

Reproduction of Original Letter

FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION
Office of Energy Projects
Division of Dam Safety and Inspections - (Regional Office...)

October 16, 2001

Dear :

We are reviewing security measures at hydropower facilities. We know from past experience that Commission licensees, exemptees, and applicants have responded efficiently and appropriately to external events or conditions that impact their projects or project operations. Recently, most hydropower project owners recognized the need to heighten security at their projects. We have been in contact with many owners who have described their actions. These actions included tightening and controlling access to the project works, increasing monitoring of the site, and coordinating with law enforcement agencies. Specific actions included:

- Immediately Inspecting Projects - to identify any unusual activity, personnel, or containers on site
- Restricting Access - access points to important project works (where damage could be done) were restricted to allow for increased knowledge and control over activities within those project areas
- Tightening Security - locked gates, buildings, and access roads, IDs displayed and checked, deliveries closely inspected, more frequent patrolling of vulnerable project facilities and project perimeters
- Briefing Project Staff - on heightened security and surveillance
- Increasing Staffing - remotely controlled sites were staffed, and staffing was increased at others in numbers and duration (many moved to 24-hour coverage)
- Requesting Local Law Enforcement Assistance - to assist on some patrols and inspection of facilities

- Curtailing Non-Emergency Activities - routine scheduled maintenance was curtailed, to allow project to be in full operable condition and to minimize the number of non-security personnel on site
- Establish/reconfirm contact notification lists for local, state, and Federal Law Enforcement Agencies

More recently, project owners and operators have been determining which of these initial measures to keep in place, and which should be ended or modified. In making these decisions, they have been concentrating their efforts on the most vulnerable features of their projects -- those where a minimal effort by someone would result in maximum damage or impact to lives, or lifeline services, including the nation's power supply. It is also important to ensure that there is a close association between the security provisions instituted at your facility and the Emergency Action Plan for those dams that have one.

In addition to physical security measures, you should review all critical information about your project(s) that is currently available to the public. Please revise, as appropriate, the access you allow to information about vulnerable parts of your project, to ensure that sensitive project information is adequately protected. On October 11, 2001 the Commission issued an order that revised its internet access to sensitive hydropower project information in order to protect these data.

We are reviewing the measures in place at hydropower projects under the Commission's jurisdiction to ensure that adequate security is in place. This includes working with other Federal and State agencies that own or regulate dams to develop and coordinate additional means to assess risks. Please confirm, by letter to me within 7 days of the date of this letter, that you have evaluated your specific needs for increased security. Also, without revealing specific details of your security arrangements, please indicate what general measures (such as shown above) you are taking to safeguard your power facilities, and sensitive information related thereto. If you have any questions about this request, or how to respond to it, please contact _____ at (____) _____.