

**From:** Neil Sheehan *RT*  
**To:** internet: ghager@usatoday.com  
**Date:** 10/04/2007 10:05:05 AM  
**Subject:** re: Response to guard editorial

George,

We would be interested in writing a rebuttal to an editorial criticizing the NRC for its response to the Peach Bottom inattentive guards issue. Would we be able to see the editorial so we would know what we're responding to? What would the deadline be for submitting the response?

I've attached two articles on inattentiveness issue at other plants.

Neil Sheehan  
NRC Public Affairs  
(610) 337-5331

*DLG*

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**Creation Date** 10/04/2007 10:05:05 AM  
**From:** Neil Sheehan  
**Created By:** NAS@nrc.gov

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Armed Guard Found Asleep at Nuke Plant - washingtonpost.com

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washingtonpost.com

**Armed Guard Found Asleep at Nuke Plant**

By JIM FITZGERALD  
The Associated Press  
Monday, August 27, 2007; 5:32 PM

WHITE PLAINS, N.Y. -- A federal inspector found an armed guard asleep at a gate inside the Indian Point nuclear power plants but officials said Monday there was no security breach.

The inspector spent two minutes trying to rouse the unnamed guard Sunday afternoon before the guard "stood up and opened his eyes," said Neil Sheehan, spokesman for the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

The five-year veteran was alone on the second of three security rings around the two plants in Buchanan, about 35 miles north of New York City, Sheehan said.

He said other security measures at the gate remained in operation during the guard's nap and tapes showed there was no breach, "but that doesn't make it any less serious."

Jim Steets, spokesman for Indian Point owner Entergy Nuclear, said the other measures included a palm-print reader and a badge scanner. The two would have had to match before the gate would open.

There was another security ring that would have had to be passed to reach critical areas, including the reactor and the spent-fuel pool, Sheehan said.

The guard was found sleeping during a "backshift" inspection \_ focused on night and weekend operations.

Sheehan said Entergy "needs to get to the bottom of this and make sure the staff knows this is unacceptable."

Steets said the guard, an Entergy employee, was placed on administrative leave pending tests for drugs and alcohol and a review. He said the guard carried a sidearm.

He said security guards are rotated from post to post during their 12-hour shifts \_ "in part to keep them attentive" \_ and the guard had worked two previous posts on Sunday. His shift began at 6 a.m.

Indian Point, on the Hudson River 35 miles north of midtown Manhattan, has attracted widespread criticism, especially since the Sept. 11, 2001, terror attacks. The problems included siren failures and leaks of radioactive water.

Officials and activists say its safety and security are questionable. Federal regulators have turned away attempts to have it shut down, however.

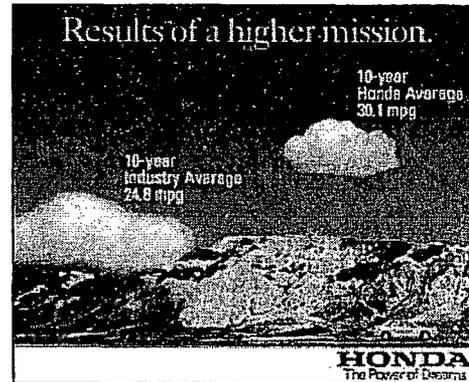
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Article published Jul 16, 2005

## Pilgrim nuclear plant operators fined \$60,000

The Associated Press

Federal regulators fined the owner of Pilgrim Nuclear Power Station \$60,000 over an incident in which a control room supervisor fell asleep on the job and fellow workers failed to immediately wake him.

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission, which ordered the fine Friday, also found that one of the supervisor's co-workers recorded the nap on a cellphone camera without waking the supervisor. The NRC said that worker did not submit a report on the June 29, 2004 incident, which occurred around 4:40 a.m.

Six employees were on shift at the time in the control room area, but not all were necessarily aware of the supervisor's nap. The supervisor was asleep in a chair for about four minutes before a shift manager wakened him by banging on a desk, the NRC said.

The incident was not brought to plant officials' attention until last August - more than a month afterward - when the NRC informed Pilgrim after being contacted by another plant worker. Plant managers suspended the entire crew while it investigated the incident.

The napping supervisor and the worker who took the video footage were both fired by the plant last year.

The NRC concluded that the incident violated four agency requirements and constituted "willful disregard" for safety regulations and personnel procedures designed to identify and correct security failures.

The NRC has ordered eight fines against nuclear plant operators since the start of 2004. Such enforcement actions are highly unusual and reserved for serious lapses, NRC spokesman Neil Sheehan said.

The NRC emphasized there were safeguards at Pilgrim to prevent a disaster at the time the supervisor nodded off, but that the federal agency remained troubled by the incident.

"There's no more important a job at a nuclear power plant than the control room," Sheehan said. "Not only should they be awake, but they need to be ready to spring into action at a moment's notice."

A spokesman from Entergy Corp., the Louisiana-based energy company that owns Pilgrim, said the firm will not appeal the NRC decision. The spokesman, David Tarantino, said the incident was isolated.

"It certainly didn't live up to our expectations of performance," said Tarantino. "The NRC action only reinforces that."

Mary Lampert of Duxbury, a critic of nuclear power and plant watchdog, criticized Pilgrim's owners over the incident involving the napping worker.

"Hopefully that \$60,000 is enough to buy some No-Doz or build a Starbucks on site," said Lampert,

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director of the group Pilgrim Watch.

Pilgrim, a 34-year-old reactor, produces about 670 megawatts of power at any one time, supplying electricity for about 670,000 homes.

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