

**Chair Christopher Hanson**  
**67<sup>th</sup> IAEA General Conference**  
**Remarks for Nuclear Safety, Security and Safeguards in Ukraine**  
**Wednesday, September 27, 2023**

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Thank you very much. It's a privilege for me to be here this afternoon in solidarity with my Ukrainian colleagues.

I talk to Acting Chairman Korikov fairly frequently, to receive regular updates on the ongoing conflict in Ukraine and the status of Ukraine's nuclear facilities.

Each time I hear from Ukraine, I learn something new and am once again in awe of their courage, determination, and optimism in the face of unspeakable tragedy. Today, once again, I am struck by how much you have endured with such strength and grace.

Nuclear safety regulators often talk about "staying focused on the mission." It's a clear, brief way to articulate the most important part of our work to a broad audience.

Staying focused on the mission means fulfilling your regulatory responsibilities as effectively as possible – inspection, enforcement, oversight – no matter what unexpected circumstances come your way.

It's the kind of phrase that sounds nice on a website, but to truly stay focused on your regulatory mission, no matter what, takes a tremendous amount of dedication, flexibility, and foresight.

My colleagues at SNRIU have demonstrated this commitment admirably in the face of atrocities we thought we'd never have to contemplate.

No matter what unfolds each day because of Russia's unlawful occupation, SNRIU has stayed focused on maintaining the highest levels of nuclear safety and security throughout Ukraine's significant nuclear program.

The USNRC is proud to partner with SNRIU in a number of key areas as they uphold their regulatory responsibilities. At the European Commission's side event on Monday, I focused my remarks on the assistance we have provided to Ukraine directly related to the war.

Today, I'd like to briefly highlight some of our engagement to help SNRIU carry out its important mission and prepare for a strong future.

To date, we have obligated nearly \$1 million in contract support to assist SNRIU and its technical support organization, SSTC NRS:

- to model and license VVER-440 Westinghouse fuel;
- to assess the utility's aging management and lifetime extension requests;
- to prepare for analysis of pressurized water reactor fuel;
- to prepare for the anticipated review of small modular reactor designs; and
- to update the existing information system registry for accounting and control of individual radiation exposure doses.

We are also beginning to engage with SNRIU to explore their interest in future collaboration on new reactor designs, such as the AP1000 and small modular reactors..

As I noted Monday, the USNRC's contribution is part of a much larger U.S. Government contribution, and our assistance to SNRIU is well coordinated to ensure that SNRIU derives the maximum benefit.

At a time when circumstances are changing from one moment to the next, SNRIU – and Ukraine as a whole – is thoughtfully preparing for the years ahead.

When Russia is defeated – and we are all confident that day will come, and we hope it comes soon! – Ukraine will be able to continue operating a strong, safe, and secure nuclear power program well into the future.

The USNRC greatly values its partnership with SNRIU and will continue to stand by your side as you stay focused on the mission.

Thank you.