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Title of Presentation: NRC Actions in Response to the Japan Nuclear Accident
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ABSTRACT

On Friday, March 11, 2011, a 9.0-magnitude earthquake struck Japan and was soon followed by a tsunami, estimated to have exceeded 45 feet (14 meters) in height, resulting in extensive damage to the six nuclear power reactors at the Fukushima Dai-ichi site.

Since that time, the NRC has been working to understand the events in Japan and relay important information to U.S. nuclear power plants. In particular, the NRC established a task force of senior agency experts to determine lessons learned from the accident and to initiate a review of NRC regulations to determine if additional measures needed to be taken immediately to ensure the safety of U.S. plants. The task force issued its report on July 12, 2011, "Recommendations for Enhancing Reactor Safety in the 21th Century," which concluded that there was no imminent risk from continued operation and licensing activities. The Task Force also concluded that enhancements to safety and emergency preparedness are warranted and made a dozen recommendations for Commission consideration. The staff subsequently prioritized and expanded upon the task force recommendations (SECY-11-037) and continues to make additions and modifications, as appropriate.

This presentation will discuss the activities the NRC has taken to date based on the lessons-learned at Fukushima Dai-ichi, including:

- Issuing the first regulatory requirements for the nation's 104 operating reactors involving (1) implementing mitigation strategies to respond to extreme natural events resulting in the loss of power at plants, (2) ensuring reliable hardened containment vents, and (3) enhancing spent fuel pool instrumentation.

- Issues a request for information, requesting each reactor reevaluate the seismic and flooding hazards at their site using present-day methods and information, conduct walkdowns of their facilities to ensure protection against the hazards in their current design basis, and reevaluate their emergency communications systems and staffing levels.

The presentation will also discuss future planned actions in response to the Japan nuclear accident, including such topics as spent fuel pool makeup capability, emergency preparedness regulatory actions, and reevaluations for other external hazards.