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NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION ADVISES NUCLEAR LICENSEES TO INCREASE SECURITY MEASURES

Consistent with the raising of the national threat condition this afternoon to the Orange (High) level as announced by Attorney General John Ashcroft, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission immediately advised nuclear power plants and other nuclear facilities to implement heightened security measures in accordance with pre-established procedures.

The NRC informed its licensees that while there is no specific credible threat against any of them, or indeed, against any potential target in the United States, as noted by the Attorney General, there has been credible intelligence involving US interests and facilities abroad, particularly in Asia.

The specific additional security measures at nuclear facilities called for by the NRC are understandably sensitive, but had been worked out in advance and communicated to licensees previously. They include close coordination with local and state law enforcement agencies.

At the same time, the NRC has further stepped up security measures at its headquarters in Rockville, Maryland, and at its four regional offices.

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