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## Nuclear Plant Security After Sept. 11: Quotes from Experts

U.S. nuclear power plants were safe and secure before Sept. 11, 2001, and they are even more secure today.

Nuclear power plants are the most secure industrial facilities in the nation. The industry incorporates physical security measures, plant surveillance and access systems and cyber security, and coordinates with federal, state and local law enforcement and intelligence authorities to keep nuclear plants safe and secure. Here's what others are saying about nuclear power plant security:

- “The NRC remains convinced that nuclear power plants are among the most heavily protected civilian facilities in the United States. Our vulnerability studies confirm that the likelihood of damaging the reactor core and releasing radioactivity that could affect public health and safety is low. All nuclear power plants have been required to enhance their safety, security, and emergency preparedness. Given these enhancements, the potential radiological consequences to the public of an aircraft attack are low.”—*Nils Diaz, Chairman, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, May 13, 2004*
- “If anything, the NRC could be faulted for overkill, as nuclear power plants have always been extremely secure...Worst-case scenarios of terrorist attacks on plants or nuclear waste under transport indicate a very low likelihood of collateral injury.”—*America at Risk: A Homeland Security Report Card, Progressive Policy Institute, Democratic Leadership Council, July 2003*
- “Nuclear power plants have become of great concern to everybody. But they are probably our best defended targets. There is more security around nuclear power plants than anything else we've got. When confronted by an aviation attack, there is some concern. But one of the things that we have clearly found in this exercise is that this is an industry that has taken security pretty seriously for quite a long time, and its infrastructure, especially against these kinds of terrorist threats, is extremely good.”—*John Hamre, President and CEO, Center for Strategic and International Studies, from “Silent Vector,” a national security simulation, October 2002*
- “The CSIS-organized group said it found the country's nuclear power plants are among the best-guarded U.S. facilities for terrorist attacks, and the nuclear power industry's relationship with the Nuclear Regulatory Commission is a model of close government-industry communication on security matters.”—*Dow Jones Newswire, Oct. 21, 2003*



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- “Many plants moved security checkpoints farther away. The Coast Guard and National Guard have provided extra security in some states...It’s not perfect, but we’re talking about extremely hard targets.”—*The Washington Post panel of independent homeland and industry security experts, which graded nuclear power plants A-/B+, Sept. 10, 2002.*
- “The security plans for the nation’s nuclear power plants are in excellent shape...”—*Associated Press report of interview with Michael Brown, Department of Homeland Security Undersecretary, August 2003*