

**NUCLEAR PROGRAMS OF ROGUE NATIONS PRESENT EXISTENTIAL THREAT;  
ELECTROMAGNETIC PULSE ATTACK CAN CAUSE LONG-TERM ELECTRIC GRID OUTAGE**

NASHUA, NH—March 3, 2015—Countries with entry-level, low-yield nuclear weapons can inflict long-term electric grid outage by means of high-altitude electromagnetic pulse attack, according to reports of the Commission to Assess the Threat to the United States from Electromagnetic Pulse (EMP) Attack. The EMP Commission was authorized by the U.S. Congress and worked from 2001 to 2009. An electromagnetic pulse attack upon the United States and its electric grid would be an existential threat, according to Dr. William Graham, previous chair of the EMP Commission.

While Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu said today that “Iran’s regime poses a grave threat, not only to Israel, but also to the peace of the entire world,” he avoided explicit explanation of the most serious “nuclear nightmare” scenario, electromagnetic pulse attack using a just a few missile-mounted nuclear weapons. Nonetheless, Israel has embarked on a program to protect its electric grid against EMP, according to a July 2014 report of the Israel Missile Defense Association.

EMP is caused when a nuclear weapon is detonated in or above the upper atmosphere. The resulting burst of electromagnetic energy can initiate the destruction of electronic devices on the ground within a radius of hundreds or thousands of miles, depending on the height of the detonation, yield of the weapon, and extent of deployed protections for critical infrastructure. The United States has long recognized EMP as a military threat and has invested billions of dollars in secret programs to harden its strategic forces and associated communication systems.

An EMP attack upon the United States could deprive allies such as Israel of military and logistical support, according to the findings of the Congressional EMP Commission:

EMP is one of a small number of threats that can hold our society at risk of catastrophic consequences. EMP will cover the wide geographic region within line of sight to the nuclear weapon. It has the capability to produce significant damage to critical infrastructures and thus to the very fabric of US society, as well as to the ability of the United States and Western nations to project influence and military power.

Among Western nations, diplomatic efforts to prevent nuclear proliferation have been the first line of defense against EMP. When non-proliferation initiatives fail, other defense measures against EMP can and should be employed. These measures include cost-effective missile defense systems, such as the U.S. Aegis system that can defend large areas, and protection of electric grid control centers, “black start” generation stations, nuclear power generating facilities, and critical Extra High Voltage (EHV) transformers. These defensive steps, while not providing complete protection, would increase uncertainty of a successful nuclear EMP attack and could have substantial deterrent effect upon rogue state adversaries.

The U.S. Administration is well aware of EMP threats from potential foreign adversaries such as Iran, but has avoided taking a public position on explicit EMP protection.

The Foundation for Resilient Societies is New Hampshire based non-profit specializing in protection of critical infrastructure. For interviews of Dr. William Graham and other EMP experts at Resilient Societies, contact Thomas Popik at [thomasp@resilientsocieties.org](mailto:thomasp@resilientsocieties.org), 603-321-1090. ###