



News Release

SERVICE EMPLOYEES
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
21 March 2005

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*****UPDATE ON GROUP 4 SECURICOR US OPERATIONS*****

A week after Group 4's toned-down US forecast...

Key Wackenhut Client, US Energy Dept., Admits “Significant Security Problems” To Congressional Panel

WASHINGTON, DC – One week after Group 4 Securicor's release of a “toned-down forecast” for US subsidiary Wackenhut, the US Department of Energy (DOE) admitted Friday to “significant security problems” at some of its sites in front of a congressional panel with oversight responsibility for nuclear facilities. Wackenhut is the DOE's largest security contractor.

The hearing – most of which took place behind closed doors – occurred in the wake of recent revelations of Wackenhut security lapses at two major DOE nuclear facilities. These contracts, plus another Wackenhut contract at a related site, are currently or will soon be out to tender. Combined, the contracts **singled out in the hearing** are worth an estimated USD \$600 million.

Stephen Lerner, SEIU Director, said, “Concerns over Wackenhut's performance issues have risen to the highest levels of the US Government.”

Linton F. Brooks, Under Secretary for Nuclear Security and Administrator, of DOE's National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA), testified Friday to the House Energy and Commerce Committee's Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee, “While most of our protective forces are dedicated and competent, we have had problems.” He specifically singled out to Nevada Test Site, a major nuclear installation where Wackenhut holds a contract worth \$126 million. The contract currently is out to tender. **Wackenhut's profits are driven by government and nuclear facility contracts, which together account for an estimated 40 percent of its annual turnover.**

Brooks testified that NNSA's Office of Safety and Security Performance Assurance “last summer uncovered sub-standard performance by the protective force (and other contractor elements) at the Nevada Test Site.”

Last month the US government revealed that Wackenhut performed poorly on an anti-terrorism drill and “systematically” violated weapons inventory and handling policies at the Nevada Test Site. This month SEIU learned of “an ongoing law enforcement proceeding” involving Wackenhut at the Y-12 plant, which houses America's stockpile of plutonium and highly enriched uranium. Also at Y-12, the DOE Inspector General last year reported that Wackenhut cheated on an anti-terrorism drill, and the New York Times revealed that Wackenhut officers were involved in a near-friendly fire incident.