



NRC NEWS

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NRC ANNOUNCES AVAILABILITY OF THE IAEA'S INTEGRATED REGULATORY REVIEW SERVICE FINAL REPORT ON NRC NUCLEAR REACTOR PROGRAM

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission has received a final report on the agency's operating reactor program evaluated by a team of experts organized by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). The IAEA Integrated Regulatory Review Service (IRRS) team assessed the U.S. regulatory infrastructure against international safety standards and good practices. Results indicate that the NRC has a well-established national policy and strategy for nuclear safety. The report also has recommendations and suggestions for improvement that NRC will review and will then determine what actions the agency should take. Within approximately 24 months, the IAEA will send a follow-up IRRS team to review the NRC's actions.

"The IRRS report confirms our strong approach to ensuring the safety of nuclear power plants in the United States," said NRC Chairman Gregory B. Jaczko. "This report is the culmination of several years of work by our staff and the IRRS team who conducted the evaluation. The team's positive findings about our safety program are gratifying and their suggestions for additional improvements are informative and will be carefully considered. I am proud of the NRC staff's support of this important IRRS mission and their ongoing commitment to making us the strongest and most effective regulator possible."

The final IRRS report and the NRC's IRRS activities are outlined and available on the NRC website at <http://www.nrc.gov/public-involve/conference-symposia/irrs-mission-review.html>.

The review process began in 2007 when the NRC requested this regulatory peer review to demonstrate its strong commitment to nuclear safety, continuous improvement, critical self-assessment and information-sharing with the international community. The review is carried out in three phases: 1) a self assessment (conducted in 2007 and 2009); 2) a peer review onsite (October 17–29, 2010); and 3) a follow-up peer review (18-24 months following the peer review).

As the host regulator, the NRC began phase two in October 2010 by providing to the IRRS team a detailed self-assessment of 10 core subject areas covering U.S. nuclear reactor safety regulations and their relationship to IAEA safety standards. The IRRS team provided an independent peer review of the self-assessment, interviewed NRC staff, examined documents and observed NRC inspectors conducting inspection activities. The team drafted a report

outlining its observations and recommendations at the conclusion of the visit, and provided the final report this month.

The IAEA has conducted IRRS missions in several countries, including Romania, United Kingdom, France, Australia, Japan, Mexico and Canada. More information on the IRRS program is available on the IAEA website at: <http://www-ns.iaea.org/reviews/rs-reviews.htm>.

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