

August 31, 2007

The Honorable Ed Whitfield  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Whitfield:

On behalf of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), I am responding to your letter to Chairman Klein dated July 27, 2007, regarding security measures at the Paducah Gaseous Diffusion Plant (PGDP) in which you asked the NRC to review the concerns of one of your constituents. Please be advised that the NRC has previously addressed similar concerns raised by this individual. We ask your assistance in not disclosing the identity of this individual in association with those discussions, as it is our normal practice to protect the identity of individuals who report safety concerns to the NRC.

As background, on June 17, 2002, the NRC issued a classified Interim Compensatory Measures (ICM) Order to the United States Enrichment Corporation (USEC) regarding security measures at PGDP. USEC responded with revisions to its security program that the NRC subsequently inspected and found to be adequate. As an NRC certificate holder, the PGDP is also subject to ongoing inspection of facility security measures in accordance with an established inspection program. The program is designed to verify that the certificate holder operates the facility in compliance with current regulations and security-related Orders.

On March 6, 2006, USEC submitted a request for revisions to its security program under the ICM Order. On April 20, 2006, your constituent wrote to President Bush and Senator Mitch McConnell expressing his concerns about possible reductions in security at PGDP. Those letters were referred to the NRC for action. On May 31, 2006, NRC issued a letter to USEC requesting additional information regarding the requested changes. The NRC provided information to your constituent describing the actions it planned to take in a letter dated June 28, 2006. Subsequent reviews and on-site inspections by NRC staff led to a denial of USEC's request because the proposed changes were judged not to meet NRC security requirements.

On August 15, 2007, USEC officials met with NRC staff to propose another revision to the PGDP security program. As was the case in 2006, NRC security specialists will review the proposed measures and conduct on-site inspections designed to assess the security efficacy of the proposal. The NRC is committed to ensuring the continued safe and secure operation of PGDP.

E. Whitfield

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I trust that this information is useful in addressing your constituent's concerns. If you require additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

*/RA/*

Luis A. Reyes  
Executive Director  
for Operations

E. Whitfield

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I trust that this information is useful in addressing your constituent's concerns. If you require additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

*/RA/*

Luis A. Reyes  
Executive Director  
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