

April 17, 2002

The Honorable Richard E. Neal
Member, United States
House of Representatives
1550 Main Street
Federal Building
Springfield, MA 01103

Dear Congressman Neal:

This letter is in response to correspondence received from you regarding concerns expressed by a constituent, Mr. Robert Beach, about safety and security at nuclear power plants.

Specifically, Mr. Beach expressed concerns about vehicles breaking through the protected area fence, vehicle barriers to restrict site entry, guard deployment, and protection of piping systems at nuclear facilities.

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) has undertaken a comprehensive review of all aspects of our safeguards and security programs in light of the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001. This reevaluation is considering pertinent information from other law enforcement, intelligence, and military agencies as well as our counterpart regulators in other countries. In addition, the reevaluation is addressing the security and safety-related issues highlighted by Mr. Beach. The reevaluation is currently underway, however, the NRC recently issued orders to nuclear power plant licensees that require them to take interim compensatory measures that include specific actions that address those issues cited by Mr. Beach. The NRC continues to monitor the safety and security at all U.S. nuclear facilities and will continue to modify our requirements to assure that appropriate actions are taken by our licensees to reflect the changing nature of the threat environment during these difficult times.

As per your request, we are providing a copy of this letter to Mr. John P. McKenna of your Springfield District Office through our Office of Congressional Affairs so that he may respond to Mr. Beach directly on this matter. We request that Mr. McKenna convey our thanks to Mr. Beach for his comments and concerns.

Thank you for allowing us the opportunity to provide assurance that nuclear power plant security remains a top priority for the NRC.

Sincerely,

/RA/

William D. Travers
Executive Director
for Operations

April 17, 2002

The Honorable Richard E. Neal
Member, United States
House of Representatives
1550 Main Street
Federal Building
Springfield, MA 01103

Dear Congressman Neal:

This letter is in response to correspondence received from you regarding concerns expressed by a constituent, Mr. Robert Beach, about safety and security at nuclear power plants.

Specifically, Mr. Beach expressed concerns about vehicles breaking through the protected area fence, vehicle barriers to restrict site entry, guard deployment, and protection of piping systems at nuclear facilities.

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) has undertaken a comprehensive review of all aspects of our safeguards and security programs in light of the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001. This reevaluation is considering pertinent information from other law enforcement, intelligence, and military agencies as well as our counterpart regulators in other countries. In addition, the reevaluation is addressing the security and safety-related issues highlighted by Mr. Beach. The reevaluation is currently underway, however, the NRC recently issued orders to nuclear power plant licensees that require them to take interim compensatory measures that include specific actions that address those issues cited by Mr. Beach. The NRC continues to monitor the safety and security at all U.S. nuclear facilities and will continue to modify our requirements to assure that appropriate actions are taken by our licensees to reflect the changing nature of the threat environment during these difficult times.

As per your request, we are providing a copy of this letter to Mr. John P. McKenna of your Springfield District Office through our Office of Congressional Affairs so that he may respond to Mr. Beach directly on this matter. We request that Mr. McKenna convey our thanks to Mr. Beach for his comments and concerns.

Thank you for allowing us the opportunity to provide assurance that nuclear power plant security remains a top priority for the NRC.

Sincerely,
/RA/
William D. Travers
Executive Director
for Operations

DISTRIBUTION: G20020180

RSS r/f S. Burns, OGC J. Davis, NMSS
C. Paperiello, EDO K. Cyr, OGC
W. Kane, EDO D. Wessman, IRO
P. Norry, EDO M. Virgilio, NMSS
J. Craig, EDO P. Schum, EDO

ADAMS ACCESSION NUMBER: **ML020920332 (package)**
ML020910503 (incoming)
ML020920501 (letter)

*See previous concurrence

OFFICE	DIPM/IRSB/RSOS	DIPM/IRSB/RSOS	DIPM/IRSB	NRR/DIPM
NAME	EWeinstein*	V. Ordaz*	G. Tracy*	B. Boger*
DATE	04/04/2002	04/04/2002	04/05/2002	04/05/2002
OFFICE	NRR/ADIP	DIR:NRR	EDO	OCA
NAME	W. Borchardt*	S. Collins*	W. Travers	DRathbun
DATE	4/11/2002	4/11/2002	04/16/02	04/17/02

OFFICIAL RECORD COPY