LLW notes

Volume 40 Number 3 May - June 2025

A Message from Dan Shrum, Executive Director

Please make your arrangements for the Fall 2025 meeting to be held in Baltimore, Maryland on October 15-16 with the Disused Source Working Group meeting on October 17, 2025.

Daniel B. Shrum, Executive Director

See page 3 for registration information.

Please submit comments, suggestions or articles for the LLW *notes* to margaretllwf@gmail.com

In this Issue...**Find updates on President Trump's Executive Orders regarding nuclear issues, Supreme Court decision on interim storage case, and announcement of the Fall Meeting, along with compact and regional news.**

© Low-Level Waste Forum produced by Daniel B. Shrum, Executive Director
Margaret Henderson, Editor

About LLW Forum

LLW Forum, established to facilitate state and compact implementation of the Low-Level Radioactive Waste Policy Amendments Act of 1985, promotes the objectives of the low-level radioactive waste regional compacts. LLW Forum provides opportunity for state and compact officials to share information with each other and to exchange views with officials of federal agencies and other interested parties.

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Acronyms Used in **LLW *notes***

CFR	Code of Federal Regulations
CRCPD	Conference of Radiation Control Program Directors
DOE	U.S. Department of Energy
DOT	U.S. Department of Transportation
EPA	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
IAEA	International Atomic Energy Agency
ICRP	International Commission on Radiation Protection
LLWF	Low-Level Waste Forum
NARM	Naturally occurring and accelerator produced radioactive material
NCRP	National Council on Radiation Protection and Measurements
NORM	Naturally occurring radioactive material
NRC	U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
OAS	Organization of Agreement States
TENORM	Technologically enhanced naturally occurring radioactive material

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Forum Focus

FORUM NEWS

The Directors adopted updated by-laws to acknowledge non-compact members such as Federal Partners and to include:

Non-voting Membership categories

d. "Federal Associates" means Federal agencies such as the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Environmental Protection Agency, Department of Energy, Department of Defense, or any other Federal agency.

e. "Non-Federal Associates" means corporations and other interested parties.

The Directors also agreed to have our April 2026 meeting in San Diego, CA.

Fall Meeting

Baltimore, Maryland
October 15-16

and

Disused Source Working Group meeting October 17, 2025

Sign up for our NOW

Click here to register.

Click here to reserve a room.

EXECUTIVE ORDER 14300
MAY 23, 2025

https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2025/05/29/2025-09798/ordering-the-reform-of-the-nuclear-regulatory-commission

Ordering the Reform of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission

The NRC has failed to license new reactors even as technological advances promise to make nuclear power safer, cheaper, more adaptable, and more abundant than ever.

US Policy

...reestablish the United States as the global leader in nuclear energy and facilitate deployment of new nuclear reactor technologies, expansion of American nuclear energy capacity, appropriate operational extensions for the current nuclear fleet and maintain the United States' leading reputation for nuclear safety.

Reforming the NRC's Culture

NRC's mission shall include facilitating nuclear power while ensuring reactor safety. When carrying out its licensing and related regulatory functions, the NRC shall consider the benefits of increased availability of, and innovation in, nuclear power to our economic and national security in addition to safety, health, and environmental considerations.

Reforming the NRC's Structure

The current structure and staffing of the NRC are misaligned with the Congress's directive that the NRC shall not unduly restrict the benefits of nuclear power.

The NRC shall...reorganize the NRC to promote the expeditious processing of license applications...

The NRC shall undertake reductions in force ....

Some Key Elements to Be Considered

- Reforming and Modernizing the NRC's Regulations.
- Adopt science-based radiation limits.
- Revise NRC regulations governing NRC's compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act.
- Establish an expedited pathway to approve reactor designs that the DOD or the DOE have tested and that have demonstrated the ability to function safely.
- Establish a process for high-volume licensing of microreactors and modular reactors... and by considering to what extent such reactors or components thereof should be regulated through general licenses.

ADOPT SCIENCE-BASED RADIATION LIMITS

In particular, the NRC shall reconsider reliance on the linear no-threshold (LNT) model for radiation exposure and the "as low as reasonably achievable" standard, which is predicated on LNT. Those models are flawed.

NRC shall specifically consider adopting determinate radiation limits, and in doing so shall consult with the Department of Defense (DOD), the Department of Energy (DOE), and the Environmental Protection Agency.

EXECUTIVE ORDER 14302
MAY 29, 2025

https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2025/05/29/2025-09801/reinvigorating-the-nuclear-industrial-base

Reinvigorating the Nuclear Industrial Base

The United States originally pioneered nuclear energy technology during a time of great peril. We now face a new set of challenges, including a global race to dominate in artificial intelligence, a growing need for energy independence, and access to uninterruptible power supplies for national security.

It took nearly 40 years for the United States to add the same amount of nuclear capacity as another developed nation added in 10 years.

Further, as American deployment of advanced reactor designs has waned, 87 percent of nuclear reactors installed worldwide since 2017 are based on designs from two foreign countries. At the same time, the Nation's nuclear fuel cycle infrastructure has severely atrophied, leaving the United States heavily dependent on foreign sources of uranium as well as uranium enrichment and conversion services. These trends cannot continue.

