

December 15, 2010

Dear Guest:

It is a pleasure to invite you and others in your organization to attend the United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission's (NRC) 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual Regulatory Information Conference (RIC), sponsored by the NRC Offices of Nuclear Reactor Regulation and Nuclear Regulatory Research. The conference will be held for two and a half days on March 8, 9 and 10, 2011, at the Marriott Bethesda North Hotel and Conference Center.

The RIC is an opportunity for NRC's representatives, regulated utilities, and interested stakeholders, to communicate directly regarding safety initiatives and regulatory issues. In addition to the many technical sessions that will be held at the 23<sup>rd</sup> RIC, three will focus entirely on international perspectives. You may be interested in attending these sessions entitled, "International Cooperation on New Reactors," "Regulatory Impacts of International Operating Experience," and "International Developments in Regulatory Safety Research." In addition, there will be many sessions with international participation. To name just a few, these include, "Materials Research for Advanced Reactors," "Anticipating Increasing Import of Reactor Components and Regulatory Considerations," "Status of Research Activities in Preparation for Licensing of Advanced and Small Modular Reactors," "Emergent Topics In Consensus Standards," and "Low-Level Waste Management: Do the Regulations Reflect Reality?" We highly value the dialogue during the sessions that is enriched by different perspectives. All RIC guests are encouraged to attend a wide array of sessions and participate in the discussions that follow each panel presentation.

In order to further highlight international participation at the RIC, NRC's Office of International Programs (OIP) will have an international outreach booth set up adjacent to the registration area on the lower level of the Conference Center. This booth is intended to both welcome international guests and provide information about OIP's activities and NRC initiatives regarding international outreach.

Further information about the RIC program of events and details can be found by visiting the NRC public website: [www.nrc.gov](http://www.nrc.gov). It will be possible to register for the RIC online through this website address beginning in the first week of January 2011. Please be advised that there is no NRC funding associated with this invitation. The hotel where the conference is being held is visible from Route 355 (Rockville Pike) at 5701 Marinelli Road, North Bethesda, Maryland 20852, across the street from the Metro's White Flint Station on the Red Line and diagonal to NRC's Headquarters. Due to high demand, please consider making your arrangements for lodging and accommodations for the conference as early as possible.

NRC welcomes a large and diverse group of participants at the RIC. Please provide your organization and colleagues with this information. NRC hopes your organization will be available to join us at the conference. For further information, please do not hesitate to contact Carlotta Coates, OIP, at 301-415-1787, or [Carlotta.Coates@nrc.gov](mailto:Carlotta.Coates@nrc.gov).

We look forward to meeting you at the RIC.

Sincerely,

***R/A***

Eric J. Leeds, Director  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

***R/A***

Brian W. Sheron, Director  
Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research

***R/A***

Margaret M. Doane, Director  
Office of International Programs

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