

December 23, 2002

Ms. Jacquelyn P. Rea  
5407 Laurel Creek Way  
Houston, TX 77017

Dear Ms. Rea:

I am responding to an October 30, 2002, letter that you wrote to U.S. Representative Gene Green from the 29<sup>th</sup> District in Texas concerning United Nations-sponsored tours of nuclear reactor facilities. Representative Green forwarded your letter to the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) asking that I address the issue that you raised.

Your letter enclosed a letter that expressed concerns regarding actions by the United Nations that would purportedly compromise America's safety, violate the law, recklessly abuse the powers of the United Nations, and establish control over American soil. The form letter also alleged that, "under a cloak of secrecy, the United Nations is sponsoring tours of U.S. nuclear reactors to Arabs from terrorist states."

I wish to assure you that there are no secret United Nations-sponsored tours of U.S. nuclear facilities. However, the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), an agency of the United Nations, does conduct an International Training Class for Physical Protection that in the past has provided its students tours of U.S. nuclear facilities. This IAEA program was and is jointly sponsored by the U.S. Departments of Energy and State in an effort to advance the nation's objectives of enhancing the security of nuclear materials and facilities worldwide. To avoid divulging sensitive information that could be used against the U.S., these students received unclassified tours of the facility which limited access to only certain parts of the plant. Students were not permitted access to any areas or information that could have revealed critical security information.

Following the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, the IAEA tours were suspended to further enhance the protection of U.S. nuclear facilities. There are no current plans to re-establish this aspect of the International Training Class for Physical Protection. In addition, greater scrutiny is now applied to granting access to visitors and to people who escort them, consistent with the heightened awareness of all national security activities.

I hope this information is responsive to your concerns.

Sincerely,

**/RA/Travers**

William D. Travers  
Executive Director for Operations

cc: Rep. Gene Green

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**/RA/Travers**

William D. Travers  
Executive Director for Operations

cc: Rep. Gene Green

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**\*see previous concurrence**

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