



Nebraska nuclear plants at high security

The Associated Press

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Nebraska's two nuclear power plants are taking recent terrorism warnings seriously and continue to operate with the highest level of security possible, utility officials said Friday.

Federal authorities recently warned of a terrorist threat after documents found in Afghanistan and information from captured al-Qaida members indicated terrorists have studied U.S. nuclear power plants as possible targets.

The Omaha Public Power District's plant at Fort Calhoun and the Nebraska Public Power District's plant near Brownville have been operating on a heightened state of alert since the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks.

"We are working very closely with local authorities and remain on alert," said Mike Jones, OPPD spokesman.

The utilities said they have taken steps to ensure the security of their plants - including the presence of armed guards and road blocks. The air space above both plants also is restricted.

Last week, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission sent an advisory to all operators of U.S. power reactors that an al-Qaida member had told the FBI that a plan was in the works to hijack a jetliner and fly it into a nuclear power plant.

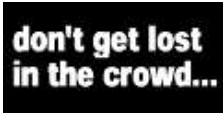
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926 P Street Lincoln NE 68508 402 475-4200

<mailto:feedback@journalstar.com>,dmarx@journalstar.com,jrood@journalstar.com



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