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UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

DOCKETED  
USMRC

ATOMIC SAFETY AND LICENSING BOARD

'95 NOV 14 P6:20

Before Administrative Judges:

OFFICE OF SECRETARY  
DOCKETING & SERVICE  
BRANCH

Charles Bechhoefer, Chairman

Dr. Jerry R. Kline

Dr. Peter S. Lam

In the Matter of

Docket No. 50-160-Ren

ASLBP No. 95-704-01-Ren

GEORGIA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY  
RESEARCH REACTOR  
Atlanta, Georgia  
Facility License No. R-97

GEORGIANS AGAINST NUCLEAR ENERGY

ADDITIONAL CONTENTION

THAT GEORGIA TECH IS UNABLE TO PROVIDE SECURITY FOR THE GEORGIA TECH  
RESEARCH REACTOR AND FACILITY LICENSE RENEWAL SHOULD BE DENIED

Georgians Against Nuclear Energy (GANE) respectfully petitions the Atomic Safety and Licensing Board to accept this new contention concerning Georgia Tech's request to renew its operating license for the Neely Nuclear Reactor Center through the year 2015.

New information is available concerning the inability of reactor personnel and Georgia Tech University to provide security from sabotage or terrorism.

GANE contends that the Neely Nuclear Research Facility is unsafe to the public because of inadequate security systems. Neely Reactor Research Center security is grossly inadequate. The reactor building may be accessed directly from the outside, no personnel are assigned to the building outside of normal business hours. Essentially, the entire security system consists of a chain-link fence with some barbed wire on top. Wire-cutters or amateur fence-climbing would be sufficient to breach the fence (Glenn Carroll, eyewitness, "A Current

Affair" TV-crew).

The presence of the Olympics in Atlanta in 1996 creates a specific situation which has historically attracted terrorist activity and threats. The reactor uses highly enriched uranium as fuel. During refueling this bomb-grade uranium fuel is a tempting target for terrorists. The presence of fissionable and highly radioactive fission byproducts at the reactor (250,000 curies of cobalt-60 and heavy water for example), make the reactor facility not only a tempting target for theft of bomb-grade or hazardous materials, but a target for a World Trade Center- or Oklahoma City-type bombing which would not only injure residents and visitors to Atlanta, but create an international diplomatic disaster for the United States.

The reactor roof is nothing but 7/16" thick steel sheet-metal (SAR, p.44, Fig. 4-8) and would easily be breached by a rocket-launcher or hand-thrown grenade. The adjacent research facility is an ordinary brick building with 250,000 curies of cobalt-60 kept in a shielding pool next to wall which is on Atlantic Drive directly across from where 8th Street plunges into it. A roll-away truck would break through the wall and land in the pool spreading radiation into the environment. The Atlanta news has carried two reports in the past year of unrecovered stolen fertilizer of the type used in the Oklahoma City bombing. A casually dropped book-bag or baby buggy full of explosives could breach the poorly shielded facility spreading radiation into the environment. There are no security cameras to detect entry through the roof.

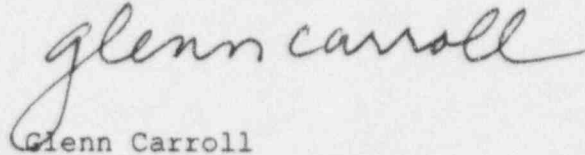
In early October, 1995, a TV crew from Fox Network's "A Current Affair" wandered freely around the reactor facility (see attached newspaper article). The crew scaled the barbed-wire security fence and wandered around the site and climbed on the roof in broad daylight. The TV show is scheduled to air November 15 and that story will be more fully revealed then. Neither reactor nor campus security personnel knew of the security breach until the TV crew (which fortunately had no harmful intentions) showed them camera footage of the exploit. Additionally, Georgia Tech failed to properly notify the NRC of the situation upon learning of it.

The Olympics creates a situation where the Tech reactor is likely to attract increased attention from terrorists, but GANE submits that both Georgia Tech and reactor personnel are unable to secure the facility against even the simplest of intrusion efforts. To protect the public health the NRC must immediately order operations to cease at Neely Nuclear Center and deny a license for further operation.

Security should be immediately increased and the process of removing the various radioactive isotopes should commence now.

GANE will submit a videotape of the "A Current Affair" story to the service list when it becomes available.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "glenn carroll". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Glenn Carroll

Representative for GANE

Dated and signed November 10, 1995  
in Decatur, Georgia

Thursday, Nov. 2, 1995



The Atlanta Journal  
The Atlanta Constitution

# LOCAL NEWS

## Security violated near Tech reactor

TV camera crew climbs  
fence at research center

By Charles Seabrook

STAFF WRITER

A two-person camera crew from a nationally syndicated news show roamed uninvited and unchallenged in the building that houses Georgia Tech's nuclear reactor, raising concerns about security at the facility.

Tech officials said they are embarrassed over the incident last week, in which a reporter and cameraman from the tabloid news show "A Current Affair" strolled down hallways of the Neely Nuclear Research Center and climbed a fence around the building. The building houses Tech's 30-year-old reactor in the middle of the downtown campus.

The TV crew breached no secure zones, said James M. Langley, Tech's vice president for external affairs. The crew did walk up to the zones, but, because of locked doors, had no access to the controlled areas, Langley said.

However, he acknowledged the TV crew's unannounced ramblings "have the appearance of [uncontrolled] access to the facility; and we recognize that we have to run a safe facility and allay public concerns."

Those concerns were heightened this year when a citizens antinuclear group, Georgians Against Nuclear Energy (GANE), told the federal Nuclear Regulatory Commission that security at the 30-year-old reactor is inadequate and the facility's bomb-grade uranium could become a tempting target for terrorists during next summer's Olympics in Atlanta. GANE has demanded that the commission deny Tech a new license to

run the reactor for another 20 years.

NRC officials, who investigated the incident this week, said a preliminary assessment shows that the TV crew entered no "controlled areas," and no radioactive material was affected. The reactor contains less than 11 pounds of bomb-grade uranium.

The 5 million-watt reactor is a few blocks from the Olympic Village, where thousands of athletes will be housed during the Olympics.

Tech officials said the reactor will be shut down this month and its bomb-grade fuel removed. The reactor will stay idle until after the Olympics. When it is re-started, it will be fueled by a lower grade of uranium.

Wheeler Jackson, an assignment editor for Fox television's "A Current Affair," said the piece on Tech security will be aired this month.

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE - Docket No.(s) 50-160-REN

DOCKETED  
USNRC

Secretary  
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Docketing and Service Branch  
Washington, DC 20555

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Office of Commission Appellate Adjudication  
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Washington, DC 20555

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