

February 7, 2014

***** MEDIA ADVISORY *****

NRC Press Availability in Rockville, Md., Feb. 11 to Discuss Follow-Up IAEA Integrated Regulatory Review Service Visit

Nuclear Regulatory Commission and International Atomic Energy Agency officials will be available to the press at about 10:30 a.m. on Tuesday, Feb. 11, in the Commission Hearing room in the NRC's One White Flint building at 11555 Rockville Pike in Rockville, Md. The session will mark the end of a follow-up visit from the IAEA's Integrated Regulatory Review Service (IRRS), which assesses a country's regulatory infrastructure against international safety standards and good practices.

Broadcast media outlets interested in sending videographers should contact the Office of Public Affairs by close of business Feb. 10 to facilitate clearing staff and equipment through security. Plan to arrive at the NRC at least a half-hour in advance of the meeting with proper media credentials. The NRC offices are located across the street from the White Flint Metro station. Parking is available at the White Flint metro parking garage on Marinelli Road.

The NRC hosted a full IRRS mission in 2010, focusing on technical and policy issues regarding the agency's oversight of operating U.S. nuclear power plants. The weeklong follow-up mission of eight nuclear regulators from European countries is examining the NRC's response to the original mission's recommendations and suggestions. The IRRS team is also examining the U.S. response to lessons learned from the Fukushima nuclear accident in March 2011.

The IRRS program provides independent peer review of a country's nuclear regulator by interviewing staff, examining documents and observing inspection activities. The IAEA has conducted IRRS missions in several countries, including Romania, the United Kingdom, France, Australia, Japan, Mexico and Canada.