Swift and decisive action is required to jumpstart America's nuclear energy industrial base and ensure our national and economic security by increasing fuel availability and production, securing civil nuclear supply chains, improving the efficiency with which advanced nuclear reactors are licensed, and preparing our workforce to establish America's energy dominance and accelerate our path towards a more secure and independent energy future.

Some Key Elements to be Considered

- Strengthening the Domestic Nuclear Fuel Cycle.
- Funding for Restart, Completion, Uprate, or Construction of Nuclear Plants.
- Expanding the Nuclear Energy Workforce.
- Evaluation of the reprocessing and recycling of spent nuclear fuel
- Transferring spent nuclear fuel from reactors to a government-owned, privately operated reprocessing and recycling facility
- Efficient use of the uranium, plutonium, and other products recovered through recycling and reprocessing

STRENGTHENING THE DOMESTIC NUCLEAR FUEL CYCLE

Develop a plan to expand domestic uranium conversion capacity and expand enrichment capabilities sufficient to meet projected civilian and defense reactor needs for low enriched uranium (LEU), high enriched uranium (HEU) and high assay, low enriched uranium (HALEU)

Within 240 days, prepare a report with recommended national policy to support the management of spent nuclear fuel and high-level waste and the development and deployment of advanced fuel cycle capabilities to establish a safe, secure, and sustainable long-term fuel cycle....

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Reinvigorating the Nuclear Industrial Base - cont'd

STRENGTHENING THE DOMESTIC NUCLEAR FUEL CYCLE

WASTE PROCESSING & DISPOSAL

Elements of the Report

- identify any legislative changes necessary or desirable to achieve the national policy;
- include recommendations for the efficient use of the uranium, plutonium, and other products recovered through recycling and reprocessing;
- include recommendations for the efficient disposal of the wastes generated by recycling or reprocessing through a permanent disposal pathway;
- include a recommended process for evaluating, prior to disposal, nuclear waste materials for isotopes of value to national security, or medical, industrial, and scientific sectors;
- include a reevaluation of historic and current nuclear reprocessing, separation, and storage facilities slated for decommissioning and that are identified as having valuable materials, isotopes, equipment, licenses, operations, or experienced workers, and that may have potential fuel cycle or national security benefits if operations are continued or increased; and
- include a program to develop methods and technologies to transport, domestically and overseas, used and unused advanced nuclear fuels and advanced nuclear reactors containing such fuels in a safe, secure, and environmentally sound manner, including any legislation required to support this initiative.

EXECUTIVE ORDER 14301
MAY 29, 2025

https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2025/05/29/2025-09799/reforming-nuclear-reactor-testing-at-the-department-of-energy

Reforming Nuclear Reactor Testing at the Department of Energy

The United States led the development of civilian nuclear power through the Atomic Energy Commission, the National Reactor Testing Station (now known as Idaho National Laboratory), and several other Federal Government entities. This work produced safe and abundant energy. But in the decades since, commercial deployment of new nuclear technologies has all but stopped. The Idaho National Laboratory has principal responsibility for constructing and testing new reactor designs; it concluded construction of new reactors in the 1970s. Our proud history of innovation has succumbed to overregulated complacency.

Reforming the National Laboratory Process for Reactor Testing - Within 90 days of the date of this order, the Secretary shall take appropriate action to revise the regulations, guidance, and procedures and practices....

Advanced reactors—including microreactors, small modular reactors, and Generation IV and Generation III+ reactors—have revolutionary potential. They will open a range of new applications to support data centers, microchip manufacturing, petrochemical production, healthcare, desalination, hydrogen production, and other industries. The United States cultivated the effort to design and build the first Generation IV reactor for commercial use, but the Federal Government has effectively throttled the domestic deployment of advanced reactors, ceding the initiative to foreign nations in building this critical technology.

Establishing a Pilot Program Outside the National Laboratories - The Secretary shall create a pilot program for reactor construction and operation outside the National Laboratories.... The Secretary shall approve at least three reactors pursuant to this pilot program with the goal of achieving criticality in each of the three reactors by July 4, 2026.

Streamlining Environmental Reviews. - The Secretary shall...take action to reform the Department's rules governing compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) no later than June 30, 2025....

... use all available authorities to eliminate or expedite the Department's environmental reviews for authorizations, permits, approvals, leases, and any other activity requested by an applicant or potential applicant. ...Such measures shall include determining which Department functions are not subject to NEPA, creating categorical exclusions as appropriate for reactors....

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EXECUTIVE ORDER 14299
MAY 29, 2025

https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2025/05/29/2025-09796/deploying-advanced-nuclear-reactor-technologies-for-national-security

Deploying Advanced Nuclear Reactor Technologies for National Security

The United States faces a critical national security imperative to ensure a resilient, secure, and reliable energy supply for critical defense facilities designated under section 824o-1(c) of title 16, United States Code, and other mission capability resources. Advanced computing infrastructure for artificial intelligence (AI) capabilities and other mission capability resources at military and national security installations and national laboratories demands reliable, high-density power sources that cannot be disrupted by external threats or grid failures.

