

107TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. CON. RES. 267

Expressing the sense of the Congress concerning the security of nuclear facilities in the United States.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NOVEMBER 13, 2001

Mr. GEKAS (for himself, Mr. KANJORSKI, Mr. PITTS, and Mr. PLATTS) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Armed Services, and in addition to the Committees on Energy and Commerce, and Transportation and Infrastructure, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Expressing the sense of the Congress concerning the security of nuclear facilities in the United States.

Whereas there are 103 active nuclear facilities in the United States operating at 64 sites in 31 States;

Whereas the Nuclear Regulatory Commission and the nuclear power industry maintain that security at all nuclear sites in the United States has been bolstered since September 11, 2001, and remains sufficient to protect employees and the residents of surrounding areas from the possible deleterious effects of an accident or terrorist attack at any nuclear site;

Whereas studies suggest that spent fuel storage areas, such as dry casks and pools, may be vulnerable to terrorist attacks, and that an attack on these areas could result in the release of lethal doses of radiation affecting an area thousands of square kilometers in radius and many times larger than that caused by the atomic bomb dropped on Hiroshima, Japan;

Whereas radioactive iodine, which could be released in the environment as a result of an accident or terrorist attack at a nuclear facility and which can lead to the development of thyroid cancer, can be combated with the expeditious use of potassium iodide;

Whereas the security of nuclear facilities is a national security concern and not merely a regional, State, or local concern;

Whereas the Office of Homeland Security and the Nuclear Regulatory Commission issued a general security alert for the week of October 29, 2001, and specifically requested additional security patrols or posts at nuclear facilities, using State law enforcement personnel and, if needed, the National Guard;

Whereas in response to that general security alert, the Governors of Arizona, Arkansas, Connecticut, Kansas, Massachusetts, Missouri, New Jersey, New York, and Pennsylvania, ordered National Guard units to provide security temporarily at nuclear facilities in those States, in conjunction with or in lieu of State and local law enforcement personnel; and

Whereas the Governors of 22 States have determined that State and local law enforcement personnel combined with contracted security personnel can sufficiently ensure se-

curity at nuclear facilities in their respective States: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate*
2 *concurring)*, That it is the sense of the Congress that—

3 (1) the President should direct the Nuclear
4 Regulatory Commission, the Department of Defense,
5 the National Guard Bureau, the Department of
6 Transportation, the Federal Bureau of Investiga-
7 tions, and the Central Intelligence Agency to jointly
8 conduct a study to assess the present and future
9 need for units of the Army, Air Force, Coast Guard,
10 and National Guard to augment security at the 103
11 active nuclear facilities in the United States;

12 (2) the President should direct the Nuclear
13 Regulatory Commission and the National Guard Bu-
14 reau to work with representatives of State law en-
15 forcement agencies to establish basic guidelines for
16 the proper training and use of National Guard units
17 deployed at nuclear facilities, emphasizing the need
18 for high levels of coordination with State law en-
19 forcement personnel;

20 (3) National Guard units providing added secu-
21 rity at nuclear facilities should be funded by the
22 Federal Government; and

23 (4) the President should direct the Nuclear
24 Regulatory Commission, the Federal Emergency

1 Management Agency, and the Food and Drug Ad-
2 ministration to establish emergency reserves of po-
3 tassium iodide tablets in those communities within
4 the Emergency Planning Zones of each of the 64
5 nuclear power sites across the Nation, as delineated
6 by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

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