

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

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27TH ANNUAL REGULATORY INFORMATION CONFERENCE

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OPENING REMARKS BY WILLIAM DEAN

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TUESDAY

MARCH 10, 2015

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ROCKVILLE, MARYLAND

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The Opening Session of the Regulatory Information Conference began at 8:30 a.m. at the Bethesda Marriott Hotel & Conference Center, 5701 Marinelli Road, Rockville, Maryland.

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P R O C E E D I N G S

8:30 a.m.

(National Anthem Sung)

ANNOUNCER: Ladies and Gentlemen, please welcome Bill Dean. Director of the Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation.

(Applause)

MR. DEAN: Hi, good morning everybody. Welcome to the 27th Regulatory Information Conference. My name is Bill Dean. I'm the Director of the Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation. And it's a great honor to be here today to have this opportunity to welcome you on behalf of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

My office along with the Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research, led by Dr. Brian Sheron, are cosponsors of this event. We worked closely with all of the other NRC offices to put together what we hope you will find to be a comprehensive and dynamic program over the course of the next three days.

First off, please join me again in a round of applause to thank the Joint Armed Forces Honor Guard from the Military District of Washington, for joining us this morning. And Kimberly Gaskins of the NRC for a tremendous rendition of the National Anthem.

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1 (Applause)

2 MR. DEAN: So first off, let me apologize
3 if I look a little tired. It wasn't because I was up
4 last night worrying about the RIC. I'm reading a great
5 book about anti-gravity and I just couldn't put it down.

6 (Laughter)

7 MR. DEAN: All right, well, okay. All
8 right, the RIC is the largest annual meeting hosted by
9 the NRC. And this year we have almost 2,900 registered
10 participants representing 35 countries.

11 The RIC provides opportunities for
12 informal open dialog related to the regulation of
13 nuclear power plants and nuclear safety research. And
14 for sharing different perspectives on emerging safety
15 and security issues facing both the domestic and
16 international community.

17 First of all I want to thank all of you who
18 have taken the time to participate in the RIC. And we
19 have several distinguished attendees this morning that
20 I do want to recognize.

21 First of all we have three former Chairmen,
22 Nils Diaz, Dale Klein and Richard Meserve who are
23 attending. Four former Commissioners, George
24 Apostolakis, Jeff Merrifield, Pete Lyons and Bill
25 Magwood, and the President and CEO of INPO, Bob Willard

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1 are here as special guests.

2 And it's also great to see so many ex-NRC
3 employees. It's like a high school reunion to walk
4 around and catch up with a lot of the NRC managers and
5 staff that have moved onto other things since leaving
6 the Agency.

7 So I'd like to spend a few minutes right
8 now talking about the program for this week. This
9 year's conference features several distinguished
10 speakers. To open the RIC we'll hear a keynote address
11 from our newly appointed Chairman Stephen Burns.
12 Followed by remarks from the NRC's Executive Director
13 for Operations, Mark Satorius.

14 Later this morning, you will also have the
15 opportunity to hear from Commissioner Christine
16 Svinicki and William Ostendorff. And on Wednesday
17 morning, you will hear from our newest Commissioner,
18 Jeffrey Baran.

19 This year the technical program consists
20 of 37 technical sessions on a variety of topics
21 including significant domestic and international
22 issues associated with operating reactors, new and
23 advanced reactors, fuel cycle facilities, spent fuel,
24 nuclear safety research and safety culture policies.

25 Of particular note this year we are

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1 featuring two technical sessions Wednesday afternoon
2 that are sure to peek your interest. The first is
3 entitled Implementation of Lessons Learned from the
4 Fukushima Daiichi Accident. The discussion which will
5 be led by senior regulators from Canada, China, France,
6 Japan and the United States, will focus on the status
7 of regulatory actions being taken to improve nuclear
8 power plant safety as a result of the Fukushima Daiichi
9 accident.

10 And if that is not enough to pique your
11 interest, I will be moderating that session. So that's
12 even more exciting.

13 The second session of note is entitled
14 Regulatory Agility in the New Millennium. In this
15 session the panelists will share insights and
16 strategies for improving the regulator's approach to
17 accomplishing safety and security regulation in a
18 rapidly changing environment.

19 Both of these sessions will take place on
20 Wednesday afternoon in saloons A and D, which is up on
21 this floor.

22 On Wednesday morning, we feature the
23 popular regional session, which will cover
24 contemporary issues involving nuclear power plant
25 operations and regulation across the United States.

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1 The panelists include the Regional Administrators from
2 all four NRC regions as well as two Chief Nuclear
3 Officers representing industry's perspectives.

4 It promises to be a session with
5 interesting and engaging dialog. Which I can
6 certainly validate, given the fact that I was part of
7 that session for the past four years.

8 Back by popular demand is the lunchtime
9 workshop entitled ADAMS at Work, Understanding the
10 Public Version of the NRC's Agency Document Repository
11 or ADAMS. The workshop will be held Wednesday from
12 12:15 p.m. to 1:15 p.m. in the Brookside meeting room.
13 Seating is first come, first served, so make sure you
14 grab your lunch and go.