Promoting American Nuclear Exports. - The Secretary of State ...shall: (i) lead diplomatic engagement and negotiations for Agreements for Peaceful Nuclear Cooperation pursuant to section 123 of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, 42 U.S.C. 2153 (123 Agreements);

(ii) aggressively pursue at least 20 new 123 Agreements by the close of the 120th Congress to enable the United States nuclear industry to access new markets in partner countries...

Advanced nuclear reactors include nuclear energy systems like Generation III+ reactors, small modular reactors, microreactors, and stationary and mobile reactors that have the potential to deliver resilient, secure, and reliable power to critical defense facilities and other mission capability resources.

... such technology has not been utilized in the United States at the scale or speed necessary to meet the Nation's urgent national security requirements, while our adversaries are rapidly exporting and deploying such technology around the world.

The Federal Government must utilize its full authority to accelerate the secure and responsible development, demonstration, deployment, and export of United States designed advanced nuclear technologies to bolster readiness and enhance American technological superiority.

Deployment and Use of Advanced Nuclear Reactor Technologies at Military Installations. - The Secretary of Defense...shall commence the operation of a nuclear reactor...at a domestic military base or installation no later than September 30, 2028.

Deployment and Use of Advanced Nuclear Reactor Technologies at Department of Energy Facilities. - The Secretary of Energy shall initiate the process for designating AI data centers within the 48 contiguous States and the District of Columbia,... including as support for national security missions, as critical defense facilities, where appropriate.

Uranium and Related Materials for Reactors... - Within 90 days of the date of this order, the Secretary of Energy shall identify all useful uranium and plutonium material within the Department of Energy's inventories that may be recycled or processed into nuclear fuel for reactors in the United States.

Prioritization of Nuclear Clearances. The Secretary of Defense... shall prioritize the issuance as appropriate of Department of Energy and Department of Defense security clearances including "L," "Q,," "SECRET," "TOP SECRET," "RD," "CNWDI," and "SCI"....

Small Modular Reactors

Nuclear Desalination: A Sustainable Solution for Water Security in the Arab Region, May 5, 2025

The IAEA has been working with Arab countries for almost 30 years to support existing initiatives focused on nuclear desalination. Through feasibility studies, training programs and research, the IAEA helps countries explore how nuclear energy can support freshwater production. Specialized tools like DEEP (the Desalination Economic Evaluation Program) enable decision-makers to compare costs and efficiency across different technologies.

Jordan, where 75 per cent of the land is classified as arid desert, is taking significant steps toward nuclear desalination. The government is exploring Small Modular Reactors (SMRs), compact reactors that could power desalination plants.

https://www.iaea.org/newscenter/news/nuclear-desalination-a-sustainable-solution-for-water-security-in-the-arab-region

NRC Advances Factory-Built Microreactor Policy

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission has decided on three policy matters to enable new ways of deploying microreactors. These very small reactors could be built, loaded with fuel, and tested at factories before being shipped to operating sites, and would generate about one percent or less of the power of a current large reactor.

- The Commission's first decision is that a factory-fabricated microreactor loaded with fuel may be excluded from being "in operation" if it has features to prevent a nuclear chain reaction.
- The second decision is that a microreactor with features to prevent a chain reaction may be loaded with fuel at a factory if it is done under an NRC license that allows possession of the fuel.
- The third decision is that the NRC staff may apply regulations for nonpower reactors to authorize testing of a microreactor at a factory before it is shipped to an operating site.

The Commission also directed the staff to continue other microreactor-related activities, such as engaging with Department of Energy/Defense efforts to build and operate microreactors on DOE/DOD sites or as part of critical national security infrastructure. This engagement aims to identify and implement licensing process efficiencies, consistent with the ADVANCE Act and relevant executive orders, to streamline the transition of microreactor technology to the commercial sector.

The NRC staff's integrated microreactor activities plan has additional details on the agency's regulatory activities.

Source: NRC News Release No: 25-036 June 18, 2025

Contact: Scott Burnell, 301-415-8200

Supreme Court Decision

Does the Atomic Energy Act Authorize the Commission to License Temporary Storage of Spent Nuclear Fuel Away From Nuclear Reactors?

Nuclear Regulatory Commission v. Texas, 23-1300, and Interim Storage Partners v. Texas, 23-1312.

(Slip Opinion) OCTOBER TERM, 2024 1

Syllabus

NOTE: Where it is feasible, a syllabus (headnote) will be released, as is being done in connection with this case, at the time the opinion is issued. The syllabus constitutes no part of the opinion of the Court but has been prepared by the Reporter of Decisions for the convenience of the reader. See United States v. Detroit Timber & Lumber Co., 200 U. S. 321, 337.

SUPREME COURT OF THE UNITED STATES

Syllabus

NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION ET AL. v. TEXAS ET AL.

