

March 22, 2002

Mr. David Lochbaum
Nuclear Safety Engineer
Union of Concerned Scientists
1707 H Street NW, Suite 600
Washington, DC 20006-3962

Dear Mr. Lochbaum:

Thank you for your recent e-mails regarding security at nuclear power plants since the events of September 11, 2001. I understand your concern that the stakeholders outside of the nuclear industry be aware of the actions being taken or proposed by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) and that these stakeholders be given an opportunity to participate in the process.

The meetings between the NRC and members of industry since September 11 have included discussions of the current protective measures and potential vulnerabilities at reactor sites and other nuclear facilities, information that must be treated as sensitive unclassified Safeguards Information. The discussions have involved details of the current threat environment and site-specific details on how licensees have prepared to respond to an attack as well as the implementation of specific additional safeguards measures. Since September 11, the NRC staff has primarily focused its resources on understanding the threat, enhancing its coordination and communications with other Federal, state, and local agencies, and defining the measures to further enhance licensee protective strategies. While the staff has not held these meetings in a public forum, the numerous written comments, recommendations, and concerns provided by non-industry stakeholders who do not have access to Safeguards Information have been considered in the recent orders issued to power reactor licensees and continue to inform other agency decisions being made during the implementation of the security and safeguards programs.

In light of the agency's recent actions, the current threat condition, and the developments in NRC's coordination with other government agencies, a specific public meeting to discuss the agency's activities is considered appropriate at this time. Thus, we have scheduled a public meeting on April 8, 2002, to provide a forum for discussion with external stakeholders on security and safeguards activities.

This meeting will not include any sensitive information. I anticipate that the discussion of issues at the meeting and the input of non-industry stakeholders will contribute to the agency's efforts in this area.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Glenn M. Tracy, Chief
Reactor Safeguards, Radiation Safety and
Emergency Preparedness Branch
Division of Inspection Program Management
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

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