

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

Spring Meeting

April 8-9, 2026 - Forum

April 7 - Tour of the San Onofre
Nuclear Generating Station

April 10 - DSWG meeting

San Diego, CA

[Click here to learn about the meeting.](#)

[Click here to reserve a room.](#)



Forum Focus

DSWG February Update

Contributed by Michael Klebe

The DSWG is gearing up for its spring meeting on April 10, 2026, in conjunction with the LLW Forum meeting in San Diego, CA. This meeting will be a hybrid meeting with attendees in person and virtually. The Group is looking forward to hearing updates from our federal agency partners, NNSA, NRC, and GAO as those representatives could not attend last fall's meeting due to the federal government shutdown.

Of particular interest are the pending NRC rulemakings. Several of the rulemakings the Group is following were withdrawn or delayed due to Presidential Executive Order 14300, "Ordering the Reform of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission." Those rulemakings included:

- [The Integrated Low-Level Radioactive Waste Disposal \(NRC-2011-0012\)](#);
- [Decommissioning Financial Assurance for Sealed and Unsealed Radioactive Materials \(NRC-2017-0031\)](#), and;
- [Financial Assurance Requirements for Category 1 and 2 Byproduct Material Sealed Sources \(NRC-2022-0106\)](#).

At the upcoming meeting, the DSWG will begin to develop a position statement on sealed source recycling.

There are several commercial vendors who offer recycling services for sealed sources and devices. However, there appears to be anecdotal evidence that indicates these facilities merely store sealed sources without actual recycling or reuse. This creates the potential for the large-scale accumulation of sealed sources at facilities that may not have the financial resources to provide final disposition. The DSWG will develop a position statement on what legitimate source recycling looks like, create metrics for recycling, and clarify the difference between collecting, recycling, and proper source attribution.

For those interested in attending or participating in the upcoming DSWG meeting, the information is available on the LLW Forum's meeting registration website at <https://llwforum.org/llw-forum-meeting/>

NRC Rulemaking

[14300] Integrated Low-Level Radioactive Waste Disposal

Docket ID NRC-2011-0012

Proposed Publication Date: 6/30/2026

Proposed Effective Date: 1/15/2027

Proposed Compliance Date: 1/15/2027

Proposed rule that could establish new requirements

Area of responsibility: Decommissioning and Low-Level Waste

This rulemaking would amend the NRC's regulations to require new and revised site-specific technical analyses and permit the development of site-specific criteria for low-level radioactive waste acceptance based on the results of these analyses. **The rulemaking proposes to authorize the near-surface disposal of certain Greater-Than-Class C waste streams. Licensees of currently operating low-level radioactive waste facilities that do not plan to accept Greater-Than-Class C waste or significant quantities of long-lived radionuclides after the effective date of this rulemaking would continue to comply with current regulations.**

Contact: Tartal, George 301-415-0016

George.Tartal@nrc.gov

Financial Assurance Requirements for Category 1 and 2 Byproduct Material Sealed Sources

Docket ID NRC-2022-0106

Regulatory Basis Publication: 6/30/2026

Final Rule Publication: 12/14/2028

Pre-rule phase that could establish new requirements for nuclear materials users

Area of Responsibility: Nuclear Materials Users

This rulemaking would revise the NRC's regulations to require financial assurance for the disposition of Category 1 and 2 byproduct material radioactive sealed sources. **This rulemaking would help ensure 1) that licensees are financially prepared for the costs of end-of-life disposition of Category 1 and 2 byproduct material radioactive sealed sources; 2) safe and secure management of these sources by facilitating timely disposition when they are no longer needed or wanted; and 3) that dispositioning costs are borne by those who receive the economic benefits from the use of these sources.**

Contact: Jill Shepherd Shepherd@nrc.gov

Source: Planned Rulemaking Activities - Rules

<https://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/rulemaking-ruleforum/active/ruleindex>

The dates provided are subject to change.

NRC Rulemaking

Decommissioning Financial Assurance for Sealed and Unsealed Radioactive Materials (RIN 3150-AK52; NRC- 2017-0031)

SECY-23-0062 Withdrawn

The Commission has approved the staff's request to withdraw the following SECY papers since they are within the scope of rules to be issued pursuant to Executive Order 14300, "Ordering the Reform of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission. SECY-23-0062 - Decommissioning Financial Assurance for Sealed and Unsealed Radioactive Materials (RIN 3150-AK52; NRC-2017-0031)

[14300] W2-3 Modernizing NRC Regulations for Byproduct Material Use

Docket ID NRC-2025-1205

Rulemaking Initiation Date: 8/25/2025
Proposed Rule Proposal Date: 4/1/2026
Final Rule Publication: 11/3/2026

In response to Executive Order 14300, "Ordering the Reform of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission," this rule was renamed from "Decommissioning Financial Assurance for Sealed and Unsealed Radioactive Materials" (Docket ID NRC-2017-0031; RIN 3150-AK52). Docket ID NRC-2017-0031 (RIN 3150-AK52) is closed.

Proposed Rule

Area of Responsibility: Nuclear Materials Users

The NRC is proposing to amend its regulations for decommissioning financial assurance for sealed and unsealed radioactive materials and modernizing NRC regulations for Byproduct Material Use. **Regulatory changes would establish new classes of general licenses by creating a low burden registration program in 10 CFR Part 31.** Modernizing requirements in response to Executive Order 14300, "Ordering the Reform of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission," imposed on persons specifically licensed to use or distribute byproduct material.

