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Nuclear Plants Are the Most Secure Industrial Facilities

- The Nuclear Regulatory Commission regulates the security at nuclear power facilities.
 1. The NRC holds nuclear power plants to the highest security standards of any American industry. Only the airline industry and the nuclear industry are government-regulated.
 2. The industry meets or exceeds security requirements in all areas. These security requirements were in place well before 9/11.
 3. The NRC establishes the threat against which the industry must be protected and sets the stringent standards security officers must meet.
 4. The NRC conducted 298 security inspections at nuclear power plants in 2006, including 21 force-on-force drills using mock adversary forces.

- More than 8,000 well-armed and highly trained security officers are positioned at the 64 U.S. nuclear power plant sites.
 1. These forces are drilled and tested routinely to ensure their readiness.
 2. The security programs are tested annually in mock "force-on-force" attacks—a program unique to the nuclear industry.
 3. Once every three years, the NRC grades each plant's "force-on-force" performance.

- Nuclear power plants are very large, well-built concrete and steel structures; they are difficult to penetrate. Each plant has intrusion detection systems, vehicle barrier systems and surveillance capabilities.

- Areas of the plant that house the reactor and used reactor fuel would withstand the impact of a wide-body commercial aircraft.
 1. The NRC conducted aircraft impact studies, which demonstrated these vital areas would remain safe.
 2. Peer-reviewed analyses by the Electric Power Research Institute resulted in similar findings.
 3. Agreements are in place with NORAD to respond if there is a credible aircraft threat.

- Due to a combination of well-trained, well-armed paramilitary security forces; robust physical barriers; and sophisticated detection and access systems, nuclear power plants are the most secure industrial facilities.
 1. Plant sites are integrated with military, federal, state and local law enforcement; the National Guard; and other assets that can help protect nuclear power plants in the event of a confirmed threat.
 2. An attack beyond the capabilities of commercial plant security is recognized as a possibility. In such cases, plant personnel are part of an integrated response with local, state and federal authorities.
 3. The nuclear energy industry was the first sector to complete the Department of Homeland Security's Comprehensive Review Program, a thorough security assessment that identifies additional measures that can be taken to protect against and mitigate a range of possible terrorist attacks.
 4. Each nuclear plant site has spent an average of nearly \$70 million for physical improvements to enhance security since 2001.
 5. The industry is working with all levels of government to provide the best security possible to deter an attack, and to respond forcefully and swiftly should one occur.



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