CERTIORARI TO THE UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS FOR THE FIFTH CIRCUIT

No. 23–1300. Argued March 5, 2025—Decided June 18, 2025*

The Atomic Energy Act of 1954 generally prohibits the private possession of nuclear materials, including spent nuclear fuel, without a license. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission may license the possession of nuclear materials, subject to statutory and procedural requirements. 42 U. S. C. §§2073(a), 2092–2093(a), 2111(a), 2231, 2239. Here, Interim Storage Partners (ISP) applied for a license to build a facility in West Texas to store spent nuclear fuel. During ISP's licensing proceeding, a Texas government agency submitted comments, including comments on a draft environmental impact statement (EIS) prepared by the Commission for the proposed facility. Fasken Land and Minerals, a private West Texas business, similarly submitted comments, and it also sought to intervene in the licensing proceeding. The Commission denied Fasken's petition to intervene. Fasken then unsuccessfully challenged that denial of intervention before the full Commission and the D. C. Circuit.

In September 2021, the Commission granted ISP a license to build and operate its proposed storage facility. Texas and Fasken sought review of the Commission's licensing decision in the Fifth Circuit. The Fifth Circuit vacated ISP's license.

Held: Because Texas and Fasken were not parties to the Commission's licensing proceeding, they are not entitled to obtain judicial review of the Commission's licensing decision. Pp. 7–23.

— — — — — —

*Together with No. 23–1312, Interim Storage Partners, LLC v. Texas et al., also on certiorari to the same court.

NRC v. TEXAS Syllabus

(a) In the Hobbs Act, Congress specified that only a "party ag- grieved" by a licensing order of the Commission may seek judicial review. Texas and Fasken argue they qualify as parties because they participated in the licensing proceeding by submitting comments on the draft EIS and, in Fasken's case, by attempting to intervene. But the text of the Atomic Energy Act indicates that one must be the license applicant or successfully intervene in order to obtain party status in a Commission licensing proceeding. The Act provides: "[T]he Commission shall grant a hearing upon the request of any person whose interest may be affected by the proceeding, and shall admit any such person as a party to such proceeding." 42 U. S. C. §2239(a)(1)(A). That text means that a "person" becomes a "party" only after that person requests to participate in a hearing before the

Supreme Court Decision - continued

Commission—that is, requests to intervene—and is actually "admit[ted] . . . to such proceeding" by the Commission. Ibid. And if the Commission fails to "admit" someone "as a party," that person is not a party. Pp. 7–11.

(b) Fasken contends that it can maintain this suit because it satisfied the statutory criteria for intervention under the Atomic Energy Act and the Commission erroneously denied its intervention petition. Fasken also argues that the Commission's intervention regulations set a higher bar for intervention than the Atomic Energy Act contemplates. But Fasken could (and already did) obtain judicial review in the D. C. Circuit of the denial of its petition to intervene. See §2239(b)(1). In the D. C. Circuit, Fasken did not question the legality of the Commission's intervention regulations. Fasken simply challenged how the Commission applied its regulations in this case. But the D. C. Circuit rejected Fasken's arguments and upheld the Commission's denial of Fasken's petition to intervene. And Fasken did not seek en banc review in the D. C. Circuit or certiorari in this Court. The decision on intervention is final. Fasken cannot now use a new Hobbs Act suit to collaterally attack the D. C. Circuit's prior ruling on intervention. Pp. 11–13.

(c) Texas and Fasken alternatively argue that they need not be parties to challenge ultra vires agency action. Because ultra vires review could easily circumvent judicial-review statutes, this Court's cases have strictly limited nonstatutory ultra vires review. Boire v. Greyhound Corp., 376 U. S. 473, 481. The Court's leading case on ultra vires review is Leedom v. Kyne, 358 U. S. 184, holding that nonstatutory review was available because the agency order "was an attempted exercise of power that had been specifically withheld" and violated a "specific prohibition" in the National Labor Relations Act. Id., at 188– 189. "The Kyne exception is a narrow one" that does not apply simply because an agency arguably reached "a conclusion which does not comport with the law." Boire, 376 U. S., at 481. Rather, it applies only

Cite as: 605 U. S. ____ (2025) 3 Syllabus

when an agency acts entirely "in excess of its delegated powers and contrary to a specific prohibition" in a statute. Railway Clerks v. Association for Benefit of Noncontract Employees, 380 U. S. 650, 660.

For at least two reasons, Texas's and Fasken's ultra vires claims fall short. First, Texas and Fasken basically dress up a typical statutory-authority argument as an ultra vires claim. Second, ultra vires review is unavailable where a statutory review scheme provides aggrieved persons with an adequate opportunity for judicial review. See Board of Governors, FRS v. MCorp Financial, Inc., 502 U. S. 32, 43–44. Here, entities like Texas and Fasken seeking intervention are guaranteed judicial review of either the Commission's intervention denial or, if intervention is granted, the Commission's final licensing order. Additionally, no precedent supports bringing an ultra vires claim in a court of appeals rather than first in a district court. Pp. 13–16.

