



NRC NEWS

U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

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OPENING REMARKS OF NRC CHAIRMAN GREGORY B. JACZKO AT TODAY'S COMMISSION MEETING TO DISCUSS THE IMPLEMENTATION OF PART 26'S FATIGUE MANAGEMENT REQUIREMENTS

Good morning. The Commission meets today to discuss the implementation of Part 26's fatigue management requirements.

The agency and our stakeholders expended tremendous efforts in the rulemaking that culminated in these new requirements. Those efforts spanned more than a decade, and drew upon extensive research and stakeholder input. Now that we are well into implementation, it's clear that this rule is achieving its intended aim of reducing fatigue and improving safety. While we may hear criticisms of this rule today – that it can be difficult to implement – no one as far as I'm aware will argue that plants are less safe because of this rule. If there are these types of concerns about these requirements, I certainly hope that they will be raised during today's meeting.

Given all the work that went into the development of this regulation, we should be cautious in considering potential changes in this area. If there are ideas about how to make the rule easier to implement while reaching the same safety goals, that is something we should explore. The agency, however, should be judicious in its use of enforcement discretion and other tools that would upend rules that are built upon years of hard work and extensive stakeholder input. I look forward to a productive discussion today.

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