Opening Remarks
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Good afternoon, my name is Joseph Klinger and I'm the Assistant Director for the Illinois Emergency Management Agency. I want to thank Sen. Durbin and Sen. Kirk for inviting me to participate in this important forum.

As you know, the state of Illinois does not regulate the 11 nuclear power reactors in Illinois; that authority belongs to the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission. However, the state has a vested interest and active role in ensuring the safety of the citizens who live and work near the 11 operating nuclear power reactors in Illinois. In fact, Illinois has the most comprehensive, state-of-the-art nuclear safety program in the nation and I'd like to take a few minutes to highlight these efforts.

A key component of our efforts to protect citizens near nuclear power plants is our Remote Monitoring System. The system consists of the Reactor Data Link; which provides round-the-clock information on more than 1,100 parameters inside the reactor; the Gaseous Effluent Monitoring System, which samples and analyzes releases through the stack; and the Gamma Detection Network, a series of radiation detectors that ring the plant in a two-mile radius. Data from each of these components is transmitted 24 hours a day, seven days a week to IEMA's Radiological Emergency Assessment Center, or REAC, in Springfield.

Another unique aspect of Illinois' nuclear facility safety efforts is our Resident Inspector Program, in which trained, professional state nuclear reactor operators are stationed at each of the six nuclear power stations. These Resident Inspectors report to their assigned plant each day, conducting independent inspections of critical safety equipment. Any issues identified during these inspections are reported to the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission. The Resident Inspectors also would play an important role during an accident at their assigned plant, acting as our "eyes and ears" at the plant and providing real-time information about activities occurring at the facility.

As I mentioned previously, data from the Remote Monitoring System is transmitted continuously to REAC. During an emergency, professional IEMA reactor analysts and health physicists in REAC analyze the information and develop protective action recommendations for the public.

REAC is part of IEMA's Radiological Task Force, which is the scientific arm of the state's coordinated response to nuclear incidents. This team is composed of health physicists,

reactor engineers, technicians and support staff, all trained to respond to any radiological emergency, including an incident at a nuclear power plants. The 120 members of the Radiological Task Force are staff members from IEMA's Division of Nuclear Safety, who deal with radiation safety issues every day as part of the regular job duties.

The state of Illinois also has a comprehensive emergency response plan for each of the six operating nuclear power plants. The plan, known as the Illinois Plan for Radiological Accidents or IPRA, details how response to incidents will be handled in accordance with federal regulations. Each nuclear power plant, as well as state and local governments, must exercise their response plans every two years. With six nuclear power plants in Illinois, that means the state participates in three nuclear power plant exercises each year. In fact, on Wednesday, the state participated in a FEMA-graded response exercise for the Dresden Nuclear Power Station near Morris.

Illinois' nuclear safety and response programs are recognized nationally and internationally for these innovative and comprehensive efforts. Nuclear officials from more than 20 countries have visited our program during the past two decades to observe and learn from our experts.

While we're pleased to have a program that is so highly regarded, we never stop searching for ways to further enhance these efforts. Since the moment word broke about the tragic events at the Fukushima Dai-ichi plant in Japan, our staff has been monitoring developments, gathering information, reviewing data and looking for "lessons learned" that could be implemented in Illinois. It's too early at this time to identify specifically what those lessons may be; in fact it likely will be weeks, even months, before all information about this event is available. But I can assure you that we are dedicated to ensuring that Illinois continues to provide the best possible protection for the men, women and children who live near the nuclear power plants in this state.

This is a brief overview of our very comprehensive nuclear safety program. I would be pleased to answer any questions you have.