

December 15, 2005

Mr. Glen R. Mills  
P.O. Box 3393  
Mission Viejo, CA 92690

SUBJECT: RESPONSE TO LETTER DATED OCTOBER 31, 2005

Dear Mr. Mills:

I am responding to your letter to the Inspector General of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), dated October 31, 2005. In your letter, you suggest that the design of independent spent fuel storage installations (ISFSIs) include a containment structure to protect spent fuel from an attack from a terrorist using a shoulder-fire missile.

After the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, the NRC re-examined the protective strategy at ISFSIs. Due to these reviews, the NRC required changes to address new threats. Details about these evaluations and the required changes are safeguarded information. NRC has determined that the current protective strategy affords sufficient protection for spent fuel stored in an ISFSI. The NRC will continue to evaluate security at ISFSIs through inspection and other reviews and will require appropriate changes if warranted.

Should you have any questions related to this matter, please do not hesitate to call me at telephone number (301) 415-7298.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Robert A. Nelson, Chief  
Licensing Section  
Spent Fuel Project Office  
Office of Nuclear Material Safety  
and Safeguards

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