

Commissioner David A. Wright's Opening Statement

June 14, 2023

House Energy and Commerce - Subcommittee on Energy, Climate, and Grid
Security

Chairman Duncan, Ranking Member DeGette, and honorable members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to appear before you today.

I would like to start by thanking my colleagues on the Commission and their staffs for being willing to work together on important issues before us, such as small modular reactors, advanced fuels, cleanup of legacy uranium mines, and spent fuel storage, just to name a few. I'm also grateful for the NRC staff, who are truly some of the smartest and most talented people that I've ever been around. As I've said before, they do an outstanding job of monitoring the day-to-day safety of our nuclear facilities, and I want to take this moment to acknowledge them.

This is an exciting time for the Commission. The policy decisions that we have in front of us will play a pivotal role in shaping the energy future of this country, as well as beyond our borders, and I'm honored to be a part of that process.

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As I mentioned to you all the last time I was here, we know what success at the NRC looks like. Success means that we enable the safe use of nuclear technology, we don't disable it. It means that we continue to accomplish our mission of reasonable assurance of adequate protection of public health and safety and to promote the common defense and security and to protect the environment. The challenge is deciding how to reach that goal in the most effective, efficient, and reliable way. I believe the NRC is up to the challenge. By working together, the five of us can help meet this moment—this unique and special opportunity in time—and through our work, do our part to help provide energy security, energy resilience, grid security, and national security, not just here in the United States but for our allies around the world.

Thank you for the opportunity to be here and I look forward to your questions.