



Case Study: Nuclear Power Plants Creating the Survivability Advantage Within The Security Infrastructure

With over 15,000 chemical facilities, 104 operating nuclear reactors and hundreds more utility facilities, it is necessary to tailor security to the wide variety of hazards and types of work at each facility. Recognized as an essential aspect in securing all nuclear power, chemical and utility facilities, perimeter security assessment and infrastructure is a key element in executing an effective security model. That is why many facilities have recognized their vulnerabilities and licensed security-contracting firms have arisen.

Customers choose to do business with Chicago-based Nuclear Security Services Corporation (NSSC) because of their experience in designing security solutions that are currently protecting over \$125 Billion in U.S. critical infrastructure. With 25-years of industry specialization in securing high-risk targets and facilities, NSSC has advised numerous facilities on their mission critical security solutions.

NSSC's Tim Collins offered the following advice for effectively securing a high-risk facility, "For security officials within sensitive commercial and government facilities, I would advise them to see perimeter protection as collaboration."

Collins continued, "Security decision-makers will need to consider such factors as mission critical quality survivability. The functionality, or the purpose of the guard booth is to give an advantage to one's officers. Inside this guard booth, armed responders are going to need to have the ability to interdict—to respond to very high threat levels with a high probability of survival. Guard booths are frequently defending facilities that are critical to life, environment and/or the economy. So, creating the advantage is critical."

Because guard booths play such a vital role, many are now BBREs or Blast and Ballistic Resistant Enclosures.

When NSSC was asked by a Midwest nuclear power plant customer to recommend a provider of pre-fab Blast and Ballistic



Morris Round End

Resistant Enclosures, Collins already knew the strict design specifications that were necessary for effectively securing such a facility.

When asked about the decisions that go into determining specifications they look for in a booth, Collins explained, "Regarding the safety and security of those who work inside the security booth, consideration needs to be given to make a guard booth ergonomically friendly because it is a confined space. You also need to consider counter tops and shelves from a safety and security perspective and all classified security devices."

He went on to add, "There are plenty of pre-fab outfits that can put up steel walls, but a lot of specialty equipment is used in mission critical protection. This sort of protection demands unique specialty engineering skills in the construction of the guard booth, which not every pre-fab company

possesses. The solution for this Mid-West nuclear power plant was created as a joint effort between NSSC, Midwest NPP and B.I.G. Enterprises—a California-based pre-fab booth builder."

NSSC was asked to inspect the manufacturing facility of prospective pre-fab manufacturer, B.I.G. Enterprises. "When I visited the B.I.G. facility, I saw that it was a very well run and lean ship. Quality was obvious from the moment I walked in. They had a stainless steel booth being loaded for delivery to the East Coast. I went over the welds—the butting of corners, and saw that the windows were high quality. High quality welds within mission critical applications are necessary for the safety and survival of security forces. We take these site visitations very seriously as do our clients. We were pleased with what we saw at their facility," said Collins.

After considering several manufacturer options, NSSC chose B.I.G. Enterprises as their recommendation to the nuclear power plant. "We had some special requests and B.I.G. was attentive and responsive to all of them. Their attitude was 'yes' on everything." Collins continued, "When the delivery truck showed up with the guard



The Commonwealth

booths, the security manager of the nuclear plant called us immediately to tell us he thought they were really top-notch and exceptionally high quality. He was extremely pleased. Examining the interior and exterior moving parts and electrical, he said that he had seen a lot of products in the industry and he would put these booths up against any of them.”

As George Washington once stated, “there is nothing so likely to produce peace as to be well prepared to meet the enemy.” When identifying the survivability advantage within a security infrastructure, preparing at a facility’s perimeter is key in not only stopping an attack, but in deterring them as well.

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