

**WRITTEN TESTIMONY
OF WILLIAM C. OSTENDORFF, COMMISSIONER
UNITED STATES NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
TO THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS**

MAY 25, 2011

Thank you Madam Chairman, Senator Inhofe, and members of the Committee. I appreciate the kind introduction by Senator Webb. I am grateful to President Obama for nominating me to a five year term on the Commission. If confirmed, I look forward to continuing my work on the Commission.

This is my third appearance before this Committee. I am grateful for your commitment to engaged oversight of the NRC. When I last appeared in May of 2010, I had been in office just over a month. Now, I have 14 months under my belt and an even greater appreciation for the mission of the NRC. It has been a true privilege to serve our country as an NRC Commissioner and I am hopeful to continue to have that opportunity after June 30.

In the last 14 months, I have been able to work well with my colleagues – Chairman Jaczko, Commissioner Svinicki, Commissioner Apostolakis, and Commissioner Magwood – to tackle the work before the Commission. My colleagues on the Commission bring a diverse set of experiences and knowledge to the table, and I value and respect their insights.

The Commission has been involved in a number of important issues related to nuclear safety and security over the past year. Together, we have accomplished a great deal. I have cast votes on well over 200 matters as a Commissioner. Throughout my tenure, I have done my very best to adhere to the NRC's Principles of Good Regulation – Independence, Openness, Efficiency, Clarity and Reliability. I have strived to get out frequently to visit facilities subject to NRC regulation, and pursuant to my open door policy, I have met with people of all backgrounds and opinion, both those in favor of and those opposed to nuclear power. I have found that doing so enriches my perspective as a regulator.

As this Committee well knows, the events of Fukushima are both tragic and significant. I am fully supportive of the Task Force the Commission approved on March 23. I am committed to its systematic and methodical review of the lessons learned from Fukushima and how they might be applied to our regulatory framework for nuclear safety. I know that if we need to make changes to our regulatory framework as a result of this accident, we will.

Madam Chairman, Senator Inhofe, and members of the Committee, I appreciate the opportunity to appear today and look forward to the Committee's questions.