

October 10, 2006

Mr. Russell W. Goyette
7 Strathmere Street
Waretown, NJ 08758

Dear Mr. Goyette:

I am responding to your letter addressed to President Bush dated July 2, 2006. In your letter you expressed a concern that the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) was not effectively regulating the nuclear industry and specifically mentioned the protection of nuclear power plants (NPPs) against terrorist threats.

I assure you that the NRC takes seriously our mission of protecting public health and safety and promoting the common defense and security of the United States in all our nuclear industry regulatory activities. This includes regulating in compliance with applicable laws and requirements and not in an arbitrary manner. Construction and operation of a NPP is only approved after an extensive NRC review determines that the design is safe and acceptable in all aspects including the storage of spent fuel.

The NRC requires that NPPs be protected against potential terrorist threats. This threat has changed over time. Since September 11, 2001, the NRC has issued Orders to all NPP licensees to increase the level of security against terrorist threats. The NRC regularly inspects NPP sites to ensure that they meet security requirements.

The recent 9th Circuit Court of Appeals case that you reference in your letter concerns whether terrorist attacks must be considered under a specific statute, the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), and not whether terrorism should be considered apart from its environmental impacts under NEPA. NRC comprehensively considers terrorist attacks under its Atomic Energy Act authority. Again, as stated above, the NRC takes seriously the possibility of a terrorist attack and ensures that NPPs are prepared for such possibility.

For more information on NRC actions visit our website at <http://www.nrc.gov/>. NRC actions regarding nuclear security can be found under the heading: Key Topics.

Sincerely,

/RA/

J. E. Dyer, Director
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

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LETTER TO MR. RUSSELL W. GOYETTE

Dated: October 10, 2006

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