November 9, 2007

The Honorable Arlen Specter
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Specter:

On behalf of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), I am responding to your letter of September 26, 2007, concerning security at the Peach Bottom Atomic Power Station. I want to assure you that the Commission shares your concern about the implications of this incident, that the NRC is addressing this issue at Peach Bottom, and that the agency is taking appropriate action to ensure that similar incidents do not occur at other nuclear plants in Pennsylvania or in other states.

As you are aware, the NRC staff conducted a preliminary briefing for your staff on October 4, 2007. During that briefing, the NRC staff discussed the NRC's initial response to the incident, the decision to dispatch an NRC Augmented Inspection Team (AIT) to the site, and the preliminary findings of the inspection team. Subsequently, on October 9, 2007, the AIT conducted a public exit meeting in the vicinity of Peach Bottom, during which the details of the inspection were discussed. At the meeting, Exelon management provided their response and corrective actions, and the NRC responded to numerous questions from the public.

The NRC staff has performed a very thorough and detailed inspection effort at the Peach Bottom Atomic Power Station and interviewed numerous security officers, supervisors and management personnel. The NRC continues to review the details surrounding the underlying factors of the inattentive security officers at Peach Bottom, and the latest results of this effort were documented in an inspection report issued November 5, 2007 (copy enclosed). With respect to the likelihood of similar incidents occurring at other sites, the NRC issued a security advisory to all reactor licensees nationwide on September 27, 2007, reemphasizing NRC requirements regarding security officer attentiveness while on duty. NRC resident inspector oversight of the security forces at all nuclear power plants has been enhanced through random, unannounced drop-ins at security posts, including on weekends and backshifts. The NRC continues to monitor security force performance at all sites.

In addition, the NRC staff will contact your office to coordinate a more detailed briefing once the overall investigation is concluded. I want to assure you that incidents of inattentive security personnel are not acceptable to the Commission. The NRC will exercise strong oversight of security programs at Peach Bottom and other nuclear plants nationwide.

If you have additional questions regarding this matter, please contact me.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Dale E. Klein

November 9, 2007

The Honorable Todd R. Platts
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Platts:

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Sincerely,

/RA/

Dale E. Klein

Identical letter sent to:

The Honorable Arlen Specter
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Todd R. Platts
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Similar letter sent to:

The Honorable Robert P. Casey, Jr.
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510