

EDO Principal Correspondence Control

FROM: DUE: 03/12/02

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FINAL REPLY:

Senator Jon S. Corzine
Senator Robert G. Torricelli

TO:

Chairman Meserve

FOR SIGNATURE OF :

** PRI **

CRC NO: 02-0175

Chairman

DESC:

ROUTING:

Oyster Creek Nuclear Plant's Plan to Begin Storing
Spent Fuel in Dry Casks on Site

Travers
Paperiello
Kane
Norry
Craig
Burns/Cyr
Miller, RI
Virgilio, NMSS
Wessman, IRO
Schum, OEDO
Davis, NMSS

DATE: 03/08/02

ASSIGNED TO:

CONTACT:

NRR

Collins

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS OR REMARKS:

Template: SECY-017

E-RIDS: SECY-01

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
CORRESPONDENCE CONTROL TICKET

Date Printed: Mar 08, 2002 13:47

PAPER NUMBER: LTR-02-0175 **LOGGING DATE:** 03/08/2002
ACTION OFFICE: EDO

AUTHOR: Jon Corzine
AFFILIATION: SEN
ADDRESSEE: Richard Meserve
SUBJECT: Public safety concerns regarding the Oyster Creek nuclear plant's plan to begin storing spent fuel in dry casks on site.....

ACTION: Signature of Chairman
DISTRIBUTION: Chairman, Comrs, RF, OCA to Ack

LETTER DATE: 03/08/2002
ACKNOWLEDGED: No
SPECIAL HANDLING:

NOTES: Commission Correspondence.....
FILE LOCATION: Adams

DATE DUE: 03/13/2002 **DATE SIGNED:**

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

March 8, 2002

The Honorable Richard A. Meserve
Chairman
United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, DC 20555

Dear Chairman Meserve:

It has been brought to our attention that the Oyster Creek nuclear plant's current owners plan to begin storing spent fuel in dry casks on site in April, 2002. We are writing in regards to the public safety concerns that many nearby residents have raised about the plan.

The potential vulnerability of nuclear reactors to terrorists was underscored by President Bush in his state of the union address, when he revealed that U.S. intelligence sources had found evidence that Al Qaeda was examining nuclear reactors as potential targets. In recognition of this ongoing threat, we note that on February 26, 2002, you ordered all 104 nuclear power plants to "implement interim compensatory security measures for the generalized high-level threat environment."

Given the current high-level threat environment and the severe harm that could result from terrorist sabotage of spent fuel rods, we believe that there are questions about the dry cask storage plans at Oyster Creek. Certainly, the threat environment has drastically changed since the most recent public hearing on the dry cask storage plan was held last year. That is why Ocean County and 28 New Jersey towns have passed resolutions requesting that you hold a public hearing on the issue.

As the NRC is charged with ensuring safe operation of commercial nuclear power plants, we request that you hold a hearing to address these concerns prior to allowing the dry cask storage to go forward. Because of the short time frames involved, we ask that you provide us with a response no later than March 15, 2002.

Sincerely,


JON S. CORZINE
United States Senator


ROBERT G. TORRICELLI
United States Senator