

President Obama: We Can't Take Nuclear Off the Table

This morning at Georgetown University in Washington, DC, President Obama spoke on the growing need for energy security and energy independence.

The President restated his support for nuclear energy as a source of carbon-free electricity and his charge to the NRC for a 90-day safety review of nuclear facilities in light of the situation in Japan. He emphasized that, "We can't simply take it off the table." An excerpt on nuclear energy from his speech is below.

The majority of his remarks focused on a call for reduction in U.S. oil imports by 1/3 over the next decade and initiatives to accomplish this goal.

The full transcript of his speech can be found here: <http://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2011/03/30/remarks-president-americas-energy-security>

President Obama

Excerpt of Remarks on Energy Security & Independence

Georgetown University

Washington, DC

March 30, 2011

"Now, in light of the ongoing events in Japan, I want to just take a minute to talk about nuclear power. Right now, America gets about one-fifth of our electricity from nuclear energy. And it's important to recognize that nuclear energy doesn't emit carbon dioxide in the atmosphere. So those of us who are concerned about climate change, we've got to recognize that nuclear power, if it's safe, can make a significant contribution to the climate change question.

And I'm determined to ensure that it's safe. So in light of what's happened in Japan, I've requested a comprehensive safety review by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission to make sure that all of our existing nuclear energy facilities are safe. And we're going to incorporate those conclusions and lessons from Japan in design and the building of the next generation of plants. But we can't simply take it off the table.

My administration is leading global discussions towards a new international framework in which all countries who are operating nuclear plants are making sure that they're not spreading dangerous nuclear materials and technology."

