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FINAL REPLY:

Senator Chuck Hagel

TO:

Chairman Meserve

FOR SIGNATURE OF :

\*\* GRN \*\*

CRC NO: 03-0180

Travers, EDO

DESC:

ROUTING:

Review of Security Guidelines for Nuclear

Facilities

Travers Paperiello

Kane Norry Craig

Burns

DATE: 03/26/03 ASSIGNED TO:

CONTACT:

Collins, NRR Miller, RI Reyes, RII

NSIR

Zimmerman

Dyer, RIII Merschoff, RIV

Cyr, OGC

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS OR REMARKS:

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## OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY CORRESPONDENCE CONTROL TICKET

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**ACTION OFFICE:** 

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**AUTHOR:** 

SEN Chuck Hagel

**AFFILIATION:** 

SEN

ADDRESSEE:

**CHRM Richard Meserve** 

**SUBJECT:** 

Provides comments on NRC's security requirements

**ACTION:** 

Appropriate

**DISTRIBUTION:** 

OCA to Ack, RF

LETTER DATE:

03/25/2003

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No

SPECIAL HANDLING:

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**DATE SIGNED:** 

CHUCK HAGEL

248 RUSSELL SENATE OFFICE BUILDING (202) 224-4224 (202) 224-9083 TTY/TDD United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-2705 March 25, 2003 FOREIGN RELATIONS

CHAIR, SUBCOMMITTEE ON INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC
POLICY, EXPORT AND TRADE PROMOTION

BANKING, HOUSING, AND URBAN AFFAIRS Chair, Subcommittee on International Trade and Finance

SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

Chairman Richard A. Meserve U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission 11555 Rockville Pike, Mail Stop 16 C1 Rockville, MD 20852

## Dear Chairman Meserve:

I understand that the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) is in the process of reviewing its security guidelines for the country's nuclear facilities, and may require additional security protections and procedures. Given the new challenges facing our nation, it makes sense to ensure adequate security for all of America's critical infrastructure. However, I am concerned about the disproportionate emphasis being placed on the threat posed to nuclear power plants.

As you know, nuclear power plants are among the most secure facilities in the country. The measures issued by the NRC immediately after September 11 have substantially enhanced plant security and provided a model for other elements of the nation's critical infrastructure. As the NRC revises its security requirements, I urge you to consider the following:

- The President's national security strategy issued in February 2003 emphasizes the need to assess all infrastructure vulnerabilities, not just nuclear power plants. It also underscores the need to address vulnerabilities within available resources.
- The key to establishing any new security requirements is the close consultation between the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), the White House and the NRC.
- Before new regulation is proposed, it is important to resolve key policy issues, including
  determining the proper division of responsibilities between the public and private sector,
  and recognizing the legal and practical limits of civilian security forces.
- Any additional long-term changes in nuclear plant security requirements including a
  revised Design Basis Threat should be developed through the regular rule making
  process to assure appropriate Congressional oversight, stakeholder participation, and
  coordination with DHS, state, and local governments.

4009 6TH AVENUE SUITE 9 KEARNEY, NE 68845 (308) 236–7602 294 FEDERAL BUILDING 100 CENTENNIAL MALL NORTH LINCOLN, NE 68508 (402) 476–1400 11301 DAVENPORT STREET SUITE 2 OMAHA, NE 68154 (402) 758–8981 115 RAILWAY STREET SUITE C102 SCOTTSBLUFF, NE 69361 (308) 632–6032 Chairman Richard A. Meserve March 25, 2003 Page 2

Nuclear power is an important source of electricity in Nebraska. The state's two nuclear power plants produce more than 30 percent of the electricity generated in Nebraska. Both plants have made a considerable investment to increase security since September 11, 2001. It is important that we recognize the efforts of the industry, and that we do not unnecessarily undermine its ability to provide low-cost power for their customers. I am confident that close coordination between the NRC, DHS and the nation's nuclear power plant owners will continue to ensure the public's health and safety.

SENATOR HAGEL

Thank you. I appreciate your attention to this important matter.

Regards,

Cc: The Honorable Tom Ridge
The Honorable James Inhofe
The Honorable Pete Domenici
The Honorable George Voinovich