

EDO Principal Correspondence Control

FROM: DUE: 03/17/03

EDO CONTROL: G20030105

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FINAL REPLY:

Representatie David Price

TO:

Chairman Meserve

FOR SIGNATURE OF :

\*\* PRI \*\*

CRC NO: 03-0116

Chairman Meserve

DESC:

ROUTING:

Potential Terrorist Threats to Nuclear Power  
Plants

Travers  
Paperiello  
Kane  
Norry  
Craig  
Burns/Cyr

DATE: 03/06/03

ASSIGNED TO:

CONTACT:

NSIR

Zimmerman

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS OR REMARKS:

Template: SECY-017

E-RIDS: SECY-01

**OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY  
CORRESPONDENCE CONTROL TICKET**

*Date Printed: Mar 05, 2003 15:05*

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**PAPER NUMBER:** LTR-03-0116 **LOGGING DATE:** 03/05/2003  
**ACTION OFFICE:** EDO

**AUTHOR:** HON David Price  
**AFFILIATION:** REP  
**ADDRESSEE:** CHRM Richard Meserve  
**SUBJECT:** Concerns potential terrorist threats to nuclear power plants

**ACTION:** Signature of Chairman  
**DISTRIBUTION:** RF, OCA Ack

**LETTER DATE:** 03/05/2003

**ACKNOWLEDGED** No

**SPECIAL HANDLING:**

**NOTES:** Commission Correspondence

**FILE LOCATION:** ADAMS

**DATE DUE:** 03/19/2003 **DATE SIGNED:**

DAVID PRICE

4TH DISTRICT

NORTH CAROLINA

COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
WASHINGTON, DC 20515

March 5, 2003

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Dr. Richard Meserve, Chairman  
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
One White Flint North  
11555 Rockville Pike  
Rockville, MD 20852-2738

Dear Dr. Meserve:

I am writing to express my continued concerns related to potential terrorist threats to nuclear power plants.

As you are aware from past correspondence, many constituents in my district are particularly concerned with the vulnerability of nuclear plants, and spent fuel pools in particular, to terrorist attack. With regard to spent fuel, you are likely aware of a study slated to appear in the spring issue of *Science and Global Security*, a publication of Princeton University, which concludes that spent fuel pools are particularly vulnerable to terrorist attacks that could generate a pool fire and a corresponding contamination of hundreds of square miles around a nuclear plant. The study recommends the re-equipping of spent fuel pools with low-density, open-frame racks and, for longer term storage, a reduced reliance on spent fuel pools in favor of dispersed, hardened, aboveground storage modules.

I assume that the NRC will give full consideration to the rationale and recommendations provided by this study, and I would appreciate receiving a response from you outlining the agency's evaluation of it.

In addition, I very much appreciated receiving your letter of September 5, 2002, outlining steps taken by the NRC to evaluate and improve security at nuclear power plants. I urge you to continue to periodically provide information of this type to members of Congress and to the public.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Sincerely,

DAVID PRICE

Member of Congress

DP:dn