



## U. S. Department of Justice

United States Attorney  
District of Arizona

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February 4, 2003

Mr. Roy P. Zimmerman  
Director, Office of Nuclear Security and Incident Response  
Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
11555 Rockville Pike  
Rockville, Maryland 20852

Re: Palo Verde Nuclear Generating Station Security Requirements

Dear Mr. Zimmerman:

Following September 11, 2001, Attorney General John Ashcroft mandated that each United States Attorney establish an Anti-Terrorism Task Force within their respective districts. Two of the four primary objectives of the task force are to serve as a coordinating body for developing and implementing the operational plan for the prevention of terrorism (coordinate and implement the most effective strategy to incapacitate terrorists) and to serve as a standing organizational structure for a coordinated response to a terrorist incident. To accomplish these two objectives our task force has compiled a list of critical infrastructure within our district, and has begun the process of reviewing previously existing security measures and crisis response plans relating to some of these potential targets.

The Palo Verde Nuclear Generating Station which lies within my district has obviously been identified as a critical infrastructure node.

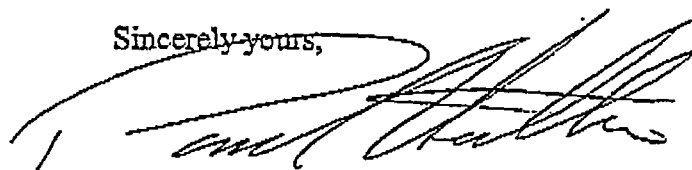
I am aware that this plant falls under the regulation of the NRC. Therefore, in order to review existing security procedures and crisis response plans for this infrastructure component, I am requesting, on behalf of the Justice Department and the Anti-Terrorism Task Force specific information on security requirements imposed by the NRC and any information that the NRC possesses regarding Palo Verde's compliance with those requirements. We have already begun

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discussions with individuals at the power plant and they have been cooperative. The information we request will simply allow us to engage in a more intelligent dialogue with the plant as our study progresses. This information may be provided either by mail, fax (secure and unclassified) or, if possible, by a briefing to this office provided by a representative of your Division.

The prevention of future acts of terrorism is the top priority of the Department of Justice. We can only achieve this goal by detecting and disrupting terrorist organizations and evaluating and securing potential terrorist targets. I very much appreciate your prompt attention to this matter. Should any questions arise from this request, you may contact me at (602) 514-7590 or Joseph Welty, the Deputy Chief of the Criminal Section and Anti-Terrorism Coordinator at (602) 514-7521.

Sincerely yours,



PAUL K. CHARLTON  
United States Attorney  
District of Arizona

PKC:JCW:vmm