



UNITED STATES  
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

February 15, 2002

OFFICE OF THE  
SECRETARY

Catherine Bradshaw  
206 Hart Street, NE  
Atlanta, GA 30307

Dear Ms. Bradshaw:

Thank you for the concerns, expressed in your recent postcard to Chairman Meserve, about the proposed mixed oxide (MOX) fuel fabrication facility. As an independent regulator, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission decision on the construction of a MOX fuel fabrication facility will be guided by the governing standards for protection of public health, safety and the environment.

We understand and share your concerns with regard to nuclear security in view of the current situation. You may find it helpful to know that nuclear facilities are among the most robust structures, and for decades, security against sabotage has been an important part of the NRC's activities and our licensee's responsibilities. On September 11, nuclear facilities went to the highest level of security and since then have taken additional actions to strengthen security even further.

As one of its top priorities, the NRC has initiated a top-to-bottom review of every aspect of its safeguards and security requirements. Any new requirements resulting from the review to bolster defenses will be applicable to licensed nuclear facilities so as to assure protection of the public in the new environment.

Your comments are important to us and we thank you for sharing them with us.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Annette Vietti-Cook".

Annette L. Vietti-Cook

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Dear Chairman Meserve,

Please immediately suspend all activities related to the construction of a plutonium fuel (MOX) plant in South Carolina. The events of September 11<sup>th</sup> make painfully clear the vulnerability of the US nuclear weapons and nuclear power complex to terrorist attack. The consequences of such an attack would be catastrophic—and for Georgia the risk is heightened by our proximity to the Savannah River site with its millions of gallons of high level waste contaminated processing facilities, and stock of weapons plutonium.

A plutonium fuel (MOX) factory would increase these risks manifold. All activities toward construction of a plutonium fuel factory must come to an immediate halt and all safety and security design provisions must be reviewed. The NRC has received a petition calling for a suspension of the MOX program in light of recent events and the urgent need for a new security evaluation of the entire MOX program.

I strongly support this petition and call on you to suspend any plans for the MOX program which by its nature poses an unacceptable security risk.

Sincerely,

*Catherine Bradshaw*

(print name & address)

CATHERINE BRADSHAW  
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