

Nuclear Facility Safety

Over the past five years, the NRC has required many security enhancements at its licensed power reactors, decommissioning reactors, independent spent fuel storage installations, research and test reactors, uranium conversion facilities, gaseous diffusion plants and fuel fabrication facilities. The NRC directed facilities to upgrade their physical security plans, guard training and qualification plans, and contingency plans. These facilities now have, among other heightened measures:

- More patrols
- Stronger and more capable security forces
- Additional physical barriers
- Greater stand-off distances for vehicle checks
- More restrictive site access controls
- Enhanced emergency preparedness and response plans

The NRC has also significantly increased its oversight of security capabilities. In 2000, NRC inspectors spent about 40 staff-weeks a year at nuclear power plants directly inspecting security (excluding special “force-on-force inspections”). By 2003, this inspection effort had increased five-fold to 205 staff-weeks. These inspections specifically focused on the implementation of “compensatory measures” the NRC required after the 2001 attacks to address the new threat environment. In 2004, the NRC implemented a new “baseline inspection program” for security and by 2005, direct staff inspections at nuclear power plants had increased further to about 400 staff-weeks a year.

Source: Nuclear Regulatory Commission <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/fact-sheets/security-enhancements.html>