

EDO Principal Correspondence Control

FROM: DUE: 01/09/04

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FINAL REPLY:

Representative Nydia M. Velazquez

TO:

Chairman Diaz

FOR SIGNATURE OF : ** PRI **

CRC NO: 03-0809

Chairman Diaz

DESC:

ROUTING:

Radiac Research Corporation

Travers
Norry
Paperiello
Kane
Collins
Dean
Burns/Cyr
Zimmerman, NSIR
Miller, RI

DATE: 12/30/03

ASSIGNED TO: CONTACT:
NMSS Virgilio

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS OR REMARKS:

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**OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
CORRESPONDENCE CONTROL TICKET**

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ACTION OFFICE: EDO

AUTHOR: Nydia Velazques
AFFILIATION: REP
ADDRESSEE: Nils Diaz
SUBJECT: Concerns the Radiac Research Corporation

ACTION: Signature of Chairman
DISTRIBUTION: RF, OCA to Ack

LETTER DATE: 12/10/2003
ACKNOWLEDGED: No
SPECIAL HANDLING:

NOTES: Commission Correspondence
FILE LOCATION: ADAMS
DATE DUE: 01/13/2003 **DATE SIGNED:**

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AND CONSUMER CREDIT

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515

NYDIA M. VELÁZQUEZ

12TH DISTRICT, NEW YORK

CONGRESSIONAL HISPANIC CAUCUS

CONGRESSIONAL CAUCUS FOR
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CONGRESSIONAL
CHILDREN'S CAUCUS



December 10, 2003

Nils J Diaz
Chairman
US Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Office of Public Affairs
Washington, DC 20555

Dear Chairman Diaz:

I am writing regarding the Radiac Research Corporation located in my congressional district in Brooklyn, NY. Serious concerns about common defense and security risks at this facility have been raised by myself and numerous members of the Brooklyn community. I am encouraged by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's (NRC) decision to hold a hearing on this matter, but also urge your agency to initiate an investigation into operations at Radiac, and take necessary action to ensure the safety and security of the community surrounding the facility.

As you may be aware, the Radiac Research Corporation is a hazardous waste management facility that stores and transports waste explosives, flammable liquids, reactives, and other dangerous materials. The corporation also stores and transfers radioactive waste, including enriched uranium and plutonium. Radiac is located in a densely populated area, with over 100,000 people living and working within a mile of the facility. This increasingly residential neighborhood is surrounded by homes, ongoing public transit, commercial businesses, and schools – including an elementary school that is less than one block away.

I am deeply concerned about the potential catastrophic impact of a fire or accident at this facility. Radiac's hazardous and radioactive waste storage facilities are adjacent to each other – separated only by a single door. The corporation's hazardous waste storage facility has been cited for numerous safety violations, including using corroded drums and damaged pallets that could lead to storage failure, inadequately training workers, and falsifying training records. Radiac's own fire consultant also documented numerous safety shortfalls and violations of the National Fire Protection Association standards, including the presence of ignition sources, and an inadequate fire suppression system. These deficiencies increase the possibility of a major disaster at Radiac, including the potential release of radioactive materials in the highly-populated surrounding community.

A terrorist attack at Radiac is also a possibility, and further increases the risk to the community. It has been well-documented that facilities that store industrial chemicals may be targeted by terrorists. Radiac is likely to be a prime terrorist target given that it stores both hazardous and radioactive materials, the human toll in this densely populated area, the lack of security at the facility, and the symbolic nature of another attack in New York City.

I, therefore, ask you to conduct an investigation into questionable safety and security measures at Radiac, assess the risk of an accident or terrorist attack at the facility, and determine the impact of a major event at the facility on the surrounding community and New York City, including radiological release. I also urge you take necessary action to revoke the license or close the Radiac facility, if the corporation fails to immediately rectify these common defense and security risks.

While I am looking forward to addressing many of these issues at the hearing to be held early next year – I would appreciate your attention to this request, and will await the investigative findings.

Sincerely,



Nydia M. Velazquez
Member of Congress

Cc: Secretary Tom Ridge, Department of Homeland Security