

June 27, 2003

Mr. Edwin D. Hill
International President
International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers
1125 Fifteenth St. N.W.
Washington, DC 20005

Dear Mr. Hill:

Thank you for your letter dated April 28, 2003, which expressed concerns about the process by which we developed and implemented our recent security orders pertaining to access authorization requirements for individuals seeking unescorted access to the protected areas of commercial nuclear power plants. As you may be aware, since the terrorist attacks against the United States on September 11, 2001, we have reviewed a number of our regulations pertaining to security and physical protection of nuclear facilities under our jurisdiction, and have issued a number of new requirements to licensees in order to enhance security at these facilities.

In April 2002, the Office of Nuclear Security and Incident Response (NSIR) was established to improve communications and coordination on security and safeguards issues both within and outside the NRC. While the Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation (NRR), the office for which I am Director, maintains responsibility for all licensing actions - including the issuance of Orders such as the one referenced in your letter - NSIR is responsible for developing overall safeguards and security policies. As such, I forwarded your letter upon receipt to the NSIR office for appropriate resolution.

I've been informed by that office that Mr. M. Christopher Nolan, Acting Chief, Licensee Personnel Security Section in the Division of Nuclear Security of NSIR, has been designated as the point-of-contact for resolving the issues identified in your April 28 letter. Mr. Nolan indicated that he has been in regular contact with Ms. Victoria Bor, an attorney representing your organization. I understand that weekly discussions are being held between the two parties to provide updates on our resolution of the issues raised in your letter.

I have also requested that Roy P. Zimmerman, Director, NSIR, respond to your requests in writing, which I have been informed is on schedule for the end of July 2003. In the interim, I recommend that future correspondence related to security and safeguards policies be directed to Mr. Zimmerman (same mailing address/ mail stop T-14D22A) for more efficient resolution. However, if I can be of further assistance, I can be reached at 301-415-1270.

Again, thank you for your interest in nuclear safety matters.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Samuel J. Collins, Director
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Distribution:

- B. Baxter, NSIR
- C. Nolan, NSIR
- W. Desmond, NSIR
- G. Tracy, NSIR
- M. Weber, NSIR
- R. Zimmerman, NSIR
- B. Sheron, NRR
- R. Borchardt, NRR
- J. Hopkins, NRR
- T. Marsh, NRR
- J. Clifford, NRR
- D. Roberts, NRR

DOCUMENT NAME: G:\DRoberts\interim response to Edwin Hill - IBEW.wpd

ml:

To receive a copy of this document, indicate in the box: "C" = Copy without enclosures "E" = Copy with enclosures
"N" = No copy

OFFICE	NRR *			
NAME	Samuel J. Collins			
DATE	6/27/03			

OFFICIAL RECORD COPY