



**UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001**

March 2, 2023

ALL AGREEMENT AND NON-AGREEMENT STATES STATE LIAISON OFFICERS

ANNOUNCEMENT OF JUNE 7-8, 2023, STATE LIAISON OFFICER CONFERENCE
(STC-23-011)

Purpose: To notify all States of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) intent to hold an in-person State Liaison Officer (SLO) conference in Rockville, MD, on June 7-8, 2023.

Background: The last in-person SLO conference was held in 2019, and the COVID-19 pandemic prevented an in-person conference on the normal biennial schedule in 2021. A successful virtual conference was held in March 2022. NRC staff coordinated with States on schedule options and sent out “save-the-date” messages regarding holding an SLO conference in June 2023. In consideration of workload priorities and with a desire to return to a biennial schedule after the 2022 virtual conference, the NRC initially decided to postpone the in-person conference. This decision was communicated in an email to the SLO distribution on February 17, 2023. Considering State feedback, the decision is now being reversed.

Discussion: We apologize for the abrupt and incompletely explained postponement of the SLO conference. We underestimated the value of holding a near-term, in-person SLO conference, as well as the level of interest already arisen in the June 2023 event based on prior communications. Our intent was never to reduce communications with States—essential regulatory partners whose views we benefit from daily—but to leverage other communication opportunities such as regional and national conferences while we returned to a predictable planning schedule. In that spirit, we should have engaged the States before making this decision, and we regret this omission.

Since our email from February 17, 2023, we have received multiple communications from States expressing disappointment with our approach. We appreciate the prompt and clear communication of these concerns. This led us to hold a call on March 2, 2023, to directly hear feedback. Approximately thirty-four States and territories were able to participate in the meeting. There was strong agreement among the group that an in-person conference was very important to relationship-building and should be held as soon as possible, with virtual as a substitute if an in-person conference could not be held in 2023. In consideration of this feedback, we have reprioritized activities and are now able to hold the SLO conference, as planned, on June 7-8 at NRC Headquarters. A virtual option will be available for those who are unable to travel to NRC Headquarters.

We look forward to coordinating with you as we plan this important conference. We expect an exciting agenda that reflects the evolution of nuclear regulation across the United States, including new ways to ensure the safety and security of advanced reactors, fusion technology, radioactive sources, reactor decommissioning, and emerging medical technologies. We welcome the conversations with you, our State partners, that will occur at this in-person event, contributing to the shared knowledge and success of our programs.

If you have any questions regarding this correspondence, please contact the individual named below:

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Signed by Clark, Theresa
on 03/02/23

Theresa Valentine Clark, Deputy Director
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STC-23-011 State Liaison Officer Conference-June 7-8, 2023 DATE March 2, 2023

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