Licensing Project Management  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

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**/RA/**  
John A. Zwolinski, Director  
Division of Licensing Project Management  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

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**ACCESSION NOS: Package: ML012850063**

**Incoming: ML012850214**

**Response: ML012850069**

NRR-106

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DATE	10/12/01	10/12/01	10/12/01	10/11/01		10/16/01

\*See previous concurrence

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