

November 14, 2001

Ms. Paula Carol
8 Mariners Lane
Northport, NY 11768

Dear Ms. Carol:

I am responding to your e-mail message of October 25, 2001, to the Chairman of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) regarding your concerns about nuclear power plant safety and security. You were essentially concerned about the lack of air defenses at nuclear plants, and you requested information on the actions that the NRC is taking to ensure the protection of nuclear facilities.

In light of the terrorist attacks, the NRC has been working to ensure the adequate protection of the nation's nuclear power plants. This has involved close coordination with the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), other intelligence and law enforcement agencies, and military, state and local authorities, as well as the operators of these plants. Although there have been no credible threats to any commercial nuclear facility in the United States, shortly after the attacks on September 11, 2001, the NRC prudently advised plant operators to implement the highest level of security, which they promptly did. The specific actions are understandably sensitive and, therefore, cannot be discussed in a public document, but they generally include increased patrols, augmented security forces and capabilities, additional security posts, heightened coordination with law enforcement and military authorities, and more limited access of personnel and vehicles to the sites.

Additionally, the NRC has had close liaisons with other Federal agencies, including intelligence agencies and the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA). As an example of this close coordination, the FAA issued a Notice to Airmen (NOTAM) advising pilots to avoid airspace near "nuclear power plants, power plants, dams, refineries, industrial complexes, and other similar facilities," and one to warn pilots that they are subject to interception by armed military aircraft if they encroach on the airspace of such facilities. Furthermore, in response to a heightened threat alert, the FAA issued another NOTAM on October 30, 2001 that prohibited all general aviation from flying within a 10 nautical mile radius of, and below 18,000 feet over, nuclear plants. Although this additional NOTAM expired on November 7, 2001, future air restrictions and defensive actions will be developed, as necessary, in coordination with the FAA and the Department of Defense (DOD). Also, as you are probably aware, the State of New York has decided to further augment the security at nuclear plants with National Guard personnel.

The NRC has actively monitored the situation since the day of the terrorist attacks, and continues to ensure that licensees maintain the appropriate security level. Nuclear facility sites are still being maintained in a heightened state of security readiness. Nevertheless, we understand the serious concerns expressed by many members of the public. We have begun a top-to-bottom evaluation of nuclear power plant security in light of the tragic events. This

P. Carol

- 2 -

evaluation is part of a broader review being taken by the Federal Government. Because of the nature of the September 11 attacks, the review necessarily involves other U.S. national security organizations. We are consulting with the FBI, other intelligence and law enforcement agencies, and the military to ensure that this effort considers information from all relevant U.S. agencies.

I appreciate the opportunity to respond to your concerns, and I hope that you find this information useful.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Samuel J. Collins, Director
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

P. Carol

- 2 -

evaluation is part of a broader review being taken by the Federal Government. Because of the nature of the September 11 attacks, the review necessarily involves other U.S. national security organizations. We are consulting with the FBI, other intelligence and law enforcement agencies, and the military to ensure that this effort considers information from all relevant U.S. agencies.

I appreciate the opportunity to respond to your concerns, and I hope that you find this information useful.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Samuel J. Collins, Director
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Distribution:

PUBLIC	S. Collins/J. Johnson	OGC
W. Travers, EDO	B. Sheron	OPA
W. Kane, DEDR	PDI-1 Reading File	OCA
C. Paperiello, DEDMRS	E. Adensam	TJ Gorham (GT20010484)
P. Norry, DEDM	L. Raghavan	K. Johnson, ADPT Secretary
J. Craig, OEDO	P. Milano	L. Cox, DLPM Secretary
K. Cyr, OGC	S. Little	
S. Burns, OGC	H. Miller, R-I	
EDO Mail (GT20010484)	B. Platchek, R-I	
SECY #CRC 01-0566	R. Wessman, IRO	

Accession Nos.: Package: ML013060573

Incoming: ML012990354

Response: ML013060578

EDO-001

OFFICE	Tech Editor	ERCT	DIPM/IOLB	DIPM/D	NRR/D	
NAME	PKleene*	DCollins*	GTracy*	BBoger	SCollins	
DATE	11/02/01	11/06/01	11/13/01	11/13/01	11/14/01	

*See previous concurrence

OFFICIAL RECORD COPY