

November 7, 2001

The Honorable Ron Paul  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Paul:

I am responding to your request forwarded by your staff member, Ms. Dianna Gilbert, in her letter dated October 15, 2001. You requested that the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) help address the concerns of your constituent Mr. Carl Milentz regarding security measures at the South Texas Nuclear Operating Company plants. Mr. Milentz asked that security at the South Texas Project, Units 1 and 2, be increased or the plants be shut down. Although Mr. Milentz did not so state, his concerns about security at the South Texas Project plants appear to arise from the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001.

I assure you that the NRC has actively monitored the situation since the day of the terrorist attacks and is prepared to take appropriate measures to ensure continued safe operation of the two South Texas Project units. Immediately after the attacks, the NRC issued a threat advisory to the NRC licensees that they implement the highest level of security. The specific actions are sensitive information, and, therefore, cannot be publicly discussed, but they generally include increased patrols, heightened coordination with law enforcement and military authorities, and additional restrictions on access of personnel and vehicles to the licensed facility sites. The NRC does not believe that the current terrorist threat justifies shutting down the South Texas Project units. Since the attacks, the NRC has maintained close liaisons with other Federal agencies, including intelligence agencies and the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA). As an example of the actions resulting from this coordination, 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.

However, the NRC is continuing to assess any threat to a nuclear power plant and to ensure sufficient protection. The NRC has issued threat advisories and a comprehensive list of safety and security measures to strengthen licensees' capabilities to respond to a terrorist's attack.

As a result of the terrorist attacks and the possibility of future terrorist attacks, the NRC is undertaking a top-to-bottom reevaluation of its safeguards and security programs for civilian nuclear facilities. The reevaluation will examine the basic assumptions of these programs and will involve the participation of other national security organizations. In making any changes to existing programs, the NRC will consider pertinent information from all Federal agencies.

-2-

I trust that this response meets your needs for information to address Mr. Milentz's concerns. If you have any questions regarding this response, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

***/RA/***

William D. Travers  
Executive Director  
for Operations

November 7, 2001

The Honorable Ron Paul  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Paul:

I am responding to your request forwarded by your staff member, Ms. Dianna Gilbert, in her letter dated October 15, 2001. You requested that the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) help address the concerns of your constituent Mr. Carl Milentz regarding security measures at the South Texas Nuclear Operating Company plants. Mr. Milentz asked that security at the South Texas Project, Units 1 and 2, be increased or the plants be shut down. Although Mr. Milentz did not so state, his concerns about security at the South Texas Project plants appear to arise from the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001.

I assure you that the NRC has actively monitored the situation since the day of the terrorist attacks and is prepared to take appropriate measures to ensure continued safe operation of the two South Texas Project units. Immediately after the attacks, the NRC issued a threat advisory to the NRC licensees that they implement the highest level of security. The specific actions are sensitive information, and, therefore, cannot be publicly discussed, but they generally include increased patrols, heightened coordination with law enforcement and military authorities, and additional restrictions on access of personnel and vehicles to the licensed facility sites. The NRC does not believe that the current terrorist threat justifies shutting down the South Texas Project units. Since the attacks, the NRC has maintained close liaisons with other Federal agencies, including intelligence agencies and the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA). As an example of the actions resulting from this coordination, 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.

However, the NRC is continuing to assess any threat to a nuclear power plant and to ensure sufficient protection. The NRC has issued threat advisories and a comprehensive list of safety and security measures to strengthen licensees' capabilities to respond to a terrorist's attack.

As a result of the terrorist attacks and the possibility of future terrorist attacks, the NRC is undertaking a top-to-bottom reevaluation of its safeguards and security programs for civilian nuclear facilities. The reevaluation will examine the basic assumptions of these programs and will involve the participation of other national security organizations. In making any changes to existing programs, the NRC will consider pertinent information from all Federal agencies.

