

DOCKET NUMBER
 PETITION RULE PRM 73-12
 (69FR 64690)

6

From: Joel Weisberg <jweisber@carleton.edu>
 To: <SECY@nrc.gov>
 Date: Wed, Nov 17, 2004 4:02 AM
 Subject: please strengthen the design basis threat for nuclear reactors

DOCKETED
 USNRC

November 17, 2004 (3:31pm)

OFFICE OF SECRETARY
 RULEMAKINGS AND
 ADJUDICATIONS STAFF

Dear Mr. Secretary,

I am writing to urge you to strengthen the Design Basis Threat for nuclear reactors. The Sept 11 attacks shoed that a relatively large group of terrorists can attack a US target, and that they can use a large aircraft. I have read that the DBT, though altered on April 29, 2003, is still not strong enough -- neither calling for protection against jet attack nor against the number of terrorists (19) who were in action on September 11.

As a physicist, I have read a number of technical reports since Sept 11 detailing the great vulnerability of nuclear power plants to both types of attacks (In Physics Today and the Bulletin of Atomic Scientists). the immense store of radioactive materials in the storage pools, could disperse a large inventory of radioisotopes over large regions in a terrorist attack, injuring and killing many, many people... I can not imagine a more important threat to protect against. I was therefore very disappointed to learn that your agency is not sufficiently strengthening protections against such attacks. Such attacks are much easier to carry out than, say the construction of a nuclear weapon, and yet their damage could be equally great. There would be no nuclear explosion in this case, but the dispersal of radioisotopes over great areas would be the worst tragedy ever seen on earth.

Please strengthen the DBT to makes such attacks much more difficult. Otherwise I fear that nuclear reactors are sitting ducks for the kind of attack that is unfortunately all tooo possible to contemplate.

Jeo Weisberg
 Stark Professor of Physics and Astronomy and the Natural Sciences
 Carleton College
 1 N. College St.
 Northfield, MN 55057
 Phone: (507) 646-4367 FAX: -4384
 email: jweisber@carleton.edu
 www: <http://www.people.carleton.edu/~jweisber/joelhome.html>

Template = SECY-02

SECY-02

Mail Envelope Properties (419B1380.DD3 : 2 : 11731)

Subject: please strengthen the design basis threat for nuclear reactors
Creation Date: Wed, Nov 17, 2004 8:58 PM
From: Joel Weisberg <jweisber@carleton.edu>

Created By: jweisber@carleton.edu

Recipients

nrc.gov
owf5_po.OWFN_DO
SECY (SECY)

Post Office
owf5_po.OWFN_DO

Route
nrc.gov

| Files | Size | Date & Time |
|--------------|-------------|--------------------------------------|
| MESSAGE | 1864 | Wednesday, November 17, 2004 8:58 PM |
| Mime.822 | 2809 | |

Options

Expiration Date: None
Priority: Standard
Reply Requested: No
Return Notification: None

Concealed Subject: No
Security: Standard