

January 28, 2003

Mel Rosch  
P.O. Box 67  
Leonia, NJ 07605

Dear Mr. Rosch:

This is in response to your letter dated December 9, 2002, concerning security at nuclear power plants. I have been asked to respond.

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) requires highly effective security programs for nuclear power plants and other sensitive nuclear facilities (described in Title 10 of the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 73). Contrary to your comments suggesting that the plants are protected by "just an armed guard or two, with pistols," the plants are protected by a well trained, well equipped, and capable security force. In addition, since the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, the NRC has taken a number of steps to enhance the already high level of security at the plants. These steps have resulted, among other things, in more guards being trained and placed on duty at the nation's nuclear power plants, making them among the best protected facilities owned and operated by the private sector. The effectiveness of these security programs have been confirmed by NRC, as well as other competent authorities, including the Federal Bureau of Investigation and state authorities.

The NRC's actions have also included issuance of orders in February 2002 formalizing certain security enhancements as requirements, issuance of more than forty advisories to the licensees to describe threat conditions or recommend additional measures, issuance of an NRC Threat Advisory and Protective Measures System to rapidly respond to changes in the threat environment, and other actions. During 2003, the NRC will continue to examine other actions designed to ensure the adequacy of licensee security programs and inspect the facilities to confirm the additional steps taken by the licensees.

Thank you for your interest in nuclear security. I hope this responds to your concern.

Sincerely,

***/RA by Michael F. Weber for/***

Roy P. Zimmerman, Director  
Office of Nuclear Security  
and Incident Response

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Roy P. Zimmerman, Director  
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