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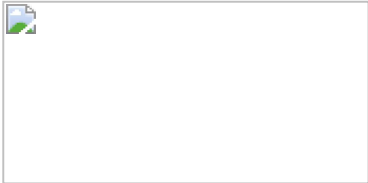
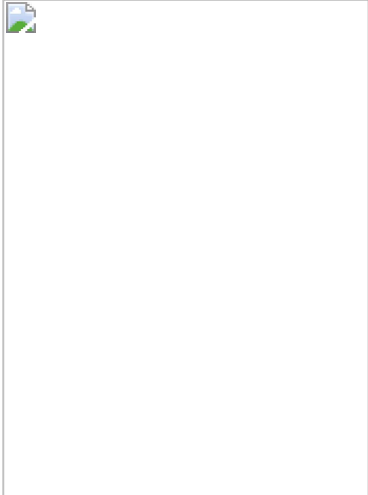
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Ten-mile no-fly zone lifted around area nuclear plants by Carol Thompson

The ten-mile no-fly zone mandated around Scriba’s three nuclear plants has been lifted, according to Bruce Bisbo, the deputy superintendent of auxiliary services at the Oswego County Airport.

Last week, national news reports suggested that the country’s nuclear plants have been left vulnerable to acts of terrorism.

Despite the lifting of the no fly zone, Oswego County Sheriff Reuel Todd said the public can be assured the plants are secure.

Todd has three men guarding the plant per 8-hour shift. It has placed a heavy burden on his budget. The security comes at a cost of approximately \$35,000 per week.

The office of state senator Jim Wright recently announced that the county will receive \$100,000 in assistance to cover the cost of security for nuclear facilities within the county.

That money compensates for less than three weeks of manpower at the plants. Todd appreciates of the funding, but he is still looking for a lot more.

"Anybody that will listen, I’ll talk to," Todd said of his quest to ease the financial burden to county taxpayers. He pointed out that the plants supply power to many parts of the state, hence, paying for the security should be more far reaching.

"How can they really say ‘it’s your problem’, " he said.

Todd has spoken to U.S. Rep. John McHugh and he said hopefully some money can be secured through the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

Senator Hillary Clinton recently visited the nuclear plants and met with local politicians indicating her support for federal funding.

As for security at the Oswego County airport, Bisbo said he will meet next week with state officials to see if any funding is available to assist with the cost of security.

"Hopefully there will be something to help us out on general aviation and security at our airport," he said.

With the 10-mile no-fly zone lifted, the three-mile no-fly zone is automatically in effect. The three-mile ban has always been in effect, Bisbo said.