NRC NEWS

U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

Office of Public Affairs Telephone: 301/415-8200

Washington, DC 20555-001 E-mail: opa@nrc.gov

Web Site: http://www.nrc.gov/OPA

No. 05-039 March 1, 2005

NRC EXPECTS STRONG ATTENDANCE AT 17TH ANNUAL REGULATORY INFORMATION CONFERENCE

More than 1,200 people, a record for pre-registration, are expected to attend the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's Regulatory Information Conference (RIC), March 8-10, at the Marriott Bethesda North, 5701 Marinelli Road, Rockville, Md. Attendees will include representatives from Canada, France, Japan, the Republic of Korea and more than 20 other foreign countries, a record level of overseas participation at the conference. Also expected are professional staff members from the U.S. Congress.

The agency will mark a number of important events during this conference, including:

- The first public presentations by the newest Nuclear Regulatory Commission members, Gregory Jaczko and Peter Lyons, who will address the RIC on March 9. NRC Chairman Nils Diaz, Commissioners Edward McGaffigan and Jeffrey Merrifield and other senior agency officials will also speak at the conference;

- The RIC's return to Rockville, after several years in downtown Washington, D.C.; and

- The beginning of the integration of the RIC with the former Nuclear Safety Research Conference, which had been run by the NRC's Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research.

The conference is free, onsite registration will be provided and the sessions will be open to the public. The conference brings together NRC managers, regulated utilities and other interested stakeholders to meet and discuss nuclear safety initiatives and regulatory trends. Topics at this year's conference include licensing new nuclear power plants, emergency preparedness and fire protection.

The conference agenda is available on the NRC's Web site at this address: http://www.nrc.gov/public-involve/conference-symposia/ric/.

###