



# NRC NEWS

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No. 11-091

May 27, 2011

## OPENING REMARKS OF NRC CHAIRMAN GREGORY B. JACZKO AT TODAY'S BRIEFING ON THE AGENCY ACTION REVIEW MEETING

Good morning. The Commission meets today to receive a briefing on the results of the Agency Action Review Meeting (AARM). This is among the most important meetings the Commission holds every year. It provides us the opportunity to publicly review licensee safety performance over the previous year, and to focus on the most significant safety challenges that licensees experienced. The issues we will be discussing today are at the heart of our public health and safety mission.

In 2010, both reactor and material licensees demonstrated good overall performance. We did identify, however, some significant issues at certain facilities. Among those facilities is Nuclear Fuel Services (NFS), which has experienced several safety issues over the past few years. During today's discussion, the Commission would like to hear what concrete steps NFS plans to take to address these safety issues and to ensure that they do not appear at next year's AARM meeting. The Commission also will hear from representatives from the Department of Veterans' Affairs (VA) about the steps they have taken since last year's meeting to address the issues that led to multiple events at the VA Medical Center in Philadelphia.

While no reactor licensee met the criteria for participating in this year's AARM meeting, we did identify some concerning issues at certain plants over the past year. Right now, there are three reactor licensees in Column 3 of the Reactor Oversight Process Action Matrix. One plant—Brown's Ferry—is currently in Column 4 after experiencing an issue of high safety significance late last year. It's clear that both the agency and its licenses need to continue to maintain a strong safety focus to avoid those types of challenges.

During today's meeting, the Commission first will hear presentations from the NRC staff, and then from two panels of representatives from the Nuclear Fuel Services and the Department of Veterans' Affairs.

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