I trust that this response meets your needs for information to address Mr. Milentz's concerns. If you have any questions regarding this response, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

*/RA/*

William D. Travers  
Executive Director  
for Operations

**DISTRIBUTION:** See next page

PACKAGE: ML013030496 INCOMING: ML012920203 RESPONSE: ML012970603

OFFICE	PM:PDIV-1	LA:PDIV-1	SC:PDIV-1	ERCT
NAME	MThadani	MMcAllister	RGramm	JDonoghue
DATE	10/30/01	10/30/01	10/30/01	10/26/2001
OFFICE	D:PDIV	DLPM	TechEditor	ADPT:NRR
NAME	SRichards	JZwolinski	PKleene	BSheron
DATE	10/29/2001	10/26/2001	10/25/2001	10/29/2001
OFFICE	D:NRR	EDO	OCA	
NAME	SCollins	WTravers	DRathbun	
DATE	10/31/2001	11/6/2001	11/072001	/ /2001

OFFICIAL RECORD COPY

**DISTRIBUTION:**

PUBLIC

RidsNrrOd (SCollins/JJohnson)  
RidsNrrAdpt (BSheron/MMarshall)  
RidsOgcRp (OGC)  
RidsOpaMailCenter (OPA)  
RidsOcaMailCenter (OCA)

RidsNrrWpc (TJCarter, EDO#G20010459)  
RidsNrrAdpt (NRR/ADPT Secretary [KJohnson])  
RidsNrrDlpm (DLPM Div Secretary) [LCox)  
RidsNrrDlpmLpdiv (SRichards)  
RidsNrrDlpmLpdiv1 (RGramm)  
RidsNrrDlpmLpdiv2 (SDembek)  
RidsNrrPMMThadani  
RidsNrrLAMMcAllister  
PDIV-1 r/f  
RidsRgn4MailCenter(DGraves/LHurley/DBujol)

WTravers  
WKane  
CPaperiello  
PNorry  
JCraig  
KCyr  
SBurns  
RWessman, IRO  
NMSS (MVirgilio/Davis)  
EMerschhoff, RIV  
ERCT  
CSchum, OEDO

South Texas, Units 1 & 2

cc:

Mr. Cornelius F. O'Keefe  
Senior Resident Inspector  
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
P. O. Box 910  
Bay City, TX 77414

A. Ramirez/C. M. Canady  
City of Austin  
Electric Utility Department  
721 Barton Springs Road  
Austin, TX 78704

Mr. M. T. Hardt  
Mr. W. C. Gunst  
City Public Service Board  
P. O. Box 1771  
San Antonio, TX 78296

Mr. C. A. Johnson/R. P. Powers  
AEP - Central Power and Light Company  
P. O. Box 289  
Mail Code: N5022  
Wadsworth, TX 77483

INPO  
Records Center  
700 Galleria Parkway  
Atlanta, GA 30339-3064

Regional Administrator, Region IV  
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
611 Ryan Plaza Drive, Suite 400  
Arlington, TX 76011

D. G. Tees/R. L. Balcom  
Houston Lighting & Power Co.  
P. O. Box 1700  
Houston, TX 77251

Judge, Matagorda County  
Matagorda County Courthouse  
1700 Seventh Street  
Bay City, TX 77414

A. H. Gutterman, Esq.

Morgan, Lewis & Bockius  
1800 M Street, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20036-5869

Mr. J. J. Sheppard, Vice President  
Engineering & Technical Services  
STP Nuclear Operating Company  
P. O. Box 289  
Wadsworth, TX 77483

S. M. Head, Manager, Licensing  
Nuclear Quality & Licensing Department  
STP Nuclear Operating Company  
P. O. Box 289, Mail Code: N5014  
Wadsworth, TX 77483

Office of the Governor  
ATTN: John Howard, Director  
Environmental and Natural  
Resources Policy  
P. O. Box 12428  
Austin, TX 78711

Jon C. Wood  
Matthews & Branscomb  
112 East Pecan, Suite 1100  
San Antonio, TX 78205

Arthur C. Tate, Director  
Division of Compliance & Inspection  
Bureau of Radiation Control  
Texas Department of Health  
1100 West 49th Street  
Austin, TX 78756

Jim Calloway  
Public Utility Commission of Texas  
Electric Industry Analysis  
P. O. Box 13326  
Austin, TX 78711-3326

Mr. William T. Cottle  
President and Chief Executive Officer  
STP Nuclear Operating Company  
South Texas Project Electric  
Generating Station  
P.O. Box 289  
Wadsworth, TX 77483