(d) **Because Texas and Fasken have no right to judicial review of the licensing proceeding, the Court today does not decide whether the Commission possessed statutory authority to issue a license to ISP. Pp. 16–21.**

78 F. 4th 827, reversed and remanded.

KAVANAUGH, J., delivered the opinion of the Court, in which ROBERTS, C. J., and SOTOMAYOR, KAGAN, BARRETT, and JACKSON, JJ., joined. GORSUCH, J., filed a dissenting opinion, in which THOMAS and ALITO, JJ., joined.

https://www.supremecourt.gov/opinions/24pdf/23-1300_b97c.pdf

Decommissioning and Waste Disposal

Nuclear Waste: An Integrated Disposal Plan Could Help DOE Complete Its Cleanup Mission and Save Billions

GAO-25-107109

Published: May 29, 2025. Publicly Released: May 29, 2025.

The Department of Energy is responsible for disposing millions of cubic meters of radioactive waste from 15 cleanup sites across the country. Disposal options vary depending on how the waste was generated and the risks it poses. For example, some facilities can accept low-level radioactive waste, but there may be more waste than these facilities can currently handle. And there are no disposal options for high-level radioactive waste.

We recommended DOE develop a comprehensive plan for waste disposal. Such a plan could save billions in costs and help DOE communicate with regulators who oversee disposal facilities. https://www.gao.gov/products/gao-25-107109?utm_campaign=usgao_email&utm_content=daybook&utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery

SRS Preparing 400 Remaining Legacy Transuranic Waste Containers for WIPP

AIKEN, S.C. — Just over 400 legacy transuranic waste containers remain at the Savannah River Site (SRS) after workers there have sent more than 35,000 of them to the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) in New Mexico for disposal since the underground repository opened in 1999.

U.S. Department of Energy Office of Environmental Management workers at the Solid Waste Management Facility (SWMF) at SRS are working to prepare the remaining waste drums for shipment to WIPP. They are the most challenging to ready for shipment due to factors such as the types of materials contained in them and the radioactivity levels of the waste.

SWMF Deputy Facility Manager Jonathan Hall with Savannah River Nuclear Solutions, the SRS management and operations contractor, said different criteria were used to segregate transuranic waste as it was created and packaged for disposal when operations began at SRS in the 1950s — decades before WIPP opened with limits in place for waste emplacement.

-Contributor: Lindsey MonBarren

EM Update

EM Update is a weekly newsletter from the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Office of Environmental Management (EM).

Vol. 16, Issue 12 | May 27, 2025

NRC Approves Standard Design for NuScale US460 Small Modular Reactor

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission has approved NuScale Power LLC's US460 small modular reactor design. This completes the NRC's technical review ahead of schedule and under budget, demonstrating the agency's commitment to safely and efficiently enable new, advanced reactor technology.

NuScale's application for standard design approval of the US460 small modular reactor design was accepted for NRC review in July 2023. The standard design approval is based upon the staff's final safety evaluation report, issued May 28.

The NuScale US460 is a 77-megawatt-per-module SMR, which is based, in part, on the NuScale US600 design certified by the NRC in 2023. The US460 design continues to use natural "passive" processes such as convection and gravity in its operating systems and safety features. The US460's six modules, producing a total of approximately 460 megawatts of electricity, are all partially immersed in a safety-related pool built below ground level.

A standard design approval indicates that a proposed reactor design meets applicable agency safety requirements. Companies that seek to use the US460 design would have to file applications seeking permission to build and operate a nuclear reactor using the approved design.

Source: NRC News Release No: 25-033 May 29, 2025

Contact: Scott Burnell, 301-415-8200

NRC Makes Available Partial Construction Permit Application for TVA's Clinch River Small Modular Reactor

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission has received the first portion of a construction permit application from Tennessee Valley Authority for a GE-Hitachi BWRX-300 small modular reactor at the Clinch River Nuclear Site in Oak Ridge, Tennessee. The application is now available for public inspection on the NRC website.

TVA submitted the environmental report portion of the application on April 28. The BWRX-300 design would generate approximately 300 megawatts of electricity, using boiling-water reactor technology. TVA would have to submit an additional application in the future for permission to operate the facility.

NRC staff are reviewing the environmental report to determine if it is complete and acceptable for processing. If the partial application is determined to be sufficient, the staff will docket it and start a detailed technical review.

The NRC understands TVA plans to file the second portion of the Clinch River application, a preliminary safety analysis report, in several weeks. The NRC will perform an acceptance review for that report at that time. If both portions are accepted for review, the NRC will then publish a notice of opportunity to request an adjudicatory hearing on the application before the NRC's Atomic Safety and Licensing Board.

Information about TVA's Clinch River project is available on the NRC website.

Source: NRC News Release No: 25-026 May 5, 2025 Contact: Maureen Conley, 301-415-8200

Source Security

NRC Proposes $9,000 Civil Penalty to Snyder and Associates Inc.

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission has proposed a $9,000 fine to Snyder and Associates Inc., in Missouri, for violations of NRC requirements associated with the control of NRC-regulated material.

The violation involved an authorized user who was transporting a portable gauge containing licensed material to a job site when the unlocked vehicle with the gauge was stolen. The vehicle was recovered with the gauge within a few hours. No known exposure occurred but the event could have impacted members of the public.

Source: NRC News Release No: III-25-019 June 11, 2025
Contact: Viktoria Mitlyng, 630-829-9662 Prema Chandrathil, 630-829-9663

Priority Open Recommendations: Nuclear Regulatory Commission

GAO-25-108097
Published: May 05, 2025. Publicly Released: May 12, 2025.

