

EDO Principal Correspondence Control

FROM: DUE: 05/28/02

EDO CONTROL: G20020292  
DOC DT: 05/15/02  
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:



**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