

September 27, 2007

**SECURITY ADVISORY FOR POWER REACTORS, CATEGORY I FUEL CYCLE
FACILITIES, CATEGORY III FUEL CYCLE FACILITIES, INDEPENDENT
SPENT FUEL STORAGE INSTALLATIONS, CONVERSION FACILITIES,
AND GASEOUS DIFFUSION PLANTS**

SA-07-06

SUBJECT: SECURITY OFFICERS INATTENTIVE TO DUTY

This advisory is being provided to reinforce with facility managers and other security personnel responsible for protecting U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC)-licensed facilities and radioactive materials their responsibilities when implementing security duties in accordance with 10 CFR Part 73, NRC Orders and the licensees' NRC-approved security plans.

The general performance objectives and requirements outlined in 10 CFR Part 73 state, in part, that the licensee shall establish and maintain an onsite physical protection system and security organization which will have as its objective to provide high assurance that activities involving special nuclear material are not inimical to the common defense and security and do not constitute an unreasonable risk to the public health and safety.

In accordance with 10 CFR Part 73, licensees must demonstrate the ability of their physical security personnel to perform assigned duties and responsibilities in carrying out the provisions of their Security Plan and NRC requirements. Each security officer, watchman or armed response individual on duty shall be capable of maintaining continuous communication with an individual in each continuously-manned alarm station, who shall be capable of calling for assistance from other security officers, watchmen, and armed response personnel and from local law enforcement authorities. Detection of penetration or attempted penetration of the protected area (PA) or the isolation zone adjacent to the PA barrier is essential to assure that adequate response by the security organization can be initiated. The licensee shall establish, maintain, and follow an NRC-approved safeguards contingency plan for responding to threats, thefts, and radiological sabotage related to the nuclear facilities.

The NRC issued Security Orders to licensees after the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001. One of the many objectives of the Orders was to enhance the minimum number of armed response personnel to be immediately available at the facility for responding to threats, thefts, and radiological sabotage required by 10 CFR 73.55(h)(3). The NRC also determined, by

Order, that it was reasonable and prudent to establish requirements to limit security force personnel work hours as a means of providing reasonable assurance that the effects of fatigue will not adversely impact the readiness of nuclear security officers in the performance of their duties and required licensee behavior observation programs to recognize behaviors adverse to the safe operation and security of the facility.

Discussion

Licensees are required to demonstrate the ability of physical security personnel to perform their assigned duties and responsibilities in carrying out the provisions of the security plans, including contingency response plans, and maintain continuous communication with each continuously-manned alarm station. This requirement includes all on-duty security officers in locations such as bullet resistant enclosures (BREs), ready rooms, alarm stations and other posts and staging areas.

All armed responders and armed security officers identified in the licensee's contingency plan to successfully implement the site's protective strategy are required to be immediately available at all times. This requirement includes security officers identified in the site's protective strategy and performing compensatory measures who are located in BREs, ready rooms, alarm stations and other posts and staging areas.

The licensee's behavior observation program (BOP) is the primary means for determining continued trustworthiness and reliability of licensee personnel with unescorted access to protected and vital areas. The BOP must include training in techniques related to recognition of behaviors adverse to the safe operation and security of the facility, with an expectation of promptly addressing those behaviors, e.g., inattentive on-duty security officers.

In the past, the NRC has issued notices of violation to its licensees for security officers who are found to be inattentive while on duty. These violations include examples identified by the licensees, by NRC inspectors and through allegations brought to the NRC. The inattentive individuals failed to implement their assigned security duties in accordance with 10 CFR Part 73, NRC Orders and the licensees' NRC-approved security plans.

Some examples of related NRC violations include:

- Inattentive (sleeping) security officer while posted as a compensatory measure for degraded security equipment and barriers.
- Inattentive (sleeping) security officer while posted in a ready room as an armed responder.
- Inattentive (computer/internet use) security officer while posted as a compensatory measure for degraded security equipment and barriers.
- Inattentive (sleeping) security officer while posted in a BRE located at the Owner Controlled Area Checkpoint.

This advisory emphasizes that licensees should have effective processes and procedures in place to ensure individuals performing specific security duties in accordance with 10 CFR Part 73, NRC Orders and the licensees' NRC-approved security plans are attentive to those duties.

Backfit Analysis Statement: This Security Advisory does not amend or impose new requirements or constitute a new regulatory staff position interpreting Commission rules and is, therefore, not a backfit under 10 CFR 50.109. Consequently, the staff did not perform a backfit analysis.

Congressional Review Act: The NRC has determined that this advisory does not contain a new staff position and, therefore, is not a “rule” under the Congressional Review Act (5 U.S.C. 801-808).

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This security advisory does not contain information collections and, therefore, is not subject to the requirements of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 3501 et seq.)

Approved by /RA/
Roy P. Zimmerman, Director
Office of Nuclear Security
and Incident Response

Technical Contact: David Furst
(301) 415-7634
Email: dx44@nrc.gov