



# NRC NEWS

**U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION**

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## **NRC WELCOMES TEAM OF INTERNATIONAL REGULATORS FOR 2-WEEK VISIT**

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission is hosting an international group of 19 senior nuclear regulators as part of the Integrated Regulatory Review Service (IRRS), an International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) program that assesses a country's regulatory infrastructure against international safety standards and good practices. The NRC's IRRS mission will focus on technical and policy issues regarding the agency's oversight of operating U.S. nuclear power plants.

"We look forward to demonstrating the NRC's strong commitment to nuclear safety and sharing our approach with our international counterparts," said NRC Chairman Gregory B. Jaczko. "We asked the IAEA for this IRRS mission. When the team's report is complete our senior managers will review the team's conclusions and determine what actions the NRC should take."

Jukka Laaksonen, Director General of Finland's Radiation and Nuclear Safety Authority, will lead the IRRS team during its visit from Oct. 18-29; his deputy is Kuniyisa Soda, Senior Advisor at the Japan Atomic Energy Agency. The remainder of the team is comprised of senior members of nuclear safety agencies in North America, Europe and Asia. The team will be accompanied by three observers.

As the host regulator, the NRC has spent approximately two years preparing for the IRRS visit, including assembling a detailed self-assessment of 12 subject areas covering U.S. nuclear reactor safety regulations and their relationship to IAEA safety standards. The IRRS mission team will provide an independent peer review of the self-assessment by interviewing NRC staff, examining documents and observing inspection activities. The team will draft a report outlining its observations and recommendations at the conclusion of the visit, and the report's final version will be made public in a few months.

The IAEA has conducted IRRS missions in several countries, including Romania, the United Kingdom, France, Australia, Japan, Mexico and Canada. The NRC's IRRS efforts are outlined on the NRC web site at: <http://www.nrc.gov/public-involve/conference-symposia/irrs->

[mission-review.html](#) . More information on the IRRS program is available on the IAEA web site at: <http://www-ns.iaea.org/reviews/rs-reviews.htm> .

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