



**Subcommittee on National Security,
Emerging Threats and International Relations**

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****MEDIA ADVISORY****

**For Immediate Release
September 10, 2004**

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**National Security Subcommittee to Hold September 14th Hearing
On Nuclear Power Plant Security**

(Washington, DC) -- Congressman Christopher Shays (CT-4), Chairman of the Subcommittee on National Security, Emerging Threats and International Relations, will convene an oversight hearing Tuesday, September 14, 2004, in room 2247 of the Rayburn House Office Building in Washington, D.C. The purpose of the hearing is to examine Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) oversight of security at commercial nuclear power plants.

The United States has 103 commercial nuclear reactors at 65 nuclear plant sites in 31 states. The nation's nuclear energy utilities have primary responsibility for safety, security and protection for these nuclear reactors and spent fuel storage sites. As a result of September 11, 2001, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) has directed the nuclear energy industry to take additional steps improve security at these sites.

According to Congressman Shays, "Heightened awareness of new threats, and proactive countermeasures, are particularly imperative to protect critical infrastructure facilities. Of those, commercial nuclear power plants stand as highly attractive targets of terrorism."

Officials from the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), the Government Accountability Office (GAO), along with nuclear power industry experts will testify about the vulnerability of nuclear power plants to terrorist attacks and whether security enhancements are addressing facility vulnerabilities and risks in a systematic and comprehensive manner.

WITNESS LIST

PANEL ONE

Mr. Luis A. Reyes, Executive Director of Operations
Nuclear Regulatory Commission

Mr. Roy P. Zimmerman, Director
Office of Nuclear Security and Incidence Response
Nuclear Regulatory Commission

PANEL TWO

Mr. Jim Wells, Director,
Natural Resources and Environment
Government Accountability Office

accompanied by

Mr. Raymond H. Smith, Jr., Assistant Director,
Natural Resources and Environment
Government Accountability Office

Mr. Kenneth E. Lightner, Jr., Senior Analyst
Natural Resources and Environment
Government Accountability Office

PANEL THREE

Mr. Alex Matthiessen, Director
Hudson Riverkeeper
Garrison, New York

Mr. David Lochbaum
Union of Concerned Scientists
Washington, D.C

Mr. Marvin Fertel,
Vice President and Chief Nuclear Officer
Nuclear Energy Institute