NRC NEWS

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Remarks by
The Honorable Peter B. Lyons, Commissioner
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
at the
Combined Federal Campaign Kickoff
October 14, 2008

Good morning. I am pleased to join you today with Commissioner Svinicki as we kick off the 2008-2009 Combined Federal Campaign (CFC). It is an honor for both of us to represent the full Commission at the start of this truly vital endeavor.

Before we get started, some acknowledgements are in order. First, I would like to recognize Jim McDermott, the Director of the Office of Human Resources and Vice Chair of the campaign, and his staff, and in particular, Rey Picón-Colón, this year's Headquarters CFC Campaign Manager. These folks devote year-round attention to CFC issues, providing continuing behind-the-scenes support that enables us to conduct an efficient, timely, and ultimately successful campaign year after year. I would also like to recognize Jose Ibarra, who is currently on a one-year rotation to serve as the NRC's Loaned Executive. Jim is joined by Henry Rubin, the Associate Director of the Combined Federal Campaign of the National Capital Area (CFCNCA) and Bruce Mallett, our Deputy Executive Director for Reactor and Preparedness Programs. This morning we have with us Dale Yielding, the President of the Agency's chapter of the NTEU, who will introduce Robyn Kehoe of the Federal Employee Education and Assistance Fund. We are also fortunate to have Susan Randall with us, representing the National Osteoporosis Foundation. Joining these individuals is our network of coordinators and keyworkers who represent the interactive part of the campaign, serving as the link between the campaign and each of you. These roles are rewarding but involve a lot of hard work. I want those of you who are serving in these positions this year to know that your efforts are very much appreciated. And last but not least, I want to welcome each of you and thank you all for being here today to help kickoff this year's campaign. Your strong level of support has provided the NRC with an enviable record of successful campaigns. Last year was no exception. We set a goal of raising $380,000, and I take great pleasure in telling you that last year we succeeded in raising over $464,000, or about 122 percent of our goal. This is an extraordinary achievement!

This year's goal is to raise $400,000. Surely we can do that and more! However, this year we have an additional goal which is far more ambitious -- to increase the number of employees who participate in the campaign. Last year, we surpassed our goal with only 34 percent employee participation. Imagine what we could accomplish if the number of folks making a contribution to their favorite charity during this year's campaign increased by 10 percent!

In a few moments, Commissioner Svinicki and I will be assisting Bruce Mallet, who will be presenting a series of awards in recognition of the performance of individual NRC offices in last year's campaign. I am pleased to note that many of the individuals accepting the award are either the CFC coordinator or the key worker who devoted considerable time and effort to achieve the final result. Before we do that, I would like to say a few words about the CFC.

In preparing my remarks, I tried to learn more about this incredibly valuable effort. The CFC was established in 1961 by a Presidential Executive Order signed by President John F. Kennedy. It is the largest and most successful workplace charity fundraiser in the United States. It is also the ONLY campaign authorized to solicit and collect contributions from federal employees in the workplace on behalf of charitable organizations. The mission of the CFC is to promote and support philanthropy through a program that is employee-focused, cost-efficient, and effective in providing all federal employees the opportunity to improve the quality of life for all. Each year, a million-plus federal employees and military personnel respond to this campaign by contributing millions of dollars to the charities of their choice. In fact, last year, federal employees raised over $273 million on behalf of charitable organizations across the country and overseas. That says a great deal about the generosity of federal employees.

The CFC Program provides the opportunity to contribute to an extensive list of worthy charities all of which depend on our generosity. As an example, we have with us today, as I mentioned, a representative from the Federal Employee Education and Assistance Fund (FEEA), which was formed to meet the educational needs of federal employees and to provide assistance to federal families in times of natural disasters. The Federal Employee Education and Assistance Fund has provided special grants to affected federal families in order to give temporary assistance while insurance claims and other assistance requests are being processed. During Hurricane Katrina, for example, a single staffer at FEEA headquarters processed more than 4,000 requests for assistance and paid out more than $1.8 million dollars in grants. We also have with us today, a representative from the National Osteoporosis Foundation. The mission of this organization - which is the nation's leading voluntary health organization solely dedicated to osteoporosis and bone health - is to prevent osteoporosis and related fractures, to promote lifelong bone health, to help improve the lives of those affected by osteoporosis, and to find a cure through programs of awareness, advocacy, public and health professional education and research. These are only two organizations of the many listed in this year's brochure illustrating the variety of charities that are depending on the good will of federal employees.

In closing, I hope that as you look through the CFC catalog this year, you will find at least one charity that resonates with you, and that you will join my fellow Commissioners, your colleagues here at the NRC, and me in supporting the 2008-2009 Combined Federal Campaign. Additionally, hopefully we will get the good word out, and more NRC employees will join us in

this important undertaking. As Sally Koch, a woman dedicated to the students she taught in a one-room classroom in the early 20th century once said, “Great opportunities to help others seldom come, but small ones surround us daily.” The CFC is certainly one such opportunity. Thank you.