

18th Regulatory Information Conference Opening Comments
Dr. Carl J. Paperiello, Director
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Thank you, Jim.

Good Morning. I'm pleased to be here, and to be able to also welcome you to the 2006 Regulatory Information Conference (RIC). As Jim mentioned, this is the second year that the Offices of Nuclear Regulatory Research (RES) and Nuclear Reactor Regulation (NRR) have jointly participated in the RIC. Last year we did this to a limited degree; this year, there are significantly greater opportunities for you to appreciate some of the significant research we are engaged in to improve the regulatory process.

Some of the session topics that RES are sponsoring during this RIC include:

- fuels,
- severe accidents,
- risk-informed regulatory structures for future reactors,
- materials degradation issues,
- seismic issues, and
- digital instrumentation and controls (I&C) issues.

For those of you who are unable to attend the various research-oriented sessions, we are also presenting, in poster format, summaries of several of the research programs that we believe are significant to both the NRC and its stakeholders. We are showcasing some of our work on radiological controls, computer codes like SNAP, TRACE, MELCOR, SPAR, and computation fluid dynamics, fire modeling, and PWR sump research; these subjects will be presented in posters throughout the RIC. We are presenting three posters per day for each day of the RIC. Knowledgeable staff will be stationed at each poster, and handouts will be available. I would very much like feedback on the posters so that we can make improvements in future years.

Thank you, and have a good conference.