

EDO Principal Correspondence Control

FROM: DUE: 05/28/02

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FINAL REPLY:

Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton
Senator Nita M. Lowey

TO:

Chairman Meserve

FOR SIGNATURE OF :

** PRI **

CRC NO: 02-0356

Chairman Meserve

DESC:

ROUTING:

Possible Terrorist Attack on a Nuclear Power Plant
on July 4, 2002 - Request Status of Security
Measures at Nuclear Power Plants

Travers
Paperiello
Kane
Norry
Craig
Burns/Cyr
Collins, NRR
Miller, RI
Reyes, RII
Dyer, RIII
Merschhoff, RIV

DATE: 05/16/02

ASSIGNED TO:

CONTACT:

NSIR

Zimmerman

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS OR REMARKS:

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
CORRESPONDENCE CONTROL TICKET

Date Printed: May 15, 2002 16:14

PAPER NUMBER: LTR-02-0356 **LOGGING DATE:** 05/15/2002
ACTION OFFICE: EDO

AUTHOR: Hillary Clinton
AFFILIATION: SEN
ADDRESSEE: Richard Meserve
SUBJECT: Concerns possible terrorist attack on a nuclear power plant on July 4, 2002...request status of security measures at nuclear power plants....

ACTION: Signature of Chairman
DISTRIBUTION: Chariman, Comrs, OPA, RF, OCA to Ack

LETTER DATE: 05/15/2002
ACKNOWLEDGED No
SPECIAL HANDLING: Authors: Sen Hillary Clinton
Sen Nita Lowey

NOTES: Commission Correspondence
FILE LOCATION: Adams
DATE DUE: 05/30/2002 **DATE SIGNED:**

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20510

May 15, 2002

The Honorable Richard A. Meserve
Chairman
United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D.C. 20555

Dear Mr. Chairman:

We read with great concern reports suggesting that intelligence officials have received threats that terrorists will strike a United States nuclear power plant on July 4, 2002. Despite questions about the credibility of the threat, with six nuclear power reactors in New York State, and as the coauthors of the "Nuclear Security Act of 2001," we take this issue very seriously.

In February, the United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) issued orders to all commercial nuclear power plants to implement interim compensatory security measures. While the specific actions to be taken were not publicized, it is our understanding that plants were expected to increase patrols, augment security forces and capabilities, install additional security posts and physical barriers, perform vehicle checks at greater stand-off distances, enhance coordination with law enforcement and military authorities, and further restrict site access controls for all personnel. Reactor operators were required to provide NRC with a schedule for achieving full compliance within 20 days and expected to keep these measures in effect until otherwise notified by the NRC. Unfortunately, some plants indicated they would not be able to institute all of the new security requirements quickly.

In light of the potential threat raised in recent reports, we would like NRC to confirm that these interim security measures are still in place and that all nuclear reactor facilities in the nation are in compliance with the measures. If any reactors have not implemented the new measures, we would like to know what NRC is doing to ensure that they are safe and secure. NRC has also told us that it is engaged in a comprehensive re-evaluation of the current security program. In our view, it is essential that this re-evaluation be completed in a timely manner. We, therefore, request a detailed report from you on the status of this review and what additional security recommendations are expected in the final reevaluation, but are not included in the interim measures.

We cannot afford to dismiss these intelligence reports, and we must work together to ensure that our nuclear facilities are adequately prepared to respond to any post-9/11 attacks. The communities surrounding our nation's nuclear facilities deserve to feel safe and secure. Thank you for your attention to this matter. We look forward to receiving a prompt reply.

Sincerely yours,


Hillary Rodham Clinton


Nita M. Lowey