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## Actions in Response to the Japan Nuclear Accident

The NRC continues to evaluate and act on the lessons learned from the March 2011 nuclear accident in Japan to ensure that appropriate safety enhancements are implemented at nuclear power plants here in the U.S. In accordance with Commission direction, the NRC's activities are being led by a steering committee comprised of senior NRC management. Additionally, the NRC established the Japan Lessons Learned Project Directorate, a group of over 20 full-time employees focused exclusively on implementing the lessons learned.

On March 12, 2012, the NRC issued the first regulatory requirements for the nation's 104 operating reactors based on the lessons-learned at Fukushima Daiichi. The NRC issued three orders requiring safety enhancements of operating reactors, construction permit holders, and combined license holders. These orders require nuclear power plants to implement safety enhancements related to (1) mitigation strategies to respond to extreme natural events resulting in the loss of power at plants, (2) ensuring reliable hardened containment vents, and (3) enhancing spent fuel pool instrumentation. The plants are required to promptly begin implementation of the safety enhancements and complete implementation within two refueling outages or by December 31, 2016, whichever comes first. In addition, the NRC issued a request for information, requesting each reactor reevaluate the seismic and flooding hazards at their site using present-day methods and information, conduct walkdowns of their facilities to ensure protection against the hazards in their current design basis, and reevaluate their emergency communications systems and staffing levels.

The NRC staff provided the Commission with its technical and regulatory basis for issuing the orders and requests for information in a paper dated February 17, 2012 (see SECY-12-0025). The Commission approved issuance of the orders on March 9, 2012. (see SRM SECY-12-0025).

### NRC's Next Steps:

- The NRC has issued an advance notice of proposed rulemaking for station blackout regulatory actions (*Recommendation 4.1*). The public comment period is open until May 4, 2012 and the NRC will evaluate all public comments after this date.
- Within approximately the next month, the NRC anticipates issuing an advanced notice of proposed rulemaking on strengthening and integration of emergency operating procedures, severe accident management guidelines, and extensive damage mitigation guidelines (*Recommendation 8*)
- Develop implementation guidance through engagement of stakeholders in a series of public meetings on each of the orders and requests for information. At the end of this process, the NRC will issue implementation guidance in August 2012 for each of the orders so that nuclear power plants can develop integrated plans to achieve compliance.
- In July 2012, the staff plans to provide the Commission with a paper outlining its proposed actions on the remaining "Tier 2" and "Tier 3" recommendations.

For upcoming public meetings related to the Japan response and others, please see our Public Meeting Schedule.

See the following for more information on NRC Actions:

- Recommendations for Enhancing Safety

*The staff has prioritized and expanded upon the recommendations of NRC's Near Term Task Force (See SECY-11-0137). The staff continues to make additions and modifications, as appropriate.*

- *» Tier 1 Recommendations*

- *» Tier 2 Recommendations*

- *» Tier 3 Recommendations*

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