What GAO Found

In May 2024, GAO identified eight priority recommendations for the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) that if implemented, would address the security of radiological sources and improve the reliability of NRC's cost estimates. All eight priority recommendations remain open. In May 2025, GAO identified one additional priority recommendation that if implemented, would improve risk-informed decision-making. This brings our total NRC priority recommendations to nine. The recommendations are in the following areas:

- Addressing the security of radiological sources
- Improving the reliability of cost estimates
- Improving risk-informed decision-making

NRC's continued attention to these issues could lead to significant improvements in government operations.

SCATR Activities Update

Contributed by Michael Snee, CRCPD

	2024 Totals	1st Quarter 2025	2nd Quarter 2025	3rd Quarter 2025	4th Quarter 2025	2025 to Date
Number of unwanted sources removed	7449	1694				1694
Activity of sources removed	177.813 Curies	6.63 Curies				6.63 Curies
Number of facilities assisted	215	45				45

Information on SCATR can be found at the CRCPD SCATR Program (lanl.gov) or contact Michael Snee at msnee@crcpd.org

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Updates and Commentaries

Rich Janati, MS, Administrator, Appalachian Compact Commission

Appalachian States Low-Level Radioactive Waste Commission

The Restart of Three Mile Island Unit 1 (now the Crane Clean Energy Center)

The announcement that Unit 1 of the former Three Mile Island nuclear power plant, now renamed the Crane Clean Energy Center (CCEC), will restart in a few years marks a major turning point for the nuclear energy industry.

The restart of CCEC reflect growing national support for low-carbon energy and the recognition that nuclear energy must be part of the solution to meet increasing electricity demand and climate goals.

Constellation Energy, the operator of CCEC, has entered into a long-term agreement to supply electricity to Microsoft. This partnership highlights the private sector's increasing commitment to nuclear energy as a reliable power source for data-intensive operations such as data centers.

The restart of CCEC will generate significant economic benefits. It is expected to create substantial employment opportunities, both directly and indirectly. The plant is also projected to contribute billions of dollars in economic growth and tax revenue over the coming decades. This is critical for communities around CCEC that have long supported the site and the skilled workforce it has developed. I conducted oversight of operations at this facility, and I know firsthand the dedication and pride that characterize both the plant and its workforce.

The CCEC restart shows that, with the right policies and market conditions, existing nuclear plants can be successfully returned to service to help meet future energy needs. In parallel, renewing operating licenses for these facilities ensures their long-term viability and reinforces their role in providing reliable electricity well into the future. As part of this effort, it will be essential to continue safe management of radioactive materials, including low-level radioactive waste (LLRW), to maintain the public's trust and protect the environment. The LLRW community must be prepared to support this effort by continuing to innovate and applying best practices across all aspects of waste management. Regulatory agencies need to provide clear guidance and flexible rules to ensure waste management remains safe, effective, and efficient as technologies and processes evolve.

Amazon Announces Historic $20 Billion Investment in Two Pennsylvania Data Centers

Amazon has unveiled plans to invest a $20 billion investment in two state-of-the-art data centers in Pennsylvania. This is the largest private investment in the state's history.

The first facility will be located near the Susquehanna nuclear power plant in Berwick, Luzerne County. The second data center will be developed at the Keystone Trade Center in Berks County.

State and local officials have welcomed the news, noting the potential economic ripple effects for surrounding communities, workforce development, and infrastructure.

Status of Manifest Information Management System (MIMS) Update

The update to reflect the 2024 LLRW disposal information has been delayed. I have been informed by DOE that the delay is due to staffing challenges and they are working to cover the responsibilities left by the recent departures. The update is expected to be completed by the end of June, though this is a tentative timeline.

Appalachian Compact
Delaware • Maryland • Pennsylvania • West Virginia

Meeting

The next meeting will be November 7, 2025, at the Hilton in Harrisburg, PA from 10-12:30.

Atlantic Compact
Connecticut • New Jersey • South Carolina

Meetings

The next Atlantic Compact Commission meeting is scheduled for Thursday September 11, 2025 in Columbia. More details will be available in early July.

Contact: Executive Director, Max Batavia, P.E., max@atlanticcompact.org

NRC Announces Opportunity to Request Hearing for the Robinson Subsequent License Renewal Application

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission announced an opportunity for the public to request a hearing on an application for an additional 20 years of operation for the H.B. Robinson Steam Electric Plant Unit 2, in Hartsville, South Carolina.

Duke Energy Progress LLC filed the application on April 1, seeking to extend the length of the license from 60 to 80 years. Robinson's pressurized-water reactor, about 26 miles northwest of Florence, South Carolina, is currently licensed to operate through July 31, 2030.

The notice in today's Federal Register includes instructions for filing hearing requests. The filing deadline is July 7.

Source: NRC News Release No: 25-029 May 12, 2025

Contact: Maureen Conley, 301-415-8200

NRC Issues Final Environmental Impact Statement for V.C. Summer Nuclear Station Subsequent License Renewal

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission has published its final environmental impact statement for the proposed subsequent license renewal for Virgil C. Summer Nuclear Station, Unit 1.

