

No: 14-021

March 25, 2014

CONTACT: David McIntyre, 301-415-8200

NRC Chairman Macfarlane Presents U.S. National Report to IAEA's Convention on Nuclear Safety

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission Chairman Allison Macfarlane on Tuesday presented the United States' Sixth National Report for the Convention on Nuclear Safety to member countries of the International Atomic Energy Agency in Vienna, Austria.

Macfarlane spoke and took questions from other delegates in a closed-door session that concluded an international peer review of the U.S. report, which was published last October. The sixth review meeting of the Convention on Nuclear Safety is scheduled to conclude April 4.

"This peer review process is a critical part of the international community's efforts to share experience, learn lessons, and strengthen global nuclear safety," Macfarlane said in her remarks. She was joined by Mark Satorius, NRC's executive director for operations, and Robert Willard, president and chief executive officer of the Institute for Nuclear Power Operations, who presented an industry perspective on U.S. nuclear safety.

Countries that are parties to the convention meet every three years to discuss their reports. The U.S. report demonstrates how the United States implements a high level of nuclear safety by enhancing national measures and international cooperation, and by meeting the obligations of all the articles established by the convention. These articles address the safety of existing nuclear installations, the legislative and regulatory framework, the regulatory body, responsibilities of licensees, human factors, quality assurance, radiation protection, emergency preparedness, siting, design and construction, among other issues.

The report discusses the status of safety issues raised in the Fifth U.S. National Report, including reactor materials degradation, cyber security, digital upgrades to instrumentation and control, moisture effects on underground cables, using accident pressure buildup to maintain emergency core cooling functions, gas bubbles in light-water reactor coolant systems, enhancement to emergency preparedness regulations, as well as the NRC's ongoing efforts to address lessons learned from Fukushima.

The report ([NUREG-1650, Revision 5](#)) is available on the NRC website.

In addition to the peer review of the U.S. report, the NRC received high marks earlier this year from an IAEA Integrated Regulatory Review Service team, which assessed the U.S. regulatory infrastructure against international safety standards and good practices. The IRRS team concluded that the NRC "acted promptly and effectively ... in the interests of the public health and safety" in response to the March 2011 Fukushima nuclear accident in Japan.