

December 18, 2003

The Honorable Edward J. Markey
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Markey:

On behalf of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), I am responding to your letter dated October 20, 2003, concerning the "Slammer" worm infection at the Davis-Besse Nuclear Power Station, as well as the follow-up questions you asked relative to my October 2, 2003 response to your August 22, 2003 letter.

As indicated in my previous response, the NRC has taken an appropriate regulatory approach on cyber security at nuclear facilities. In June 1997, the NRC issued a Standard Review Plan to establish review criteria for digital technology issues, including cyber security. In preparation for January 1, 2000, the NRC worked to ensure that there were no significant vulnerabilities to Y2K problems. After September 11, 2001, the Commission ordered licensees to implement a number of security-related enhancements, including additional security measures to enhance cyber security. Additionally, the NRC is working in close coordination with the Department of Energy, Department of Homeland Security, and other cognizant agencies.

In October 2002, the NRC initiated a project to develop a cyber self-assessment methodology for plant systems that perform safety, security, and emergency preparedness functions for nuclear power plants. In addition, consistent with Presidential Decision Directive 63, we also considered systems that perform continuation of power and operational functions that are not within the purview of the NRC. The NRC is now working with the Nuclear Energy Institute in its effort to develop a comprehensive cyber security assessment program that can be used by power plant licensees.

I am providing more detailed answers to your questions in the enclosure. If you have further questions, please contact me.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Nils J. Diaz

Enclosure: Questions and Answers

cc: The Honorable Spencer Abraham, Secretary
U.S. Department of Energy
The Honorable Tom Ridge, Secretary
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
The Honorable Pat Wood, Chairman
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
Michehl Gent, President
North American Electricity Reliability Council