



# Commission Briefing on International Activities

January 23, 2024

Office of the Executive Director for Operations

Office of International Programs

U.S. Department of State

# Overview

- How we are implementing the NRC's International Strategy:
  - Excel
  - Integrate
  - Partner
  - Lead
  - Assist
- FY23 Accomplishments and FY24 priorities across the international program



# The NRC's International Strategy



**Excel:** Maintain excellence in executing the NRC's statutorily-mandated activities effectively and efficiently.



**Integrate:** Ensure that NRC activities are integrated with broader U.S. Government national security and foreign policy priorities.



**Partner:** Build and maintain strategic partnerships in specific regions of the world that are of strategic importance to the U.S. Government and will enable the agency to learn from its counterparts to advance its domestic activities.

# The NRC's International Strategy

(cont.)



**Lead:** Demonstrate leadership in the international regulatory community through involvement in key bilateral and multilateral fora in which the NRC is advanced in its thinking or progress and in areas of strategic importance to the U.S. Government.



**Assist:** Provide assistance to countries to develop or strengthen their regulatory programs.

A low-angle, upward-looking photograph of a large number of international flags flying from tall poles. The flags are arranged in a diagonal line across the frame, creating a sense of height and scale. The background is a modern building with a grid of windows, which is slightly out of focus. The overall lighting is bright, suggesting a clear day.

# Strategic Objective 1: EXCEL



# Conventions and Treaties

- Convention on Nuclear Safety Review Meeting
- Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty Preparatory Committee Meeting
- Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material and its Amendment – Ongoing Universalization Efforts
- Code of Conduct on the Safety and Security of Radioactive Sources – 20th Anniversary
- Joint Convention National Report
- Implementation of U.S.-IAEA Safeguards Agreement
- Convention on Early Notification of a Nuclear Accident
- Convention on Assistance in the Case of a Nuclear Accident or Radiological Emergency

# Export/Import Licensing

- Section 123 Agreement negotiations
- Advanced Reactor Rulemaking activities
- Participation on U.S. delegation to Nuclear Suppliers' Group
- Development of public training course
- Bilateral physical protection assessment visits
- Continued interoffice and interagency engagement



(Credit: *World Nuclear News* 11/17/23)



Strategic Objective 2:  
INTEGRATE



A low-angle, upward-looking photograph of a large number of international flags flying from tall poles. The flags are set against the backdrop of a modern, multi-story building with a grid of windows. The perspective creates a sense of height and grandeur. The text 'Strategic Objective 3: PARTNER' is overlaid in white, bold, sans-serif font in the center of the image.

Strategic Objective 3:  
PARTNER

# NRC International Partnerships



- Bilateral Steering Committees and Technical Exchanges
- Computer code sharing programs
- Fusion engagement with Canada and the UK
- Multilateral cooperation on aging management
- International gender balance activities

# Small Modular Reactor Partnership with Canada

- Mutual Benefits:
  - Maximize design standardization, gain efficiencies, leverage regulatory experience
- Recent accomplishments: Joint Reports
- Current Projects:
  - BWRX-300 collaborative reviews
  - Safety classification
  - Engaging communities for EP for SMRs in bilateral interactions
- New Projects for 2024:
  - Westinghouse eVinci joint review
  - Operator licensing joint report

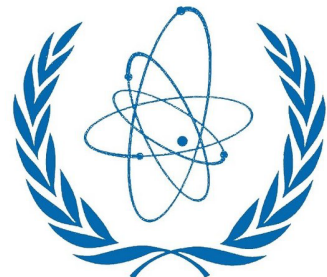


A low-angle, upward-looking photograph of a large number of international flags flying from tall poles. The flags are set against the backdrop of a modern, multi-story glass skyscraper with a grid-like window pattern. The perspective creates a sense of height and scale. The text 'Strategic Objective 4: LEAD' is overlaid in white, centered on the image.

# Strategic Objective 4: LEAD

# Multilateral NRC Leadership

- Leadership on IAEA and NEA Committees and Working Groups
- Peer review missions
- Nuclear Security – preparation for ICONS 2024
- Multilateral nuclear safety research projects
- Nuclear safety research on artificial intelligence with Canada, UK



IAEA



NEA

NUCLEAR ENERGY AGENCY



# IAEA Nuclear Harmonisation and Standardisation Initiative (NHSI)

- Regulatory Track Working Groups FY23 accomplishments:
  - WG1: Information-sharing needs for regulatory reviews
  - WG2: Conducting multinational pre-licensing reviews to support national licensing
  - WG3: Regulatory engagement during ongoing reviews
- FY24 priorities:
  - Focus on enhanced engagement between Regulatory Track and Industry Track working groups
- Beyond 2024:
  - Stakeholder engagement activities, possible pilot multinational pre-licensing review



# Strategic Objective 5: ASSIST

# Assistance to Poland

- Continued significant engagement as Poland prepares to construct three AP1000 units, including:
  - Hosted multiple technical exchanges and site visits virtually and in the United States
  - Multi-week NRC executive-level consultations with Polish regulatory leaders
  - Hosting additional Polish assignees at the NRC on multi-month personnel exchanges
  - Expanded engagement on safety culture







# Nuclear Materials and Other Assistance

- Continued and expanded decades-long support for national radioactive source inventory development, including:
  - Three radioactive source inventory phases completed in African partner countries (FY23)
  - Completion of two additional radioactive source inventories in Africa and Central Asia (FY24 to date)
- Conducted workshops on the Physical Protection of Radioactive Sources
- Meeting increased demand for licensing and inspecting nuclear medicine through engagement with the IAEA and numerous partners in Latin America and Africa
- Continued assistance to Ukraine

# Sustaining Excellence and Agility in the NRC's International Activities

- How We Prioritize:
  - What are we required by law to do?
  - Benefits to domestic mission
  - Executive Branch coordination
  - Regulatory "readiness" for assistance
- How We Maximize Value:
  - What will we learn in the short term?
  - What impact will our leadership have?
- How We Maintain Flexibility:
  - How can we continue high-priority work in face of emergent global situations?





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**thank you**

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