

EDO Principal Correspondence Control

FROM: DUE: 12/23/02 EDO CONTROL: G20020697
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FINAL REPLY:

Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton

TO:

Chairman Meserve

FOR SIGNATURE OF : ** PRI ** CRC NO: 02-0793

Chairman Meserve

DESC:

ROUTING:

Adequacy of Guard Forces at Nuclear Power Plants
in and Near New York

Travers
Paperiello
Kane
Norry
Craig
Burns/Cyr
Collins, NRR
Miller, RI

DATE: 12/12/02

ASSIGNED TO:

CONTACT:

NSIR

Zimmerman

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS OR REMARKS:

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
CORRESPONDENCE CONTROL TICKET

Date Printed: Dec 11, 2002 12:34

PAPER NUMBER: LTR-02-0793 LOGGING DATE: 12/11/2002
ACTION OFFICE: EDO

AUTHOR: Sen Hillary Clinton
AFFILIATION: SEN
ADDRESSEE: Richard Meserve
SUBJECT: Express concern over the adequacy of guard force at nuclear power plants in and near New York

ACTION: Signature of Chairman
DISTRIBUTION: Chairman, Comrs, RF, OCA to Ack

LETTER DATE: 12/10/2002
ACKNOWLEDGED: No
SPECIAL HANDLING:
NOTES: Commission Correspondence
FILE LOCATION: Adams
DATE DUE: 12/26/2002 DATE SIGNED:

HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON

NEW YORK

SENATOR

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United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-3204

December 10, 2002

The Honorable Richard A. Meserve
Chairman
United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D.C. 20555

Dear Mr. Chairman:

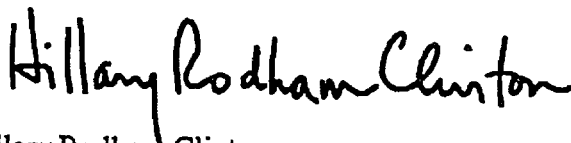
I write to express my grave concern over the adequacy of guard forces at nuclear power plants in and near New York. I am troubled by several reports on this issue, including one by the Project on Government Oversight and a recently released confidential analysis that was commissioned last year by the Entergy Corporation. These reports suggest that guards at Indian Point and other United States nuclear power plant guards are routinely overworked, have become error-prone, lack adequate training, and are subject to intimidation when voicing their concerns.

The security guards who protect our nuclear facilities are the lynchpin in our nuclear security efforts. It is these guards who will be called upon to defend a plant if terrorists mount an attack. We cannot allow these guards to become so overworked or under trained that they cannot function properly. I know that the security guards want to do their job, but they need federal support to ensure that they can do it adequately.

Last month, I dispatched my own staff from both Washington and New York to meet with many of these guards and separately with plant officials. My staff has also discussed this issue with Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff over the past months. I am convinced that there is, in fact, a serious security issue that must be resolved immediately. Overwork and inadequate training lead to both lowered morale and potentially unsafe conditions at Indian Point. This is not acceptable. As you know, millions of New Yorkers live near the plant. In order to ensure the health and safety of this region's residents and families, we need to be absolutely certain that we have the highest level of security in place.

I would like an explanation from you on what NRC is doing to correct the security-guard related issues identified in the above-referenced reports and what NRC is doing to ensure that its security requirements are adequate. I would appreciate receiving your response as soon as possible, but no later than January 15, 2002.

Sincerely yours,



Hillary Rodham Clinton