

November 7, 2001

The Honorable Dennis Moore
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-1603

Dear Congressman Moore:

I am responding to your letter dated October 2, 2001, regarding your constituent's concern about the security at the Wolf Creek Generating Station in Burlington, Kansas. In your letter, you indicated that you would like to know what measures have been taken to protect the Wolf Creek facilities against terrorist activities.

The measures implemented on September 11, 2001, to protect the Wolf Creek facilities included actions taken by the licensee, as well as actions taken by the NRC and other Federal agencies. Within 30 minutes after the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center (WTC) and the Pentagon, the NRC activated and staffed its incident response centers at NRC headquarters and regional offices, and began close coordination with the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) and other intelligence and law enforcement agencies, our licensees, military authorities, and various State, and local authorities. The NRC also immediately advised all licensees to go to the highest level of security. Nuclear facilities licensees acted promptly to implement a heightened security stance. The specific actions taken are understandably sensitive and, therefore, cannot be discussed in a public document. However, the actions generally included increased patrols, augmented security capabilities, additional security posts, heightened coordination with law enforcement authorities, and more limited access of personnel and vehicles to the sites, among other measures. These actions were specifically intended to protect nuclear facilities against acts of sabotage or theft by armed intruders. Additionally, immediately after the attacks on the morning of September 11, 2001, the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) issued a *Notice to Airmen* (NOTAM) that prohibited all civilian aircraft operations within the United States and required all airborne aircraft to land. That FAA action eliminated the immediate threat of aircraft attacks on all nuclear facilities, including those at the Wolf Creek site. In addition, the U.S. Coast Guard addressed any immediate threat of waterborne terrorist attacks at nuclear power plants by taking action to control the movement of vessels on navigable waters in the United States. Although the Wolf Creek site is not located directly on a navigable waterway, I include this note to highlight the comprehensive nature of the coordinated response of the NRC, power plant licensees, and the other Federal agencies involved.

The NRC has actively monitored the situation since September 11, 2001. Through close liaisons with other Federal agencies, including intelligence agencies and the FAA, the military, and nuclear power plant licensees, the NRC continues to ensure that licensees maintain the appropriate security level. The NRC is prepared to assess any threat and the best methods to provide sufficient protection, as well as to take measures to ensure the continued safe operation of the Wolf Creek Generating Station and all other nuclear facilities. The Wolf Creek licensee is still maintaining the site at a heightened security level. On October 6, 2001, the

NRC issued a safeguards advisory delineating certain prompt and additional actions to strengthen licensees' capability to respond to a terrorist attack. The Wolf Creek licensee, like other licensees, is currently implementing those prompt actions, and is evaluating the recommended additional actions for applicability to their facility. Additionally, on November 2, 2001, the FAA issued a NOTAM that established temporary no-fly zones over nuclear power plants. General aviation flights were prohibited from flying within 10 nautical miles radius of and below 18,000 feet (mean sea level) over these sites. This restriction has been rigorously enforced since its issuance.

For the longer term, Chairman Meserve has directed the NRC staff to thoroughly reevaluate the agency's safeguards and physical security programs. This reevaluation will be a top-to-bottom analysis involving all aspects of the agency's safeguards and physical security programs, including an assessment of the effectiveness of our Operational Safeguards Response Evaluation program and the Safeguards Performance Assessment pilot program. Given the sophistication of the attacks on September 11, 2001, the identification of necessary adjustments to the safeguards and/or physical security measures for civilian nuclear facilities must involve other U.S. national security organizations. As a result, the NRC is currently interacting with the FBI, other intelligence and law enforcement agencies, and the military to ensure that any changes to our programs will consider pertinent information from all relevant U.S. agencies. The staff expects to submit the initial paper scoping of this reevaluation to the Commission at the end of November.

Because the NRC's reevaluation is still ongoing, I am unable to provide complete and detailed information regarding any forthcoming changes to the agency's programs. The Commission appreciates your concern regarding this event. If you have further comments or questions, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

/RA/

William D. Travers
Executive Director
for Operations

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