

April 8, 2002

Mr. Jack Smith  
720 Roanoke Drive  
Forked River, NJ 08731

Dear Mr. Smith:

Based on a request by Dr. Jill Lipoti, Assistant Director, Radiation Protection Programs, New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, I am responding to your letter dated February 2, 2002, relative to your concerns involving the planned use of the Independent Spent Fuel Storage Installation (ISFSI) at the Oyster Creek Nuclear Generation Station. You indicated your principal concern was that the ISFSI site was vulnerable to attack by persons using rocket-propelled explosive devices.

I am sure that you can understand that I cannot discuss in detail the security provisions for the ISFSI relating to your concern. This is sensitive information, which could be advantageous to a terrorist. As you probably know, the spent fuel storage casks planned for use at the Oyster Creek ISFSI are hardened containment vessels that are well constructed, heavily shielded, and designed for the prevention of accidents and the mitigation of consequences of accidents, including natural and manmade phenomena and events.

Since the events of September 11, 2001, the NRC has issued several safeguards advisories to NRC-licensed nuclear facilities, including licensees that established or plan to establish ISFSI's. While the details are understandably sensitive, the advisories directed licensees to establish certain reasonable enhancements affecting access and perimeter controls, vehicle barriers, security and physical protection arrangements, and area surveillance. In response, licensees, including Oyster Creek, took reasonable and appropriate actions to enhance the physical protection and security of their facilities.

We appreciate your interest in this matter. While I recognize that this may not be fully responsive to your concern, I hope that you appreciate our need to protect the sensitivity of security information.

Sincerely,

*/RA/*

Wayne D. Lanning, Director  
Division of Reactor Safety

cc: Jill Lipoti, New Jersey DEP

Mr. Jack Smith

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