



**The Deputy Secretary of Energy**  
Washington, DC 20585

May 2, 2011

MEMORANDUM FOR ARUN MAJUMDAR  
ACTING UNDER SECRETARY OF ENERGY

THOMAS P. D'AGOSTINO  
UNDER SECRETARY FOR NUCLEAR SECURITY

STEVEN E. KOONIN  
UNDER SECRETARY FOR SCIENCE

FROM: DANIEL B. PONEMAN 

SUBJECT: Nuclear Safety Workshop in Washington, DC, June 6-7, 2011

As you are all well aware, on March 11, 2011, a magnitude 9.0 earthquake and the subsequent tsunami damaged the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power station in Japan. Recognizing the possible implications to Department of Energy (DOE) nuclear facilities, on March 23, 2011, Secretary Chu issued Safety Bulletin No. 2011-01, *Events Beyond Design Safety Basis Analysis*, evaluating our capabilities to effectively mitigate and respond to potential beyond design basis events at DOE nuclear facilities. DOE line management organizations were asked to complete those initial actions for Hazard Category I facilities by April 14, 2011, and for Hazard Category II facilities by May 13, 2011.

To support the sharing of lessons-learned from our continued review of the Japan event and our evaluation of DOE's capabilities, I am convening a DOE Nuclear Safety Workshop on June 6-7, 2011, in the Washington, DC, metropolitan area. The intended audience is senior DOE leadership and technical experts with responsibility for nuclear operations, including managers and staff from the Office of Health Safety and Security (HSS); the Office of Emergency Operations; DOE program office and site offices; and National Laboratory and Management and Operating contractors. We will arrange for high-level participation by external organizations, including the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, the Institute of Nuclear Power Operations, and the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board, that can provide valuable information and perspectives. Attached is an outline of the key topics for the workshop.

Your active support and participation are essential to the success of the Department's important efforts recognizing the events in Japan. I have asked the Department's Chief Health, Safety and Security Officer to take the lead in organizing and facilitating this workshop and to collaborate with you to develop and refine a more detailed agenda. Mr. Podonsky or personnel from his office have already begun reaching out to your key managers to solicit their input and participation. I expect the workshop to result in tangible recommendations that DOE will



evaluate and consider for action. To this end, HSS will assign a team to follow up on each breakout session and produce a summary of the results, insights, issues, and recommendations for DOE management consideration.

If you have any questions regarding the workshop, please contact Glenn Podonsky at (202) 287-6071 or James O'Brien at (301) 903-1408.

Attachment

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**NUCLEAR SAFETY WORKSHOP**  
**Lessons Learned From Fukushima Daiichi**  
**June 6-7, 2011**  
*Crystal City Marriott*

Objective:

- Share lessons learned from the accident at the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Station in Japan
- Review the actions taken in response to Safety Bulletin No. 2011-01, *Events Beyond Design Safety Basis Analysis*, issued March 23, 2011
- Discuss the need for additional U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) actions based on lessons learned and review results

Audience (focused on nuclear operations/nuclear safety):

- Senior DOE Leadership
- DOE Office of Health, Safety and Security
- National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) Office of Emergency Operations
- DOE and NNSA Program Offices
- DOE and NNSA Site Office Managers, Senior Technical Safety Managers, and Nuclear Safety Experts
- National Laboratory and Management and Operating Contractor Site Managers, Nuclear Operations/Nuclear Safety Managers, and Nuclear Safety Experts
- Other Nuclear Safety Professionals and Organizations

Themes for Day One:

- Key concepts and elements for ensuring nuclear safety at DOE (e.g., defense in depth, natural phenomena hazard mitigation, and emergency management)
- Actions taken by the commercial nuclear industry in response to the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Station accident
- Actions taken to date by DOE in response to the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Station accident

Themes for Day Two:

- Breakout sessions for technical discussions on potential improvements in the DOE approach to design safety basis analysis, natural phenomena hazards, and emergency management
- Path forward for additional DOE actions

Presentations (Tentative):

- DOE Nuclear Safety Key Concepts and Elements (Senior DOE Representative)
- Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) Actions in Response to Japan Event (Senior NRC Representative)
- Institute of Nuclear Power Operations (INPO) Actions in Response to Japan Event (Senior INPO Representative)
- Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board (DNFSB) Perspective on Japan Event and DOE Nuclear Safety (Senior DNFSB Representative)
- Natural Phenomena Hazard (NPH) Risks in the United States (NPH Expert)
- Insights from DOE's Evaluation of Beyond Design Basis Events and Emergency Management