



NRC NEWS

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REMARKS OF NRC CHAIRMAN GREGORY B. JACZKO AT CONCLUSION OF TWO-WEEK INTEGRATED REGULATORY REVIEW SERVICE VISIT

Good morning. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission has had the honor of hosting 20 of our international counterparts for the past two weeks. I want to thank Jukka Laaksonen, Director General of Finland's Radiation and Nuclear Safety Authority, for leading the Integrated Regulatory Review Service team, and I also thank IAEA Deputy Director General Denis Flory for joining us as we wrap up this effort.

Our staff is proud to have had the opportunity to sit with our colleagues and review with them details of our regulatory structure, as well as to look at how our activities compare with International Atomic Energy Agency guidelines for regulatory agencies. We asked for this mission, and our staff has spent more than two years assembling information and performing a tough self-assessment to give the IRRS team everything it needed to do its job well.

Among the hallmarks of this agency are openness and transparency, and our staff has demonstrated these qualities in sharing our approach with the IRRS. I believe the team's visit sends an important signal internationally – this sort of examination of a nation's regulatory system can advance the cause of nuclear safety not just in one nation but across the globe.

We're gratified the IRRS team has recognized many aspects of our mature, vigorous approach to ensuring U.S. nuclear power plants operate safely. The NRC is justifiably proud that the team has noted our staff's competence, our effective inspection program, the agency's strong drive for improving its performance, and the effort we put into including the public in our licensing and rulemaking processes.

Of course, the IRRS report also outlines areas where we may be able to further strengthen our regulatory system. I believe we can be proud of the rigor our regulatory structure imposes and its strong focus on safety. One of our senators, Tom Carper from Delaware, likes to say that if something isn't perfect, make it better. That's what we want to accomplish, so we'll look at the suggestions in the final IRRS report for opportunities to strengthen a system we believe is already a global leader in nuclear safety. Thank you.

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