

September 11, 2007

The Honorable Barbara Boxer
Chairman, Committee on Environment
and Public Works
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Madam Chairman:

Section 651 (a) of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 requires the Commission to submit a report to Congress, in both classified and unclassified form, that describes the results of each security response evaluation (i.e., force-on-force (FOF) exercises) conducted and any relevant corrective action taken by a licensee during the previous year. On behalf of the Commission, I am transmitting the second such report addressing inspections conducted during calendar year 2006. I am also providing additional information regarding the overall security and safeguards performance of the commercial nuclear power industry and Category I fuel cycle facilities to keep you informed of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's (NRC) efforts to protect a key segment of our Nation's electric power infrastructure against terrorist attacks. The sensitive versions of this report will be transmitted under separate cover.

The NRC is committed to protecting the public health and safety, promoting the common defense and security, and protecting the environment. Conducting FOF exercises and implementing the security inspection program are just two of a number of regulatory oversight activities the NRC performs to ensure the secure use and management of radioactive materials by the commercial nuclear power industry.

During calendar year 2006, the NRC conducted 298 security inspections at nuclear power plants (of which 21 were FOF inspections). These inspections identified 73 findings of which 67 were of very low security significance and 6 were of low to moderate security significance. The results of the security inspections conducted at CAT I fuel cycle facilities are discussed in the classified version of this report. Whenever a finding is identified during a security inspection, the NRC ensures that the licensee implements adequate compensatory measures immediately to correct the problem. Compensatory measures can be, for example, additional armed personnel and/or physical barriers to strengthen a licensee's response capabilities. Compensatory measures are usually effective short-term fixes until a more comprehensive analysis can be conducted to identify long-term, permanent solutions.

The NRC will make available for any member of Congress, or Congressional oversight committee staff, the unclassified and classified inspection reports, as appropriate, for any FOF inspection in their State or Congressional District through the Office of Congressional Affairs. The same offer will be extended, as appropriate under existing protocols and requirements, to governor-appointed State Liaison Officers.

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The Commission is confident that nuclear power plants and Category I fuel cycle facilities continue to be among the best protected private sector facilities in the Nation and, through our inspection and oversight processes, the NRC is committed to ensuring strong security at these facilities. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you need additional information.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Dale E. Klein

Enclosure: As stated

cc: Senator James M. Inhofe

Identical letter sent to:

The Honorable John D. Dingell
Chairman, Committee on Energy
and Commerce
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515
cc: Representative Joe Barton

The Honorable Barbara Boxer
Chairman, Committee on Environment
and Public Works
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510
cc: Senator James M. Inhofe