

No: 14-068

October 15, 2014

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Interagency Cybersecurity Forum Launched; NRC Chairman Allison Macfarlane Chairs Inaugural Meeting

On Friday Oct. 10, 2014, senior leaders from independent and executive branch regulatory agencies launched the interagency Cybersecurity Forum for Independent and Executive Branch Agencies. The Forum's objectives are to enhance communication, lessons learned, and to develop a common understanding of cybersecurity activities through the sharing of best practices and exploring approaches to enhance cybersecurity protections. The officials established areas of initial discussion that included lessons learned with regulation based and voluntary approaches to cybersecurity, proactive cyber risk assessment and management, and information sharing.

The meeting was chaired by Allison Macfarlane, chairman of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, and included participation from Chairman Tom Wheeler of the Federal Communications Commission and Chairman Cheryl LaFleur of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, as well as senior officials from the Federal Trade Commission, Food and Drug Administration, Department of Homeland Security, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Transportation/Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Treasury and the National Association of Insurance Commissioners. The Department of Commerce/National Institute of Standards and Technology serves as an advisor to the Forum. Rand Beers, Deputy Assistant to the President for Homeland Security, provided remarks at the meeting.