

**Waiver of \$500,000 Single Conference Limitation from
Office of Management and Budget Memorandum M-12-12,
“Promoting Efficient Spending to Support Agency Operations”**

As Chairman of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), I hereby waive for the 2015 Regulatory Information Conference (RIC) the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) proscription on spending over \$500,000 on a single conference. The NRC anticipates holding the next annual RIC in March 2015.

OMB Memorandum M-12-12, “Promoting Efficient Spending to Support Agency Operations,” dated May 11, 2012, states that an agency shall not incur net expenses greater than \$500,000 on a single conference; however, the memorandum also states that the “agency head may provide a waiver from this policy if it is determined that exceptional circumstances exist whereby spending in excess of \$500,000 on a single conference is the most cost effective option to achieve a compelling purpose.” For the reasons detailed below, I have determined that exceptional circumstances exist whereby spending in excess of \$500,000 on hosting the 2015 RIC is the most cost-effective option to achieve a compelling purpose.

The NRC’s mission is to “license and regulate the Nation’s civilian use of byproduct, source, and special nuclear materials, to ensure adequate protection of public health and safety, promote the common defense and security, and protect the environment.” The RIC supports this mission as well as the NRC’s commitment to conducting its work openly and transparently, by providing a unique forum that brings together diverse groups of stakeholders to inform them of significant policy decisions and regulatory oversight activities. In addition, the RIC offers an environment in which NRC staff and stakeholders share relevant information, exchange views and perspectives, and raise concerns about the important safety, security, and policy issues before the agency. As we continue to learn from recent events and natural disasters, this forum is crucial to the mission of the agency.

Since its inception in 1987, the RIC has grown to become one of the premier nuclear conferences of its kind in the world. It is widely attended, bringing together approximately 3,000 participants from nearly 35 countries. Participants include members of the public; Federal, State, and local government officials; nuclear safety regulators from other nations; experts from the national laboratories; advocacy groups; media representatives; licensees; vendors; and other interested stakeholders. The technical program features nuclear experts from across the agency, as well as external speakers from industry, academia, public interest groups, and the international community. This educational conference also provides an exceptional opportunity for attendees to hear firsthand the views of each member of the Commission related to emerging regulatory issues and policy matters affecting the agency and the stakeholders.

The RIC provides to the NRC the opportunity to cultivate international relationships, influence nuclear safety on a global scale, and foster the exchange of best practices in the nuclear arena.

Enclosure

