



NRC NEWS

U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

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No. 09-195

December 8, 2009

NRC CHAIRMAN GREGORY B. JACZKO REMARKS AT TODAY'S MEETING ABOUT PUBLIC COMMENTS ON PROPOSED EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS RULE CHANGES

Note: The Commissioners were briefed today by Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) and Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) staff on stakeholder participation and comments, and by stakeholders themselves, related to proposed changes to the agency's emergency preparedness requirements.

The Commission met today to hear comments and discuss the proposed changes to the emergency preparedness requirements for licensees. Today's meeting reflected the Commission's critical focus on ensuring the safety and security of our licensed facilities and the American public. Even as we work to prevent accidents and emergencies from arising in the first place, our safety mission requires us to prepare for unexpected challenges.

The proposed regulations seek to ensure adequate and timely emergency response through several measures. These include provisions to prevent onsite emergency responders from being stretched too thin by the assignment of additional responsibilities, efforts to enhance the coordination between onsite personnel and local and state emergency responders, and other measures intended to strengthen the ability of licensees to effectively implement their emergency plans.

We are fortunate that these efforts have been supported by an inclusive, collaborative, and transparent working relationship between the NRC and FEMA. The staffs of both the NRC and FEMA have worked effectively together to formulate these proposed regulations and accompanying guidance, drawing on their extensive experience and expertise. Their efforts have been aided by the comments of a broad range of stakeholders.

I was pleased that our second panel featured a representative sample of the diverse and comprehensive comments we received from local and state governments, nongovernmental organizations, industry and researchers. The Commission will consider their views as it continues its work with FEMA and the NRC staff to ensure emergency preparedness at all of our licensed facilities. I trust that the rulemaking process will conclude in the open and collaborative manner that has characterized it to this point. Such transparency is critical to sound public policy.

I look forward to working collaboratively with my Commission colleagues on these important issues.

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