

**U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Chairman Christopher T. Hanson
Opening Remarks for
National Atomic Energy Agency of Poland
April 20, 2021**

It is my pleasure to welcome you all today to this U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission – National Atomic Energy Agency of Poland workshop. President Mlynarkiewicz, I am glad to see you again, and I appreciated having the opportunity to meet virtually with you about two months ago to discuss our ongoing activities. It was my first bilateral meeting after becoming Chairman, which I hope signals to you the importance we place on our cooperative relationship. During that meeting, we recognized the importance of these technical workshops, and I am glad to see that our organizations are continuing our close collaboration on these significant topics.

Over the next few days, the NRC will share its experience with how our agency manages license application documentation during our regulatory reviews, specifically the AP1000 design certification review and construction oversight of Vogtle Units 3 and 4. The agenda provides an overview of the NRC's various electronic systems for managing records such as Agencywide Documents Access and Management System, Enterprise Management System, and electronic requests for additional information system. These platforms were all critical to the NRC's reviews of new applications at that time.

I understand the majority of the second day will allow for the PAA to practically apply what they hear from NRC experts today. I believe this exercise will be very useful for your organization to consider what has worked well for an experienced regulator, and to apply lessons learned from the NRC's experience to best meet the PAA's needs.

I believe that engagements such as this workshop allow the NRC to share important experiences with our regulatory counterparts, such as the PAA, that will help to inform your review, and thus become more efficient and effective as you go through this undertaking.

I reaffirm our commitment to supporting your request to send staff to the United States to observe Vogtle construction activities, including startup testing. The NRC is working with our licensee to select a suitable timeframe where PAA can gain the most benefit. My staff will continue to work with your colleagues to facilitate this exchange.

Unfortunately, my schedule will not allow me to participate in the entirety of the workshop, but as you can see, we have a terrific team of experts here that will be able to share information and answer your questions over the course of the next three days. I am confident that this workshop will be as successful as the workshops that were held in 2020. I look forward to hearing feedback from my staff following the workshop and continuing to learn about the progress that the PAA is making.

In conclusion, I would also like to acknowledge the February ratification of the U.S.-Poland intergovernmental agreement. This is a remarkable first-of-a-kind milestone for our governments, and I want to take this opportunity to affirm that the NRC will continue to support your organization in the coming years as you continue to prepare for the launch of Poland's nuclear power program.