

March 25, 2003

Mr. Jonathan Knopf
News Director
News 12 New Jersey
P.O. Box 6558
Edison, N.J. 08837

Dear Mr. Knopf:

I am writing regarding a report your station aired on March 13 concerning security at the Oyster Creek nuclear power plant in Lacey Township, New Jersey. It featured a video shot from a vehicle as it traveled along certain plant access roads and parking lots. I believe that the report was seriously misleading and caused unnecessary concern on the part of elected officials and the public.

In several discussions with your producer and reporter before the piece aired, NRC Public Affairs Officers provided facts about plant security features explaining why driving in these locations posed no threat to plant security. This includes the presence of barriers designed to keep a vehicle containing a large explosive from threatening sensitive plant equipment. At no time did unauthorized individuals gain access to sensitive security areas at Oyster Creek.

Your portrayal suggested otherwise, causing unwarranted public concern. Reacting to the situation as it was portrayed in your newscast, stakeholders, understandably, expressed concern. For example, Senator Frank R. Lautenberg wrote the Secretaries of the Department of Homeland Security and the Department of Energy expressing his dismay over what he described as "a chilling lapse in security" at Oyster Creek and expressing shock that "intruders" were able to access the facility's grounds without challenge by security guards. Media outlets, including FOX News 29 and the Asbury Park Press, continue to report concerns raised by the "intrusion" into the Oyster Creek facility.

Investigative reports that dismiss the facts and intentionally create public worry or even outrage are a disservice to the community we both serve.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Hubert J. Miller
Regional Administrator

Mr. Jonathan Knopf

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Distribution:

Fox News 29

Asbury Park Press

The Honorable Frank R. Lautenberg

The Honorable Jon S. Corzine

The Honorable Leonard T. Connors, Jr.

Mr. Jonathan Knopf

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