

U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Office of Public Affairs, Region IV  
Walnut Creek Field Office  
1450 Maria Lane, Walnut Creek, CA 94596-5378

CONTACT: Mark Hammond  
Office: (510) 975-0254  
Home: (415) 674-1024  
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NRC CHAIRMAN JACKSON AND INTERNATIONAL NUCLEAR REGULATORS  
SCHEDULE NEWS CONFERENCE IN WALNUT CREEK

Dr. Shirley Ann Jackson, Chairman of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, will hold a news conference this week in Walnut Creek, California, during a meeting of top officials of the nuclear regulatory agencies of Canada, France, Germany, Japan, Spain, Sweden, the United Kingdom and the United States.

The news conference will be at 5:15 p.m. Thursday, January 8, at the NRC's Region IV Field Office in Walnut Creek. The NRC office is located at 1450 Maria Lane, in the Creekside Oaks office park, off Newell Avenue between Broadway and South Main Street in downtown Walnut Creek. Chairman Jackson will make some brief introductory remarks, and then will be available, along with the other INRA members, for questions from the media.

The news conference will take place on the first day of a meeting of the International Nuclear Regulators Association (INRA). The Association was created in May 1997 in an effort to enhance international cooperation and communications of a high policy level among nuclear regulators, and thereby improve nuclear safety and the regulation of nuclear reactors and materials worldwide. Dr. Jackson is the INRA Chairman.

Besides the meeting at the NRC's Walnut Creek office, officials will also visit two U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) facilities: the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory in Livermore, California, and Yucca Mountain in Nevada, the site northwest of Las Vegas being evaluated for its suitability by DOE as a permanent geologic repository for the spent fuel generated in U.S. commercial nuclear reactors. NRC would be the licensing agency for the repository and has been monitoring DOE's studies at Yucca Mountain. NRC has begun identifying key technical issues associated with the licensing of a geologic repository at that site.

During the meeting, top regulators will continue discussions, begun at the INRA's inaugural meeting last May in Paris, on national trends in electric generation and their effect on nuclear safety. It will also focus on how national regulatory approaches impact nuclear safety and the identification of key elements in nuclear safety regulation worldwide.

The INRA meets twice a year. Besides Dr. Jackson, INRA members are:

**Canada**--Dr. Agnes Bishop, President and Chief Executive Officer, Atomic Energy Control Board.

**France**--Andre-Claude Lacoste, Director, Directorate for the Safety of Nuclear Installations.

**Germany**--Gerald Hennenhofer, Director-General for Nuclear Safety, Federal Ministry for Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety

**Japan**--Yasumasa Togo, Chairman, Nuclear Safety Commission Tomihiro Taniguchi, Deputy Director-General, Ministry of International Trade and Industry

**Spain**--Dr. Juan Manuel Kindelan, President, Council for Nuclear Safety

**Sweden**--Lars Hogberg, Director-General, Nuclear Power Inspectorate

**United Kingdom**--Dr. Sam A. Harbison, Director and Chief Inspector, Nuclear Installations Inspectorate, Health and Safety Executive

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