

EDO Principal Correspondence Control

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FINAL REPLY:

Senator Chuck Hagel

TO:

Chairman Meserve

FOR SIGNATURE OF :

** GRN **

CRC NO: 03-0180

Travers, EDO

DESC:

Review of Security Guidelines for Nuclear
Facilities

ROUTING:

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SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS OR REMARKS:

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OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
CORRESPONDENCE CONTROL TICKET

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SUBJECT: Provides comments on NRC's security requirements

ACTION: Appropriate

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LETTER DATE: 03/25/2003

ACKNOWLEDGED No

SPECIAL HANDLING:

NOTES:

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March 25, 2003

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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.

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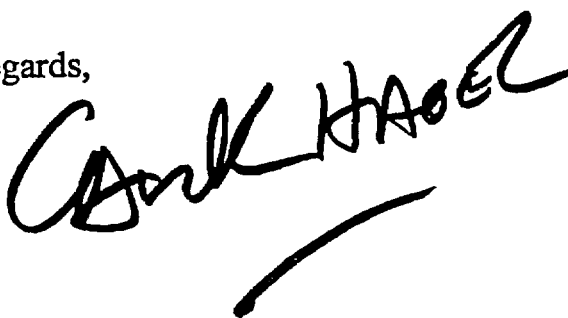
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Chairman Richard A. Meserve
March 25, 2003
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Nuclear power is an important source of electricity in Nebraska. The state's two nuclear power plants produce more than 30 percent of the electricity generated 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.

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

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Carl Hagel". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style. Below the signature is a long, horizontal, slightly curved line.

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