

**Statement of Commissioner Kristine L. Svinicki
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission**

**Briefing on the Results of the Task Force Review
19 July 2011**

The members of the Near-Term Task Force have covered tremendous ground in the short, three months provided to them. I thank them individually and collectively, for their efforts.

After a more extensive examination than earlier, NRC post-Fukushima efforts were able to undertake, the Task Force has concluded that a sequence of events like the Fukushima accident is unlikely to occur in the United States and that continued operation and continued licensing activities do not pose an imminent risk to public health and safety.

In addition to providing this safety re-assurance to the Commission and the public, the Task Force's work – conducted with some urgency, given their mission of finding any near-term deficiencies or re-confirming the safety of continued operations – now allows the NRC the opportunity to proceed with the systematic and methodical review of lessons-learned that the Commission directed at the outset.

Moreover, the agency is now in a position to conduct the fulsome stakeholder engagement and review by the Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards, which the Commission reluctantly excused the Near-Term Task Force from undertaking, given the urgency of the Task Force's work.

An Executive Order issued just last week by President Obama, on the topic of "Regulation and Independent Regulatory Agencies," reminds us that wise regulatory decisions depend on public participation and on careful analysis of the likely consequences of regulation.

In that vein, the delivery of the Near-Term Task Force report is not the final step in the process of learning from the events at Fukushima. It is an important, but early step. Now, the conclusions drawn by the six individual members of the Near-Term Task Force must be open to challenge by our many stakeholders and tested by the scrutiny of a wider body of experts, including the ACRS, prior to final Commission action.

We begin this scrutiny with our discussions here today. I look forward to your presentations and thank each of you for your dedication.