



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, DC 20555 - 0001

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NRC Statement on GAO Obtaining Radioactive Materials

The NRC since Sept. 11 has aggressively moved to improve the security of nuclear materials, dealing with the most dangerous materials first, then moving on to materials with less risk. The GAO pointed out an area where our process could be improved to strengthen these protections on the less risky materials. We moved rapidly to fix this. Now, any new applicant for a license for these far less dangerous materials will get a visit from the NRC or have to come to see us and prove their bona fides. The sort of so-called dirty bomb the GAO claimed it could have put together with the devices it could purchase would have the radiation equivalent of a CAT scan to the chest and stomach. The risk posed by these materials is small, but we are committed to seeing that they cannot be used by terrorists.

NRC testimony at today's hearing of the Senate Subcommittee on Investigations is available at:
<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/congress-docs/congress-testimony/2007/>