The final statement, or EIS, examines the environmental report submitted by Dominion Energy as part of its subsequent license renewal application. Dominion Energy is seeking a second, or subsequent, licensing term to extend the plant's operations from 60 to 80 years. The operating license for the V.C. Summer reactor, located in Jenkinsville, South Carolina, currently expires on August 6, 2042.

Central Midwest Compact
Illinois • Kentucky

Regional Management Plan

The Central Midwest Compact Commission begins its 90-day comment period on the Regional Management Plan June 1, 2025. The information is all on the CMCC website: https://cmcompact.org/

Comments on the Regional Management Plan may be submitted through the website at: info@cmcompact.org

Public Hearings are scheduled in Springfield, IL and Frankfort, KY early August 2025.

Meeting Notice for the Fiscal Year 2026 Annual Meeting to be held in Springfield on September 24, 2025.

Central Midwest Interstate Low-Level Radioactive Waste Commission

ANNOUNCEMENT
CENTRAL MIDWEST LOW-LEVEL RADIOACTIVE WASTE COMMISSION

ANNUAL MEETING – FY 26
September 24, 2025
10:00 AM CDT (IL) / 11:00 AM EDT (KY)

SpringHill Suites
3921 S MacArthur Blvd, Springfield, IL 62711

MEETING IN PERSON and VIA WEBEX – Please email:
loribeagles@gmail.com
For Webex Invitation

S.Y. Chen, Ph.D, CHP, Chairman
J.P. Kelly, Secretary/Treasurer
William R. Roy, Ph.D, Commissioner

Midwest Compact

Indiana • Iowa • Minnesota • Missouri • Ohio • Wisconsin

NRC Issues Final Environmental Impact Statement for Perry Nuclear Power Plant License Renewal

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission has issued its final supplemental environmental impact statement for renewing the operating license of the Perry Nuclear Power Plant, Unit 1, 35 miles northeast of Cleveland, Ohio.

The operating license for Perry Unit 1, a boiling-water reactor, expires Nov. 7, 2026. The plant owner, Vistra Operations Company LLC, submitted the license renewal application on July 3, 2023. The NRC's review of the application covers both safety and environmental impacts. The NRC's Safety Evaluation Report for Perry's license renewal is expected to be completed soon. The agency will consider the safety and environmental reports in making a final decision on extending Perry's license for an additional 20 years.

Source: NRC News Release No: 25-025 May 1, 2025

Contact: Scott Burnell, 301-415-8200

Northwest Compact

Alaska • Hawaii • Idaho • Montana • Oregon • Utah • Washington • Wyoming

NRC Issues Exemption for Proposed Kemmerer Power Station Unit 1 Project

The NRC has issued an exemption related to the "energy island" of the proposed Kemmerer Power Station Unit 1 nuclear power plant project in Wyoming. That exemption covers a limited portion of structures, systems, and components, enabling the project to proceed with certain activities including driving piles, installing foundations, or assembling, fabricating, or testing the limited set of structures, systems and components, without a limited work authorization. The NRC continues reviewing the construction permit application for the overall project.

TerraPower's proposed Natrium design includes a nuclear reactor and the energy island. The energy island's stated purpose is storing excess heat to increase electricity output during high demand periods.

Source: NRC News Release No: 25-027 May 8, 2025

Contact: Scott Burnell, 301-415-8200

Southeast Compact

Alabama • Florida • Georgia • Mississippi • Tennessee • Virginia

Meeting

Wednesday, June 25, 2025

The Southeast Compact Commission for Low-Level Radioactive Waste Management will hold its annual meeting on Wednesday, June 25, 2025, at the Hard Rock Hotel and Casino at 777 Beach Blvd. Biloxi, Mississippi 39530. The meeting is open to the public and will commence at 1 pm central time.

NRC Makes Available Hatch Nuclear Power Plant's Subsequent License Renewal Application

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission has received a subsequent license renewal application from Southern Nuclear Operating Co., which requests an additional 20 years of operation for the two reactors at Edwin I. Hatch nuclear power plant in Baxley, Georgia. The NRC approved in January 2002 the first renewal of the reactors' licensing term from 40 to 60 years. Unit 1 is currently licensed to operate through Aug. 6, 2034; Unit 2 is licensed through June 13, 2038.

Source: NRC News Release No: 25-032 May 22, 2025

Contact: Maureen Conley, 301-415-8200

Texas Compact

Texas • Vermont

Meetings

Thursday, July 24, 2025

via Zoom Meeting webinar and in person in Austin, TX at 10 am CDT.

Thursday, October 9, 2025

via Zoom Meeting webinar and in person in Montpelier, Vermont at 10 am EST.

NRC Sets Review Schedule for Long Mott Construction Permit Application

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff has set a schedule for reviewing the construction permit application from Long Mott Energy LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of the Dow Chemical Company. The application requests permission to build Long Mott Generating Station, a multiunit advanced reactor facility at Dow Chemical's Seadrift site in Calhoun County, Texas.

