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From: "Jimmy L. Spearow" <jlspearow@ucdavis.edu>
To: <SECY@nrc.gov>
Date: Mon, Jan 24, 2005 6:45 PM
Subject: Public Comment on PRM-73-12

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PETITION RULE PRM 73-12
(69FR 64690)

January 24, 2005
Dear Nuclear Regulatory Commission:
Public Comment on PRM-73-12

I strongly support The Committee to Bridge the Gap's Petition for a NRC Rule to upgrade the design basis threat of nuclear facilities, including nuclear reactors, and their auxiliary buildings to better withstand attacks.

The April 1981 Scientific American article by Steve Fetter and Kosta Tsipis titled "Catastrophic Releases of Radioactivity" (Scientific American Vol. 244, No. 4 (April 1981), pp.41-47) clearly points out that the most serious danger of Nuclear Power Plants is from an attack, not from a meltdown. Such an attack would be devastating since it would pick up much of the nuclear materials in the nuclear plume and dump them for up to about a thousand miles down wind as long-lived radioactive fallout. The long-lived isotopes from the nuclear power plant fallout will prevent anyone from being able to live safely in a very large area downwind for years to centuries. Anybody who tried to live in the large contaminated region would have a greatly increased risk of cancer and other ionizing radiation induced diseases.

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While an attack on a nuclear power plant with a nuclear bomb may be the worst scenario, an attack with an airplane, missile or an armed group could result in destruction of the containment facility resulting in a major release of radioactivity. Even more susceptible to attack are the on-site nuclear fuel core waste storage facilities. Essentially all nuclear power plants in the US are even more vulnerable to attack since they are also storing several used radioactive fuel cores in ponds protected by unarmored auxiliary buildings made out of sheet metal.

I strongly support this rule which would require the construction of "Beamhinge" I-beam framed structures with cables/netting around such nuclear facilities to help thwart attack by airplanes. I also support the passive on-site security measures mandated in PRM-73-12 to help resist attack from the ground.

It is incredibly irresponsible that in the 3.5 years since 9/11, the NRC has not yet adopted improved security measures such as those petitioned by the Committee to Bridge the Gaps rule on design threat basis to thwart attacks on nuclear facilities. Many articles in the international press clearly indicates that the United State's unilateral attack on Iraq, the lack of Weapons of Mass destruction in Iraq, the killing of many unarmed civilians, and mistreatment and torture of prisoners has created unprecedented animosity toward the US. The NRC should realize that the Bush Administration's foreign policy has created an ever increasing number of enemies in the countries we have attacked in the middle east. While I am highly

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opposed to the Bush Administration's militaristic foreign policy, the NRC needs to pass this rule to improve the security of nuclear power plants before retaliatory attacks are made on US nuclear power plants and other facilities.

While I support this NRC rule, I am opposed to the construction of additional nuclear power plants due to safety and radioactive waste disposal and contamination issues.

Please vote in favor of the The Committee to Bridge the Gap's Petition for a NRC Rule to upgrade the design basis threat of nuclear facilities.
Thank you

Jimmy L. Spearow, Ph.D.

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Jimmy L. Spearow, Ph.D.
911 Pennsylvania Place, #3
Davis, CA 95616

CC: <jlspearow@ucdavis.edu>

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