

May 3, 2011

Mr. Michael Leiter, Director
National Counterterrorism Center
LX-1, 2W 142
Washington, DC 20505

Dear Mr. Leiter:

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) is an independent regulatory agency whose mission is to license and regulate the Nation's civilian use of byproduct, source, and special nuclear materials, including regulation of commercial nuclear power plants; research, test, and training reactors; nuclear fuel cycle facilities; medical, academic and industrial uses of radioactive materials; and the transport, storage and disposal of radioactive materials and waste. As you are only too well aware, al-Qaeda and other groups have long aspired to acquire unconventional (chemical, biological, radiological or nuclear) weapons for use within the United States (U.S.) or against the U.S. and allied interests overseas.

In the interest of protecting U.S. nuclear licensees, special nuclear material, and radiological sources, NRC's Office of Nuclear Security and Incident Response works closely with the Intelligence Community to assess terrorist and other threats. Our goal is to use threat assessment not only to inform our policymakers and security policies, but also to inform those directly responsible for nuclear security across the Nation.

In order to keep private sector nuclear security personnel (with clearances) well-informed, the NRC periodically hosts "Nuclear Industry Threat Days." These events are held at the SECRET level at NRC headquarters in Rockville, Maryland. It is with great pleasure that I extend to you an invitation to serve as the keynote speaker for this year's Industry Threat Day being held on Thursday, September 22, 2011. Your time slot would be from 8:30 am to 9:30 am. We will also be inviting an analyst from the National Counterterrorism Center to speak on the ground-breaking research your organization has done on paths to terrorist radicalization. Other speakers will address terrorist techniques, tactics, and procedures, and cyber threats to the nuclear industry, among other topics.

M. Leiter

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As keynote speaker we would ask that you provide a broad overview of the evolving terrorist threat to the U.S. How has the threat morphed since September 2001, what are the primary challenges to combating the threat, and what guidance might you have for the protection of U.S. critical national infrastructure, specifically the nuclear power generation industry? Your remarks can be classified at the SECRET level or unclassified.

I sincerely hope you are able to accept this invitation. Your national-level expertise and long service to the U.S. in a senior counterterrorism capacity would be invaluable to the nuclear industry's security experts. Please direct any further correspondence to Todd Masse of my staff, who can be reached at (301) 415-7518 or at todd.masse@nrc.gov.

Sincerely,

/RA/

James T. Wiggins, Director
Office of Nuclear Security and Incident Response

M. Leiter

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