

# **The Attack**

Tuesday, 26th April 2031

5:14 am.

The night shift workers at the Alvin W. Vogtle Electric Generating Plant, Georgia prepares to transition over to the morning shift workers. With the recent budget cuts that have been imposed on the Nuclear Energy sector this task is less busy than before. As the workers exited the building the steady trickle of cars continued into the parking lot. Sedans, trucks and hatchbacks pull in, park, and the drivers exit and enter the plant wearing the same expression most people wear at the start of the week. Badges are flashed past the sparse security guards as one by one the morning shift arrives. Since the federal government decided to divert funds away from the Nuclear Sector and into Alternative forms of energy such as tidal, solar and wind. Sacrifices had to be made in the plants to maintain productivity on a smaller budget. The main topic of conversation among the employees is their job security. Many of them had already been let go due to insufficient funds, leaving the crew to slowly dwindle down to a mere skeleton crew ensuring the plant is still operational at minimal cost. An unassuming truck pulls into the lot and cruises around seemingly looking for a parking space. The workers are all walking towards the main entrance casually making small talk among themselves when a sudden defining sound splits the still morning. All heads spin in the direction of the truck and eyes widen in horror as screams and yells fill the air.

The American public wakes up to the news channels ablaze, each and every source with the same breaking news story: "Terror attacks on Three Critical Nuclear stations." The news unfolds before the horrified nation. Three ground attacks were made on the following nuclear power plants; first the Alvin W. Vogtle Electric Generating Plant at 5:14 am, followed by the Palo Verde Generating Station, Tonopah, Arizona, at 5:17 am, and lastly the Browns Ferry Nuclear Plant, near Athens Alabama at 5:22 am. Although details are scarce at this time there is confirmed damage at all locations. These attacks are a confirmed terror attack against the United States of America by a foreign group who identify themselves as The Anarkhia. This terror group consists of numerous hostiles who are all military trained who have vowed to bring America to its knees as to allow America's enemies to advance in their pursuits of domination and overthrow America's peace keeping efforts overseas. The emergency broadcasts continue, thus painting a clearer picture of what happened. These coordinated attacks all aimed to cause enough damage to trigger a nuclear reactor meltdown in all three plants, the targets being the largest plants in the United States thus causing the most damage possible. Both the attacks on the Alvin W. Vogtle Electric Generating Plant and the Palo Verde Generating Station, although devastating, were not full successes. Reports state as the bombs malfunctioned triggering the detonations early. This resulted in only causing structural damage to the buildings but not triggering a core meltdown. However, the Browns Ferry Nuclear Plant was not as fortunate. The hostiles were able to

infiltrate the plant and detonate the bombs in the inside of the plants, near the control room causing a total loss of control of the plant, this causes a malfunction in the core resulting in overheating. The damage was extensive though and the coolant that was supposed to be released into the nuclear core to prevent a meltdown was not discharged. This resulted in a complete core meltdown at the Browns Ferry Nuclear Plant near Athens, Alabama at 5:25 am on Tuesday 26th of April 2031.

## **The Facts**

The immediate threats that have been posed by this catastrophic attack are as follows. Both the Alvin W. Vogtle Electric Generating Plant and the Palo Verde Generating Station have sustained only exterior damage due to the bombs which were being smuggled in by the terrorists detonating too early. This resulted in five deaths at Alvin W. Vogtle Electric Generating Plant, including the three perpetrators. Seven employees were killed in the blast at the Palo Verde Generating Station as well as the three bombers. Overall, thirteen additional victims were injured in these attacks. These two stations sustained damage to the exterior of the buildings, yet extensive damage was not caused as the bombs used were not powerful enough to damage any equipment or controls relating to the nuclear cores inside the stations. The buildings affected however are unstable due to the damage, making them vulnerable to another attack.

As briefly mentioned earlier the Browns Ferry Nuclear Plant was not as fortunate. With the bombs being successfully detonated inside the control room the plant was doomed. The structural damage also prevented the emergency coolant from being injected into the core to stop the overheating thus resulting in the biggest nuclear disaster America has ever seen. As the core has melted down all the workers in the plant and the surrounding area have been exposed to lethal levels of radiation. Nearby towns such as Athens and Chattanooga are at complete risk of being completely contaminated with the radiation emitting from the remains of the reactor.

Another factor that is of immense importance is the radioactive contamination of the Tennessee River that the Browns Ferry Plant is adjacent to. The Tennessee River spans over 652 miles and is a major water source for the southern region of America. It is imperative that the contaminated water is isolated and contained before it has the chance to pollute further, potentially creating an international radioactive pollution issue if it reaches open water.

