Joint Statement on the Results of the Nuclear Energy and Nuclear Security Working Group Meeting

The third meeting of the Nuclear Energy and Nuclear Security Working Group under the U.S.-Russia Bilateral Presidential Commission (Poneman-Kirienko working group) took place on December 6-7, 2010. The main focus of the meeting was implementation of the Joint Statement on Nuclear Cooperation, which was issued as a result of the U.S.-Russia Presidential Summit on July 6, 2009.

The parties noted that the following results were achieved after the second meeting of the working group:

- The Protocol to Amend the Government-to-Government Agreement on Plutonium Management and Disposition designated as no longer required for defense purposes and related cooperation was signed;
- The last Russian weapons-grade plutonium production reactor in the city of Zheleznogorsk was shut down;
- An Implementing Agreement between Rosatom State Corporation and the U.S. Department of Energy on feasibility studies of conversion of six Russian research reactors from highly enriched uranium (HEU) to low enriched uranium (LEU) was signed;
- The United States welcomed and supported the Agreement between the Government of the Russian Federation and the IAEA on establishment of a guaranteed reserve of nuclear fuel for IAEA member-states;
- The Russian Federation welcomed and supported the proposal the United States put forward on the establishment of an IAEA fuel bank and welcomed its approval on December 3, 2010;
- The U.S. Department of Energy and the Rosatom State Corporation held additional exchanges on nuclear security best practices to ensure the sustainability of security systems and improve security practices to counter emerging threats.

The following concrete steps for the near term have been identified as a result of the Working Group meeting:

- Complete the nuclear security equipment installation at the rail transfer platform at the Mining and Chemical Combine;
- Continue return of the Russian origin fuel from Ukraine, Belarus and Germany;
- Continue return of U.S. origin fuel from Mexico and South Africa;
- Deliver LEU for research reactors in Ukraine, Kazakhstan and Vietnam;
- In order to fulfill the Implementing Agreement signed on December 7, 2010, begin work on six research reactor conversion feasibility studies and convene the first meeting of the Working Group within three months;

- Complete delivery and installation of stationary radiation detection equipment at all border crossing points in the Russian Federation slated for installation of such equipment;
- Develop a curriculum for training in Facility Systems of Accounting and Control as a complement to IAEA State Systems of Accounting and Control training; and provide training for technical experts and/or industry representatives in third countries in nuclear export controls and identification;
- Continue joint efforts bilaterally and with partners from other countries on the development of a new international framework for civil nuclear energy services focusing in 2011 on a joint study of various nuclear fuel cycle service options for countries that have decided to develop a national nuclear energy sector;
- In order to fulfill the Agreement between The Government of The United States of America and The Government of the Russian Federation Concerning Cooperation Regarding Plutonium Production Reactors, the Russian Party will continue to take the necessary steps to transition ADE-4, ADE-5, and ADE-2 reactors to a condition necessary to initiate long term monitoring provisions of the Plutonium Production Reactor Agreement;
- Ensure entry into force of the amended Plutonium Management and Disposition Agreement (PMDA) and associated liability provisions as soon as possible;
- Consider a set of milestones as envisioned by the amended PMDA with a view to reach an agreement by the end of February 2011.

The U.S. side confirmed its support for entry into force of the Agreement for Cooperation in the Field of Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy at the earliest possible date.

The parties believe that the proposed activities will give additional momentum to establishing long-term and large-scale cooperation between the United States and Russia in the areas of civil nuclear energy and nuclear security.

Daniel Poneman

Deputy Secretary of Energy

Sergey Kirienko Director General,

State Corporation "Rosatom"