

PERFORMANCE AND ACCOUNTABILITY REPORT

FY 2008



MISSION

License and regulate the Nation's civilian use of byproduct, source, and special nuclear materials to ensure adequate protection of public health and safety, promote the common defense and security, and protect the environment.

VISION

Excellence in regulating the safe and secure use and management of radioactive materials for the public good.

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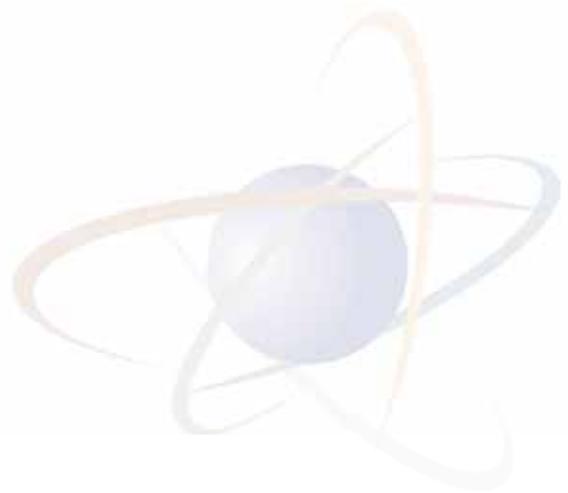
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From left to right, Commissioner Kristine L. Svinicki, Commissioner Gregory B. Jaczko, Chairman Dale E. Klein, and Commissioner Peter B. Lyons.



A MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN



I am pleased to present the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission's (NRC's) Performance and Accountability Report for fiscal year (FY) 2008. The report highlights our achievements in meeting the two strategic goals—safety and security—while adhering to the principles of good regulation—independence, openness, efficiency, clarity, and reliability. Continuing with our trend of excellence in reporting, the NRC received a seventh consecutive Certificate of Excellence in Accountability Reporting from the Association of Government Accountants (AGA) for the FY 2007 Performance and Accountability Report.

In 2008, the NRC continued to provide effective and efficient regulatory oversight of the nuclear industry as it embarks upon a period of significant growth and development. The agency is currently reviewing 17 combined license applications to build and operate 26 new nuclear power plants. These proposed nuclear power plants, if approved and constructed, would be the first new plants to be built in over 30 years, and are of critical importance to the industry and the Nation. The NRC has streamlined its application process to ensure that nuclear power plants are able to contribute safely to meeting the growing demand for electricity while minimizing the cost and time required to receive regulatory approval for new plants, consistent with safety and security requirements.

In FY 2008, the NRC received the U.S. Department of Energy's application for construction of the Nation's first geologic repository for high-level nuclear waste at Yucca Mountain, NV. The NRC has found that the application is sufficiently complete for the agency to begin its full technical review.

Commensurate with NRC's programmatic achievements is a commitment to prudently manage the resources entrusted to it by the American public. The NRC continues to position its resources and infrastructure to support our mission to "License and regulate the Nation's civilian use of byproduct, source, and special nuclear materials to ensure adequate protection of public health and safety, promote the common defense and security, and protect the environment." The NRC is proud to have obtained an unqualified opinion on the agency's financial statements for the fifth consecutive year. This report provides information that demonstrates that the agency's financial and performance data are reliable and complete.

The NRC has also made significant strides in improving its financial systems and business operations. A material weakness related to the Federal Information Security Management Act (FISMA) audit from FY 2007 has now been removed. The NRC continues to evaluate its internal controls and to implement internal control improvements, including those related to financial reporting and financial management systems, as required by the Federal Managers Financial Integrity Act (FMFIA). Based on these FISMA and FMFIA assessments, I have concluded that there is reasonable assurance that the NRC is in substantial compliance with the FMFIA. In support of the President's Management Agenda, the NRC is currently cross-servicing its human resources, payroll, e-Travel, and accounting services. The agency is also in the process of integrating and modernizing its financial systems to enhance internal controls, reporting, and decisionmaking.

The Commission is proud of this year's performance in achieving the agency's safety and security goals and looks forward to continuing its high-quality service to the American public in FY 2009 and beyond.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Dale Klein".

Dale E. Klein
November 14, 2008



This Certificate of Excellence was presented by the Association of Government Accountants to the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission for fiscal year 2007 accountability reporting.