



NRC NEWS

U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

Office of Public Affairs

Telephone: 301/415-8200

Washington, D.C. 20555-0001

E-mail: opa.resource@nrc.gov Site: www.nrc.gov

Blog: <http://public-blog.nrc-gateway.gov>

No. 11-100

June 9, 2011

NRC LAUNCHES PLAIN WRITING SECTION ON WEBSITE

The NRC has launched a Plain Writing section of its public [website](#) that identifies the agency's plan for writing key documents, including all new publications, forms, and publicly distributed documents, in a clear, concise, organized manner that is understandable by the public. The new Web page will explain to the public what the agency is doing to improve the clarity and coherence of its documents.

The Web page complies with the [Plain Writing Act of 2010](#), which directs federal agencies to adopt clear communication that the public can understand and use. More specifically, writing should be clear, concise, simple, meaningful, and well-organized. It should avoid jargon, redundancy, ambiguity, and obscurity. Our Plain Writing Action Plan will be available July 13 on our website.

“At the NRC, we view our work as the public's business. Transparency is one of the agency's guiding regulatory principles,” said NRC Chairman Gregory B. Jaczko. “While we are careful about security and the protection of proprietary information, we strive to be open and clear in all our communications. As a technical agency, we sometimes need to use precise scientific terminology. But whenever possible, we encourage our staff to write in clear, jargon-free English.”

According to the Act, federal agencies are required to use plain language in any document that:

- is necessary for obtaining any federal government benefit or service or filing taxes,
- provides information about a federal government benefit or service, or
- explains to the public how to comply with a requirement that the federal government administers or enforces.

We plan to use plain writing in the documents most often read by the general public, such as reactor and fuel cycle facility performance assessments, inspection reports, environmental impact statements, significant enforcement actions, and meeting notices. In addition, Darren Ash, Deputy Executive Director for Corporate Management, has been designated as the Senior Agency Official for Plain Writing who is responsible for NRC's implementation of the Act and Mindy Landau is the Plain Writing contact who is reachable from our website.

###

News releases are available through a free *listserv* subscription at the following Web address: <http://www.nrc.gov/public-involve/listserver.html>. The NRC homepage at www.nrc.gov also offers a SUBSCRIBE link. E-mail notifications are sent to subscribers when news releases are posted to NRC's website.