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NRC Issues Seventh U.S. National Report for Convention on Nuclear Safety

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission has published its [Seventh National Report for the Convention on Nuclear Safety](#), describing the U.S. government's actions under the convention to achieve and maintain a high level of safety for its nuclear power plants.

The convention entered into force in 1996 and was ratified by the U.S. Senate in 1999. It establishes legally binding obligations for signatory states regarding national regulation and safety at commercial nuclear power facilities.

The report demonstrates how the United States implements a high level of nuclear safety by enhancing national measures and international cooperation, and by meeting the obligations of all the articles established by the convention. Countries that are parties to the convention meet every three years to discuss their reports. The NRC has submitted its report for peer review by other countries. NRC officials will discuss the report and respond to peer review questions at the seventh review meeting of the CNS at the International Atomic Energy Agency headquarters in Vienna, Austria, in March 2017.

This report addresses issues identified through the peer review conducted during the sixth review meeting in 2014, as well as challenges and issues that have arisen since that time. The sixth review meeting identified the following six U.S. challenges:

- Fukushima-related activities
- Transition to risk-informed fire protection regulations
- Ensuring continuity during the oversight transition from plant construction to operation
- Nuclear industry strategy
- Report on status of periodic safety reviews pilot program
- Status of NRC's work on subsequent license renewal for plant operation beyond 60 years

Some of the additional challenges discussed in the report include:

- Digital instrumentation and control systems

- Open-phase conditions in electric power systems
- Spent fuel pool neutron-absorbing materials
- Plant transition from operation to decommissioning status

The report includes a section developed by the Institute of Nuclear Power Operations describing the U.S. industry's work to ensure safety. INPO officials will also be part of the U.S. delegation to the convention review meeting.