

**POLICY ISSUE**  
**NOTATION VOTE**

**RESPONSE SHEET**

**TO:** Carrie M. Safford, Secretary

**FROM:** Commissioner Hanson

**SUBJECT:** SECY-24-0076: Integrated Regulatory Review Service  
Mission Scoping Results and Recommendation

Approved   X   Disapproved   X   Abstain        Not Participating       

**COMMENTS:** Below        Attached   X   None       

**Entered in STAR**

Yes   x  

No       

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**Signature:**  
**Christopher T. Hanson**

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**Date:** February 11, 2025

## **Commissioner Hanson's Comments on SECY-24-0076: Integrated Regulatory Review Service Mission Scoping Results and Recommendation**

In response to Commission direction, the staff evaluated options for hosting an International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Integrated Regulatory Review Service (IRRS) mission here in the United States. I appreciate the analysis the staff provided for each of the options; many of the benefits for hosting an IRRS mission resonated with me.

International engagement has been a priority for me during my tenure on the Commission. My views on an IRRS mission, laid out in my vote on SECY-22-0044, remain unchanged, “... *the NRC's presence in the international community is increasing in importance as more countries pursue nuclear energy. The NRC has the ability to positively influence safety and security around the world.*” To maintain our leadership, credibility, and influence in the international community, the NRC must continue to engage. Hosting an IRRS mission would enable us to promote our policies and by extension our foreign policy goals. We benefit by allowing other nations to see our regulatory approaches, technologies, and best practices, boosting confidence in our exports. An IRRS mission is a collaborative way to share good practices while also gaining insights and perspectives from our international colleagues.

I believe the NRC's decision to host an IRRS mission would send a powerful signal to our international counterparts that we not only promote open and transparent regulatory processes around the world, but we are also willing to lead by example through an independent review of our own programs. Furthermore, the last IRRS mission in the United States was in 2010 with a follow-up mission in 2014, and then only covering our licensing and oversight of commercial nuclear power. European countries typically host full-scope IRRS missions every ten years. China will be hosting a full-scope mission in 2025, after last hosting one in 2010. Therefore, it is timely for, if not urgent that, the United States maintain and solidify its position as the Gold Standard in global nuclear safety and security.

Lastly, with extensive regulatory changes, new legislative direction, and a changing nuclear landscape since our last mission, the NRC could benefit greatly from a comprehensive evaluation of our regulatory programs as we work through the self-assessment process. Preparing for the IRRS mission would also serve as a tremendous form of knowledge management. And allowing an international team to independently review our programs would enhance public confidence in our evolving programs.

While I recognize it would require staff effort to plan, prepare, and host the IRRS mission, the IAEA has made great strides to make the IRRS mission process more efficient since we last hosted. I therefore approve Option 1, a full-scope IRRS mission.

As it gets closer in time to requesting the IRRS mission and as the nuclear landscape continues to change, staff should re-consider topics (e.g., advanced reactors and fuels, small modular reactors) that were not included within the initial recommendation. I also approve the staff's recommendation for the timeframe for a full-scope IRRS mission in 2030.