

DOCKET NUMBER
PROPOSED RULE **PR 73**
(70FR 67380)

DOCKETED
USNRC

January 22, 2006

January 23, 2006 (2:25pm)

Secretary, NRC
Re: RIN 3150-AH60

OFFICE OF SECRETARY
RULEMAKINGS AND
ADJUDICATIONS STAFF

Dear Secretary:

I write in support of Bridge the Gap's NRC Rulemaking Petition (RIN 3150-AH60) to upgrade protections at America's nuclear reactors against potential terrorist attacks.

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The United States is now spending more than \$1 billion a week on the war in Iraq, and there are estimates that the total cost may ultimately reach the range of \$1-2 trillion. This war was launched on the basis that Saddam Hussein had weapons of mass destruction, and Americans have been repeatedly told that continued armed intervention in the Middle East is necessary to ensure that such weapons (especially nuclear weapons) do not fall into the hands of terrorists or regimes that support terrorism.

While people may (and do) reasonably differ on Administration policy and actions in the Middle East, there is no basis for debating one clear lesson of 9/11: Terrorists do not need "weapons of mass destruction" if they can instead use aircraft (or other means of assault) to transform existing American facilities into explosive conduits for mass destruction. This potential vulnerability could nowhere be more serious than the sites of our nuclear reactors.

Over a year ago I wrote in support of this Petition, and it is truly inconceivable to me that this matter has not already been favorably acted upon (and that we are still in the comment phase). Cost-benefit analyses are always appropriate in assessing the reasonableness of proposed safety measures, even in an arena as fraught with danger as Homeland Security and Counter-Terrorism. But this proposal, as our young people would say, should be an absolute "no-brainer."

Given the manner in which government agencies were raked over the coals for the utter lack of preparedness in response to Hurricane Katrina, I cannot even begin to imagine how the public will react in the event of a terrorist attack on a nuclear power facility, particularly if there is a legitimate perception that reasonable defense measures had been proposed, but were not timely implemented.

I urge (in the strongest possible terms) an immediate favorable response to this Petition.

David A. Karnes

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Template = SECY-067

SECY-02

From: Carol Gallagher
To: Evangeline Ngbea
Date: Mon, Jan 23, 2006 10:26 AM
Subject: Comment letter on Proposed Rule - Design Basis Threat

Attached for docketing is a comment letter on the above noted proposed rule from David A. Karnes that I received via the rulemaking website on 1/22/06.

Carol

Mail Envelope Properties (43D4F584.107 : 3 : 886)

Subject: Comment letter on Proposed Rule - Design Basis Threat
Creation Date: 1/23/06 10:25AM
From: Carol Gallagher

Created By: CAG@nrc.gov

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