## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Remarks by Ivan Selin Chairman, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission before the Southeastern Electric Exchange 59th Annual Conference Boca Raton, Florida

Monday, April 6, 1992

## THE FUTURE OF NUCLEAR POWER IN THE UNITED STATES

I am pleased to have been invited to the Southeastern Electric Exchange's 59th Annual Conference. I would like to spend the time I have with you this morning discussing my thoughts on the future of nuclear power in the United States. First, I will provide an overview of some of the factors that I believe bear on the future of nuclear power, and then I will focus my address on the more significant issues that the Nuclear Regulatory Commission can affect.

Before there can be any serious consideration of new growth in the nuclear industry, there must first be continued safe operation of all nuclear reactors. Second, there must be an increase in trust between the public, and the NRC and utility industry. While this does not necessarily mean total agreement by the public with regulatory and industry actions, it does mean that there must continue to be an open process to facilitate public input and genuine consideration of such input in decisionmaking. The NRC is doing its part to keep open its decision making processes, which I will discuss with specific examples; however, you in the nuclear industry will have to build the confidence of the American public in your competence to operate the nation's nuclear power plants.

Along with an increased sense of trust, the American public will demand that the issue of nuclear waste be addressed. Progress by the government in this area is essential. Growth will not occur until a solution for high level waste disposal is found.

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