

Terry bill would limit nuke chief

By Joseph Morton

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WASHINGTON — Rep. Lee Terry, R-Neb., has introduced legislation to place new restraints on how the Nuclear Regulatory Commission chairman operates.

Testifying on Capitol Hill on Wednesday, NRC Chairman Gregory Jaczko denied claims by fellow commissioners that he has bullied and intimidated staff members. He said he has no plans to step down.

Jaczko's comments came after four of the five NRC commissioners said the chairman's "bullying and intimidation" have damaged the agency's effectiveness.

The commissioners — two Democrats and two Republicans — said Jaczko, a Democrat, is responsible for an increasingly tense and unsettled work environment at the NRC. The four commissioners sent a letter to the White House in October expressing "grave concern" about Jaczko's actions.

Terry said his legislation was in response to the turmoil at the commission and said his bill was actually drafted some time ago.

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