## **The Response**

Immediately the government on all levels spring into action. Local Governments organize the evacuation plan to ensure as little radiation exposure as possible to their residents. In the surrounding areas of the Alvin W. Vogtle Electric Generating Plant and the Palo Verde Generating Station the evacuation plan is set into action in case of a later meltdown in case there

is any undetectable damage to the reactor core that has not been discovered yet. The Department of Public Health springs into action swiftly sending aid to set up decontamination camps and recovery stations for those injured from the blast of those exposed to radioactive debris.

The Federal Government needs to call the United Nations to dispatch the International Atomic Peace Agency as soon as possible to come and aid which is unfolding into the biggest nuclear disaster since Chernobyl. The International Atomic Peace Agency needs to work in tandem with the Office of Nuclear Security and Incident Response to coordinate the containment and decontamination of the area surrounding the Browns Ferry Nuclear Plant.

As the public is being evacuated from the contaminated areas the Office of Nuclear Security and Incident Response has to immediately start on the production of a protective shelter to contain the radiation that was not released in the blast to stop further radiation polluting. The contaminated land surrounding the plants must be made off limits to ensure the least radiation poisoning possible to the public.

Most critically though is the contamination of the Tennessee River. Millions of Gallons of water run through that river every day, so containing the contamination is crucial. It is of utmost importance that all the dams are closed downstream to the blast to ensure the containment of the polluted water. The Dams Sector must communicate as efficiently as possible the closing of the dams and take the precautions to protect all the dam workers from exposure to the radiation in this process.

Furthermore, all the banks of the river must be off limits to the public as well as all water sources that are derived from that river need to be enclosed until decontamination processes can be started. Any tributaries from the Tennessee River in conjunction must have their dams closed. As soon as the containment of the irradiated water is complete the Office of Nuclear Security and Incident Response and the Water and Wastewater Systems Sector move on to how to decontaminate the water. Decontamination of the water must be done by using the means of Reverse Osmosis, Ion Exchange or Carbon Filtration depending on what is the most effective method due to the particular environment.

## **The Effects**

All across America emergency broadcasts are streaming, urging people to stay inside to avoid contamination from any radioactive material that has been airborne. Evacuations spring into action with everyone within a fifty-mile radius from the nuclear plants fleeing for their lives. Immediately the internet is alive with speculation about the attack. Some questioned the involvement of The Anarchia, some pointing fingers at foreign interests of America, and others blaming the FBI or the CIA. Others debate over the potential dangers of nuclear energy, some arguing for the complete abolishment of nuclear power and others arguing it is a vital part of America's energy sector. Quickly debates dominate the internet on the topic causing online

animosity and hatred. The tensions are high. However, it is not just the internet where tensions rise, in many cities looting has started as people take advantage of the safety measures in place urging people to stay inside. Furthermore, the towns and cities that were powered by the energy developed in the Browns Ferry plant are suddenly without power, causing widespread panic as people are cut off from the rest of the nation electronically. The nation has been thrust into chaos and division in a matter of hours.

The Department of Public Health will need to work tirelessly to help hospitals provide services for all those who have come in contact with the radiation. Working in conjunction with the UN Crisis relief emergency medical centers need to be made to help relieve the influx of patients in the local hospitals.

Furthermore, the Food and Agriculture Sector is tasked with how to handle the farms lost to the radiation. With so many farms and agricultural land lost the price of food may be increased due to demand by the next harvest, putting more strain on an already strained nation. Food will need to be imported to the Southern region which was affected by the explosion from the Browns Ferry in order to help with the devastation it has caused.

The international repercussions are also grave. With the United States preoccupied with the containment and safety within the country some hostiles have become emboldened by the lack of international aid the United States is providing. Small acts of aggression have slowly started to appear overseas, sparking fear in allies of the United States who have an invested interest in the States being restored to its full capacity to help keep the peace in case any conflicts arise.

## **The Hope**

The devastation caused by such an attack such as the one here is monumental. The tragedy, the pain and devastation wrought by a nuclear disaster is unparalleled. History has shown us that. However history has also shown us the devastation that can be caused by incompetence and unpreparedness. A complicated and dangerous situation can be turned into a nightmare caused by those who are trying to help, trying to solve the problem. This is the very reason why we must be prepared as a nation for any and all potential disasters, whether man-made or natural. It is imperative that the United States of America be able to work swiftly and efficiently, tackling a situation such as the one described with facts and logical thinking, to ensure that this country does not fall.