

March 21, 2002

Mr. Frank Kirk  
3418 23<sup>rd</sup> Avenue West  
Seattle, WA 98199-2313

Dear Mr. Kirk:

This is in response to your letter to Richard Meserve, Chairman of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), dated December 6, 2001, regarding security at the nation's nuclear power plants. I have been asked to respond to your concerns. I regret that the response to your letter has been delayed, but recent terrorist events, including the threat of anthrax, have caused complications in the handling of mail throughout the Federal government.

Your letter urged that the NRC order all nuclear facilities to improve security measures immediately. In fact, on September 11, 2001, the NRC issued a threat advisory to all nuclear power plants and other licensed entities to heighten their security awareness to a Security Level 3, pursuant to previously issued guidance in Information Notice 98-35 that describes additional steps that licensees should take under certain pre-determined conditions. The details of that Information Notice are sensitive and cannot be discussed in a public document, but they generally include additional barriers, added posts, enhanced patrols, restrictions of vehicle and personnel access, greater scrutiny in search procedures, and coordination with local, State, and Federal response agencies. Since September 11, the NRC has issued a number of other advisories to communicate information to the licensees and describe actions that should be considered. On February 25, 2002, the NRC issued orders to all the nuclear power plants, acknowledging that the heightened threat environment has lasted longer than originally anticipated, and requiring that certain steps be taken to ensure security at the plants. The licensees have adhered to the advisories issued since September 11 and are preparing responses to the NRC orders.

I hope this addresses your concerns.

Sincerely,

/Jon Johnson, for/

Samuel J. Collins, Director  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Mr. Frank Kirk  
3418 23<sup>rd</sup> Avenue West  
Seattle, WA 98199-2313

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Samuel J. Collins, Director  
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\*See previous concurrence

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