Source: NRC News Release No: 25-001 June 10, 2025 Contact: Scott Burnell, 301-415-8200

NRC Announces Opportunity to Request a Hearing on Long Mott Generating Station Construction Permit Application

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission is providing the opportunity to request a hearing on the construction permit application from Long Mott Energy LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of the Dow Chemical Company. The application requests permission to build Long Mott Generating Station, a multi-unit advanced reactor facility at Dow's Seadrift site in Calhoun County, Texas. The NRC accepted the application for review on May 12.

Source: NRC News Release No: 25-035 June 10, 2025 Contact: Scott Burnell, 301-415-8200

Unaffiliated

D.C. • Maine • Massachusetts • Michigan • Nebraska • New Hampshire • New York • North Carolina • Puerto Rico • Rhode Island

NRC Issues Final Environmental Assessment for Palisades Nuclear Plant Restart Application

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission has issued the final environmental assessment and finding of no significant impacts for Holtec's request to return the Palisades Nuclear Plant to an operational status. The plant is located in Covert, Michigan.

Source: NRC News Release No: 25-034 May 30, 2025 Contact: Scott Burnell, 301-415-8200

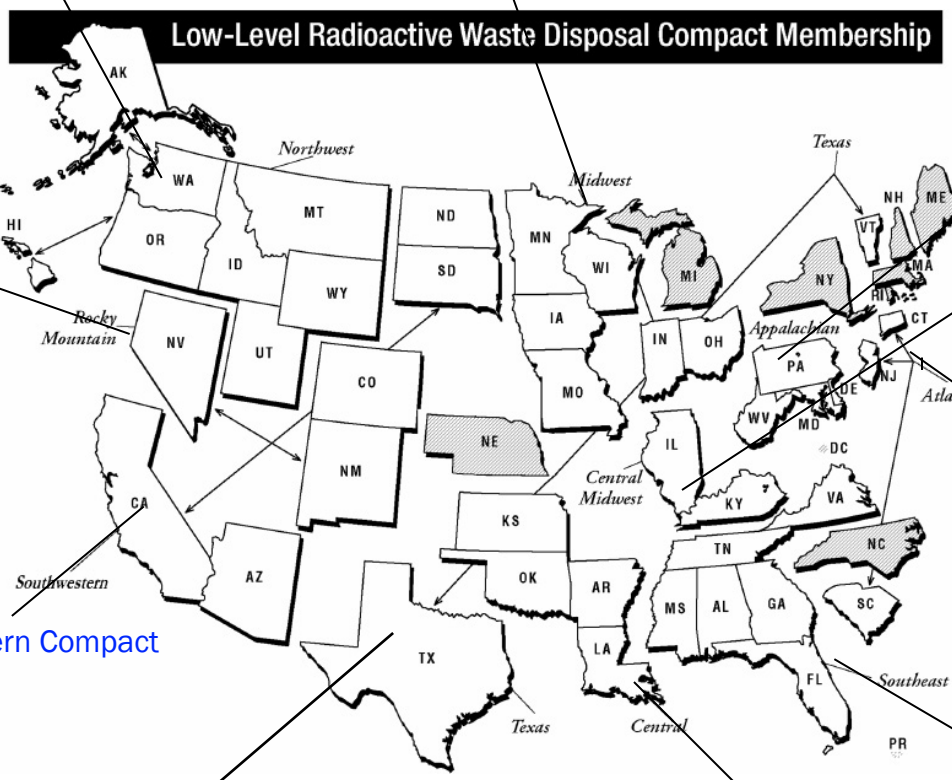
Northwest Compact
Alaska
Hawaii
Idaho
Montana
Oregon
Utah
Washington
Wyoming

Midwest Compact
Indiana
Iowa
Minnesota
Missouri
Ohio
Wisconsin

Appalachian Compact
Delaware
Maryland
Pennsylvania
West Virginia

Rocky Mountain Compact
Colorado
Nevada
New Mexico

Northwest accepts Rocky Mountain waste as agreed between Compacts



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South Dakota
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- DOE Public Affairs/Press Office - 202/586-5806
- DOE Distribution Center - 202/586-9642
- EPA (for program information, publications, laws and regulations) www.epa.gov
- EPA Information Resources Center - 202/260-5922
- EPA Listserve Network Contact Lockheed Martin EPA Technical Support at (800) 334-2405 or email (leave subject blank and type help in body of message) listserver@unixmail.rtpnc.epa.gov
- Government Accounting Office (GAO) Document Room - 202/512-6000
- Government Printing Office (to order entire *Federal Register* notices) - 202/ 512-1800
- Legislative Resource Center (to order U.S. House of Representatives documents)- 202/226-5200
- NRC Public Document Room - 202/ 634-3273
- NRC Reference Library (NRC regulations, technical reports, information digests, and regulatory guides) www.nrc.gov
- U.S. Government Printing Office (GPO) (for the Congressional Record, Federal Register,congressional bills and other documents, and access to more than 70 government databases) http://www.access.gpo.gov
- U.S. Senate Document Room - 202/224-7860
- Variety of documents through numerous links at LLW Forum, Inc. at https://llwforum.org/

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