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May 7, 1997

Secretary of the Commission
U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, DC. 20555-0001

DOCKET NUMBER
PROPOSED RULE PR 73
(62FR7721)

ATTN.: Docketing and Service Branch

Subject: Entergy Operations, Inc. Comments on Changes to Nuclear Power Plant
Security Requirements

Reference: Federal Register Volume 62, Page 7721, dated February 20, 1997

CNRO-97/00011

Gentlemen:

The NRC is proposing to revise its regulations (62FR7721) to delete certain security requirements associated with an internal threat. This action follows reconsideration by the NRC of nuclear power plant physical security requirements to identify those requirements that are marginal to safety, redundant, or no longer effective. This action would reduce the regulatory burden on licensees without compromising physical protection against radiological sabotage required for public health and safety.

The proposed rule addresses five changes:

1. **Search requirements for on-duty guards, Sec. 73.55(d)(1): allow armed security guards who are on duty and have exited the protected area on official business to reenter the protected area without being searched for firearms (by a metal detector).**

Entergy Operations, Incorporated concurs with the proposed rule change.

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2. **Requirements for vehicle escort, Sec. 73.55(d)(4):** eliminate the requirement for escort of licensee-owned vehicles entering the protected area for work-related purposes provided that these vehicles are driven by licensee employees who have unescorted access.

Entergy Operations, Incorporated concurs with the proposed rule change.

3. **Control of contractor employee badges, Sec. 73.55(d)(5):** allow contractor employees to take their badges offsite under the same conditions that apply to licensee employees.

Entergy Operations, Incorporated concurs with the proposed rule change.

4. **Maintenance of access lists for each vital area, Sec. 73.55(d)(7)(i)(A):** replace separate access authorization lists for each vital area of the facility by a single listing of all persons who have access to any vital area.

Entergy Operations, Incorporated concurs with the proposed rule change.

5. **Key controls for vital areas, Sec. 73.55(d)(8):** this option of leaving a vital area unlocked is no longer being considered due to the tampering events of last July and August.

Entergy Operations, Incorporated has no comment on the proposed rule change.

Very truly yours,

/s/ J. G. Dewease

JGD/LAE/baa

Attachment

cc: (See Next Page)

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