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NUCLEAR CRISIS: NRC chairman takes center stage as U.S. eyes reactor security *(Greenwire, 03/23/2011)*

The March 11 earthquake and tsunami in Japan that triggered widespread fears over nuclear security have thrust an unfamiliar face into the national spotlight: Gregory Jaczko, head of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission. And the chairman will only grow in prominence as he leads a nationwide security check on the country's 104 nuclear reactors at the behest of President Obama.

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NUCLEAR NATION



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NUCLEAR: Engineers still struggle to manage Fukushima 1, radiation spread and rotating blackouts *(ClimateWire, 03/23/2011)*

Japanese utility crews re-entered the control room at the No. 3 reactor at the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear plant for the first time since the March 11 earthquake, hoping to restart reactor cooling systems, but they were driven away by black smoke rising from the crippled reactor Wednesday afternoon, Japanese press reports said. The smoke cleared after about an hour, and plant owner Toyko Electric Power Co. (TEPCO) said the smoke did not cause a major change in radiation levels at the plant. Water-spraying operations on reactors and spent fuel pools were suspended for the day, NHK World reported.

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NUCLEAR CRISIS: Polls show dropoff in support for new reactors *(E&ENews PM, 03/22/2011)*

Public support for increased nuclear power is waning in the wake of the crisis in Japan, according to two new polls out this week. Instead, more Americans favor development of renewable energy resources, increased energy efficiency and more oil and gas drilling, the national surveys show. A poll released yesterday by the Pew Research Center found that 52 percent of those surveyed oppose the increased use of nuclear power, up from 47 percent last October. And a separate poll out today from the Civil Society Institute found that 58 percent of Americans are "less supportive of expanding nuclear power in the United States" than they were a month ago.

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NUCLEAR CRISIS:

Japan disaster creates new hurdles for Midwest reactor plans *(Greenwire, 03/22/2011)*

Indiana has never built a nuclear power plant. In the late 1970s, an alliance of environmentalists, blue-collar workers and trade unions thwarted Northern Indiana Public Service Co.'s plans to build a power plant on Lake Michigan. And another proposed nuclear plant was abandoned midway through construction in 1984. But Indiana put itself back on a path to nuclear power last month, when its state Senate passed a measure last month aimed at encouraging nuclear developers with "clean energy" incentives.

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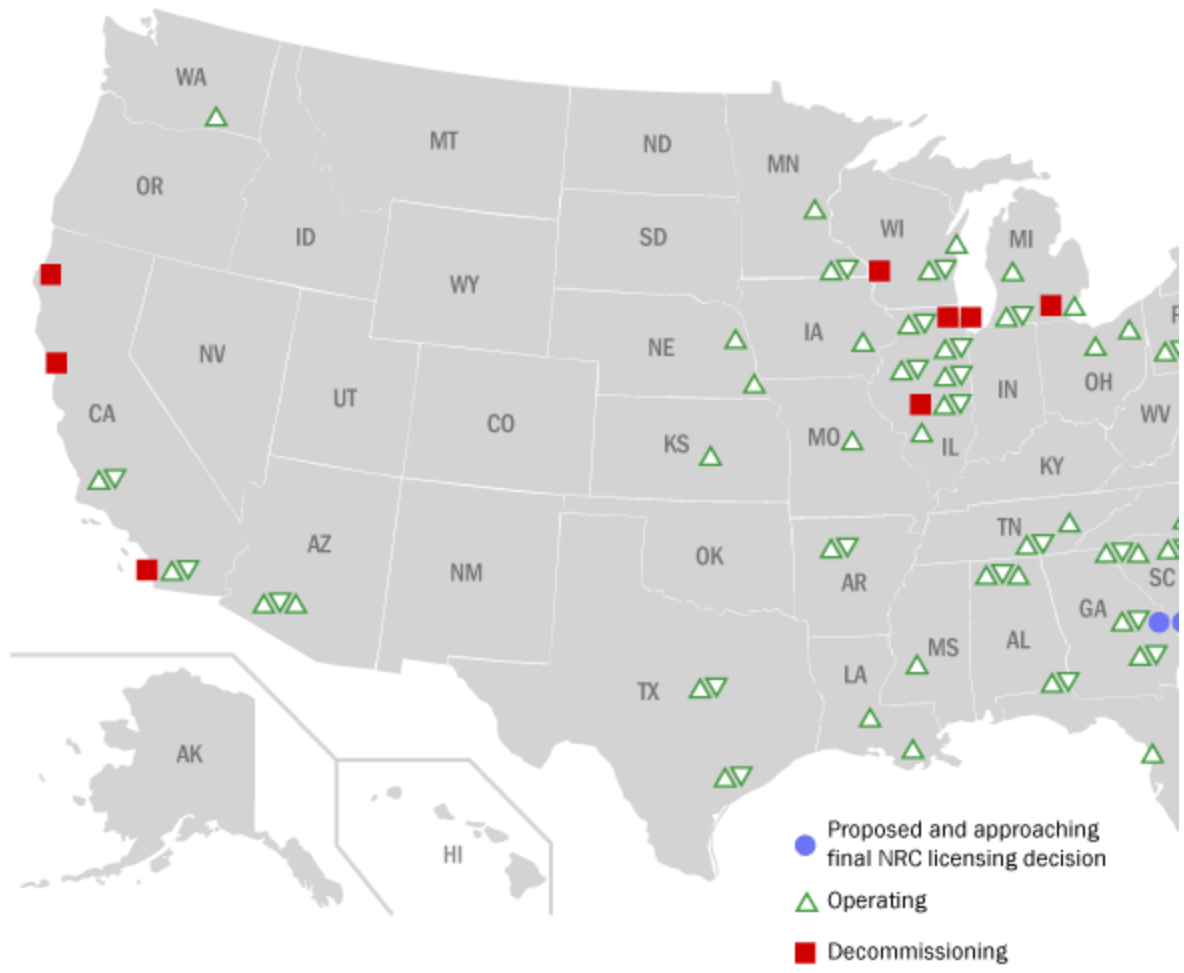


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Nuclear Nation

Hundreds of nuclear power reactors dot the United States. There are 104 operating reactors and 13 undergoing decommissioning. Many others are in planning stages; four furthest along in the Nuclear Regulatory Commission licensing process are shown on this map. Click on a site icon for more details on the U.S. NRC website.







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