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Mr. Michael F. Weber, Director
Office of Nuclear Material Safety & Safeguards
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D.C.
USA 20555-0001

Dear Mr. Weber:

I am a concerned 23-year-old student. Prior to September 11, 2001, not much concerned me or my contemporaries about such things as the possibility of biological weapons, contaminated water supplies, or the threat of deliberate environmental pollution. However, some of my colleagues at the University of Wisconsin are now genuinely disturbed about these issues.

The greatest apprehension of all relates to the safety, or rather lack of safety, surrounding the over 70 nuclear power plants in the United States. The nuclear power plants in Kewaunee and Two Rivers, Wisconsin are obviously of direct worry, but this correspondence relates to all plants in the U.S.

I have some comments and questions that do not seem to have been addressed in the media or on any websites I have reviewed.

1. The *Central Intelligence Agency*, the *Center for Disease Control*, the *Federal Emergency Management Agency*, the *Immigration and Naturalization Service*, and the *Federal Aviation Administration* have already been accused by the press and television media since September 11th. They have been accused of cost cutting which has caused, among other reductions, the elimination or decrease in security precautions.

How can you assure the American public that cutbacks have not jeopardized nuclear plant safety?

2. The C.I.A. and F.B.I. have been known historically to have so many uncoordinated levels of agencies involved, that they have not been able to effectively take actions to protect the American population. Recent events have confirmed this to be the case. They seem to be encumbered by bureaucracy and government committees, studies, and commissions.

As far as the NRC is concerned, there is the *Nuclear Energy Institute*, the *Institute of Nuclear Power Operations*, the *U. S. Department of Energy,* and the *National Energy Policy*

Development Group, the *U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and the International Atomic Energy Agency*, all having overlapping missions.

With so many agencies involved in nuclear power and its proliferation, is it even possible for the NRC to expeditiously implement improvements in safety at power plants?

3. Danielle Brian, Executive Director, Project on Government Oversight, has stated that mock terrorist attacks on tested nuclear plants were successful in 50% of the trials. She has publicly condemned the nuclear plant management because tests prove that sabotage and vehicles carrying bombs can penetrate nuclear plant security. She has gone as far as to indicate that mock terrorists have entered a plant and had sufficient time to detonate a bomb in a nuclear energy or nuclear weapons facility.

Is this statement accurate and if so, why were these vital security failures kept away from the media until now?

4. According to nuclear expert, Dr. Bergeron, his study of the ice condenser plant method predicts "a high likelihood of failing in the event of a serious accident, leaving the public completely unprotected against the kind of massive release of radioactivity that occurred at Chernobyl."

Are the more vulnerable ice condenser nuclear power plants being replaced with less vulnerable safety mechanisms?

5. I have been trying to find answers to many other questions relative to the safety of nuclear plants. Particularly how solid a nuclear plant might be should an airplane be flown directly into a plant. I found the answer, or the quasi-answer, which the NRC is providing to the public. However, in my search I also found that there are over 100,000 websites with information about nuclear plants. There are literally hundreds of sites with very detailed information on specific plants, problems and weaknesses within plants, and plants that have been fined for negligent safety violations.

Why has the NRC allowed websites on Internet with detailed information on nuclear power plants which could be utilized by America's enemies against us?

Your response to these questions would be most appreciated. Also, I must congratulate the NRC on quickly improving their website. Four weeks ago I had a dozen questions regarding nuclear plant security, which had gone unanswered through the website and these have now, thankfully, been addressed.

Yours truly,

J. Lance Maybrey