



UNITED STATES  
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20555

AUG 16 1979

Ms. Janna Waldinger  
6621 Picasso Rd. #6  
Isla Vista, CA 93017

Dear Ms. Waldinger:

Your letter to Commissioner Gilinsky expressing your concerns on the vulnerability of nuclear power reactors to sabotage has been referred to me for response.

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) has always recognized the possibility of attempted sabotage against a nuclear power reactor and consequently, in February 1977, the NRC revised the requirements (10 CFR 73.55) for a licensee to operate a power reactor. These revisions require each reactor site to establish and maintain an onsite physical protection system and security organization which will provide protection with high assurance against successful industrial sabotage by both of the following: (1) a determined violent external assault, attack by stealth, or deceptive actions, of several persons with the following attributes, assistance and equipment: (a) well-trained (including military training and skills) and dedicated individuals, (b) inside assistance which may include a knowledgeable individual who attempts to participate in both a passive role (e.g., provide information) and an active role (e.g., facilitate entrance and exit, disable alarms and communications, participate in violent attack), (c) suitable weapons, up to and including handheld automatic weapons, equipped with silencers and having effective long-range accuracy, (d) hand-carried equipment, including incapacitating agents and explosives for use as tools of entry or otherwise destroying the reactor integrity, and (2) an internal threat of an insider, including an employee (in any position).

In meeting these requirements, each reactor site must establish a security system that includes armed guards, alarms systems, and barriers. This system is reviewed and inspected by the NRC to insure it provides adequate protection.

If you have further concerns, please feel free to contact us.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "H. R. Denton".

Harold R. Denton, Director  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

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