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OFFICE OF SECRETARY
RULEMAKINGS AND
ADJUDICATIONS STAFF

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23 January 2005

Secretary
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, DC 20555-0001
ATTN: Rulemakings and Adjudications Staff

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Dear Mr. Secretary:

If a nuclear plant's containment shell and reactor core, or spent fuel pools, are ever breached, a terrible explosion of radioactivity, on a par with the Chernobyl accident, would ensue. Millions of Americans would be placed in harm's way. Unfortunately, America's nuclear plants are highly vulnerable to attack. Fortunately, such a cataclysm is preventable. We ask for your support of a new petition before the Nuclear Regulatory Agency.

In the aftermath of the September 11 attack, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission has attempted some reforms but they are far from protective. In September 2004, a Government Accountability Office (GAO) report concluded that NRC's new security initiatives were "largely a paper review." The NRC did not visit sites to verify compliance nor request facilities to submit documents that supported security upgrades. In fact, GAO concluded it will be at least three more years before NRC will have data to validate whether site-specific upgraded security plans are adequate.

Please take this danger seriously, and work towards our safety.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,


Lura B. Irish

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SECY-02