15 And this year the RIC is featuring 24
16 technical posters and tabletop exhibits on display
17 throughout the conference space. Each morning and
18 during all breaks and over lunch, the subject matter
19 experts are present to engage in discussions relevant
20 to their area of expertise. So I encourage you to
21 please check those out.

22 A tradition for the RIC are the tours of
23 the NRC's Operation Center. Due to the demand, we have
24 added an additional tour to the program. So be sure
25 to stop by the registration service desk on the lower

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1 level of the conference center, to check on
2 availability and registration information.

3 Now for a few things this year that are new.
4 Safety and security are paramount to the NRC. And this
5 holds true for the participants here today. Last year
6 we implemented security bag checks, which we will
7 continue this year.

8 In addition, we have introduced emergency
9 contact cards, which were given to you as you picked
10 up your name badge during registration. Although
11 completion of the information is purely voluntarily,
12 it would be very helpful to have this information in
13 the event of an emergency. If you choose to provide
14 information requested on the emergency card, please
15 keep it in your badge behind your name badge.

16 And as the world advances in the area of
17 information technology and social media, so does the
18 RIC. The NRC is unveiling a new video produced by our
19 Office of Public Affairs, entitled NRC and Your
20 Community. It is an excellent video. So please take
21 a moment to view the video at your leisure.

22 The NRC is also enhancing its social media
23 presence by conducting realtime tweeting during the
24 RIC. NRC staff will tweet notable messages from the
25 plenary sessions and selected technical sessions

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1 during the conference. The tweets will be displayed
2 on the overflow monitors along with the NRC factoids
3 and the NRC in Your Community Video.

4 So please excuse me for a moment while I
5 do the first tweet. Send. Okay, done.

6 All right, so some general information.
7 For a handful of public service announcements I'm going
8 to provide you, based on registration information, a
9 number of the session rooms will be at capacity for
10 seating. We encourage you to make your way to the
11 session rooms early as sessions will fill up. And they
12 fill up on a first come, first served basis.

13 We have volunteers who will assist with
14 seating to ensure that all the seats are filled. Once
15 the rooms are filled to capacity however, participants
16 will be directed to attend other sessions. And this
17 is in accordance with fire marshal regulations.

18 At the conclusion of each session, we
19 request that participants exit the session room
20 promptly and engage in networking with colleagues
21 outside of the session room. So that room changes can
22 be executed quickly and efficiently.

23 In our continuing effort to go green, we
24 are providing quick response codes for participants to
25 electronically access conference information such as

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1 the program agenda, speaker bios and presentations,
2 poster and tabletop information, organization charts
3 and evaluation feedback forms. The RIC mobile agenda
4 is also accessible by QR code. Boards listing the QR
5 codes are sprinkled throughout the conference space for
6 your use.

7 And the NRC strives to bring you the best
8 possible conference experience and your feedback is
9 important to continually improve the conference.
10 Please take advantage of the walk-up kiosk to provide
11 your feedback while you are here at the conference. Or
12 by completing the participant survey which will be
13 emailed to you directly following the conclusion of the
14 conference.

15 So several housekeeping notes. All of our
16 sessions will be audio recorded. The recordings will
17 be available on the RIC website following the
18 conclusion of the conference. We ask that you please
19 silence all electronic devices while sessions are in
20 progress. Remember to visibly display your name badge
21 throughout the duration of your conference.

22 Security onsite is being provided by
23 Montgomery County Police. And we thank them for their
24 service and their support for the conference. Report
25 any suspicious activity to the security staff or to the

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1 registration service desk staff.

2 Be aware of the fire exits in the rooms,
3 which are located at the sides and the back of all the
4 rooms that you'll be in for the sessions. And in case
5 of a fire, please proceed calmly to the nearest
6 emergency exit and await further instruction.

7 I do have one correction I want to make to
8 the program. And if you look at my bio on page four,
9 it indicates I have six grandchildren. But between the
10 time that this conference the program went to print and
11 the conference, I have had my seventh grandchild. So
12 please make the pen and ink change to my bio so you have
13 an accurate program.

14 (Applause and laughter)

15 MR. DEAN: This morning we started at 8:30
16 promptly. I just want everybody to be aware, tomorrow
17 morning we start at 9:15. So we have a little bit
18 sligher -- slightly later start time tomorrow.

19 And lastly, I want to offer my personal
20 thanks to all the people who have and will be involved
21 in making the RIC experience a positive one for you.
22 It literally takes a village to pull this off.

23 First off, I want to thank the Office of
24 Administration which has given us support in areas of
25 security, printing, posters and a teaming up with the

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1 PAV contractor on all the audio/visual work. Two other
2 prime contractors, the Lead Management consultants who
3 are doing the logistics and Synergy Enterprises,
4 Incorporated who are doing the IT services.

5 And I particularly want to thank Bren
6 Warren and Lorna Kipfer of my staff, who are the prime
7 RIC coordinators for the Agency. They get to take this
8 Friday off. And then they begin work Monday on the 2016
9 RIC. So please give all of these individuals a round
10 of applause.

11 (Applause)

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