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From: George Gore <geo_gore@yahoo.com>
To: <SECY@nrc.gov>
Date: Wed, Jan 19, 2005 6:25 PM
Subject: PRM-73-12

I'm a resident in Urbana, downwind of the Clinton, Illinois nuclear reactor, where we get the risks of inadequate security without the economic benefits.

I fully support the need to upgrade nuclear reactor security standards to prevent an air attack like 9/11 from succeeding. I agree that nuclear security should protect against the same number of attackers as 9/11.

More importantly, we need protection against mortars with ranges of 5-8 miles firing 30 rounds per minute, while targeting the soft parts of the power plant, including the storage pools and other operating systems outside the concrete containment shield. It would be very hard to locate and neutralize a mortar, which most terrorists know how to use. That means hundreds of shells would pound on the power plant, very likely releasing radiation into the wind and might indirectly cause a meltdown. Mortars are cheap and easy to use.

Coordinated mortar attacks on multiple power plants would create tremendous public pressure to shut down 25 percent of the nation's electric supply, creating huge economic problems. We can't afford a successful attack at our nuclear power plants, which are already documented as terrorist targets.

It's just a matter of time and who acts first. It's one thing to lose a tanker, pipeline, or refinery with a few casualties. It's another scale of problem to have millions of lives endangered by radioactive releases that contaminate millions of acres because of a very preventable problem. At least people can rebuild after a hurricane, but radiation ruins recovery.

We should have had far better protection already. The arbitrary, capricious, and woefully inadequate nuclear security decisions made so far are irrational compared to the risks. Failure to protect citizens will be judged extremely harshly both in court and in history because the high stakes risks are both known and preventable.

Sincerely,
George Gore
702 W Washington St
Urbana, IL 61801

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