



NRC NEWS

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REMARKS OF NRC CHAIRMAN GREGORY B. JACZKO AT COMMISSION MEETING ON REACTOR CONTAINMENT SUMP PERFORMANCE

Good afternoon. The Commission meets today to discuss how to achieve closure on Generic Safety Issue-191 (GSI-191) – a long-standing safety issue regarding sump performance. The Commission last met to discuss this issue in April. From that meeting, the Commission asked the staff to provide a policy paper laying out several options on how to move forward towards resolving this issue. With the staff’s high-quality work on the paper, the independent and informative input from the Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards, and the time we’ve had over the last few months to examine the questions around this issue, the Commission is now in a strong position to establish a clear strategy for closing out GSI-191.

As you know, the agency has been grappling with this issue for quite some time now. As the ACRS very colorfully described in its comments on the staff paper, the “Resolution of GSI-191 has proven to be a Herculean task – hydra-like in that whenever an issue was thought to be closed, two more emerged.” This is an example of the quintessential safety issues that are at the heart of our mission. It is critical that the Commission provide clear direction to the staff on how to resolve this issue in a timely manner.

Note: Briefing slides for this meeting are available at <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/commission/slides/2010/20100929/>. A full transcript of the meeting will be available soon at <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/commission/tr/2010/>.

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