The NRC expects this rulemaking to amend the following sections, subparts, and/or appendices of Title 10, Chapter I, of the Code of Federal Regulations: 30.4, App B to Part 30, 70.25; 30.6, 30.34, 30.35, 30.41; 31.4, 31.5, 31.11, 32.12, 32.16, 32.20, 32.25, 32.29, 32.32, 32.72, 32.74, 34.101, 34.20, 34.89, 34.51, 34.13, 34.41, 34.43, 34.42, 34.27; 39.33, 39.35, 39.77. This information is subject to change and may not include administrative or conforming changes to the NRC's regulations.

Contact: Amy McKenna McKenna@nrc.gov

Source: Planned Rulemaking Activities - Rules

<https://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/rulemaking-ruleforum/active/ruleindex>

The dates provided are subject to change.

NRC Rulemaking

[14300] Reforming and Modernizing the NRC's Radiation Protection Framework NRC-2025-1140

Rulemaking Initiation Date: 8/25/2025
Proposed Rule Publication Date: 4/30/2026
Final Rule Publication Date: 11/23/2026

Source: [Planned Rulemaking Activities - Rules
https://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/
rulemaking-ruleforum/active/ruleindex](https://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/rulemaking-ruleforum/active/ruleindex)

The dates provided are subject to change.

Proposed rule that could reduce or clarify existing requirements

Area of Responsibility: Operating Reactors

This rulemaking would amend the NRC's regulations to revise the NRC's radiation protection regulatory framework to support the national policy statements of Executive Order (EO) 14300 and EO 14154. **This rulemaking is responsive to directives in Section 5(b) of EO 14300 and Section 3(a) of EO 14154. 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.**

The NRC expects this rulemaking to amend the following sections, subparts, and/or appendices of Title 10, Chapter I, of the Code of Federal Regulations: 19.12, 19.13, 20.1003, 20.1004, 20.1009, 20.1010, 20.1101, 20.1201, 20.1202, 20.1204 Alternate Technology-Inclusive, Risk-Informed Framework for Advanced Reactors, 20.1205, 20.1206, 20.1301, 20.1302, 20.1402, 20.1403, 20.1404, 20.1405, 20.1502, 20.1601, 20.1702, 20.1703, 20.1704, 20.1705, 20.1905, 20.2002, 20.2003, 20.2004, 20.2101, 20.2104, 20.2105, 20.2106, 20.2107, 20.2202, 20.2203, 20.2204, 20.2205, Appendix G to Part 20; 34.3, 34.42; 35.2, 35.75, 35.2075; Appendix A to Part 40; 50.34, 50.34a, 50.36a, 50.66, Appendix I to Part 50; 61.1, 61.2, 61.7, 61.8, 61.9, 61.10, 61.12, 61.13, 61.14, 61.16, 61.23, 61.24, 61.25, 61.27, 61.28, 61.29, 61.30, 61.32, 61.41, 61.42, 61.43, 61.44, 61.50, 61.51, 61.52, 61.53, 61.55, 61.56, 61.57, 61.58; 61.59, 61.62, 61.80, 61.81, 71.87; 72.3, 72.24, 72.44, 72.104, 72.126, 73.67, 150.11, 150.14, 150.15. This information is subject to change and may not include administrative or conforming changes to the NRC's regulations.

Contact: Caylee Kenny 301-415-7150

NRC News

Doug Weaver Sworn in as NRC Commissioner

Doug Weaver, nominated by President Donald J. Trump and confirmed by the U.S. Senate, was sworn in as an NRC Commissioner for a term ending June 30, 2026.... He is one of only a handful of former NRC staff members to serve on the Commission.

...Weaver worked at the NRC for nearly 20 years, beginning as a Reactor Engineer in Region I where he qualified as a resident inspector. ... ending his NRC career in 2012 as Deputy Director in the Spent Fuel Storage and Transportation Division, a Senior Executive Service position.

... led his own consulting company, Atomic Safety, providing regulatory and licensing support to the nuclear industry. ...was Vice President, Global Nuclear Regulatory Affairs, for Westinghouse Electric.

Weaver earned a bachelor's degree in mechanical and aerospace engineering from Princeton University and began his career as a U.S. Navy officer in 1985, completing a year in post-graduate Naval training studying nuclear engineering and nuclear power plant theory. ... ultimately completing his uniformed service in the Naval Reserve in 2005...earning the Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal for his service during this period.

Source: NRC News Release No: 25-070

Contact: Office of Public Affairs, 301-415-8200

NRC Major Reorganization Supports Efficiency, Innovation

The NRC is launching a significant reorganization to streamline decision making, consolidate functions, and align with national goals for more efficient licensing and deployment of safe, innovative nuclear technology.

The agency will reorganize around core business lines of new reactors, operating reactors, and nuclear materials and waste. Licensing and inspection functions will be integrated within each business line to create a single point of accountability and improve coordination between licensing and inspection teams from the onset of projects. In addition, functions carried out under the corporate support business line will be consolidated to improve efficiency.

...The changes meet requirements in Executive Order 14300, "Ordering Reform of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission," and EO 14210, "Implementing the Department of Government Efficiency Workforce Optimization Initiative," enhancing the agency's ability to respond effectively to current and future demands....The agency will strive to implement the reorganization plan by the end of September.

Source: NRC News Release No: 26-017

February 4, 2026

Contact: Office of Public Affairs, 301-415-8200

Registration Open for NRC's 38th Annual Regulatory Information Conference

Registration is now open for the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's 38th annual Regulatory Information Conference, to be held March 10-12 in North Bethesda, Maryland, and online. This year's conference will highlight opportunities ahead for nuclear energy and technology, bringing together regulators, industry leaders and stakeholders to explore regulation, innovation and collaboration that enable the safe and secure use and deployment of civilian nuclear energy technologies and radioactive materials.

The conference is free and open to the public. Registration is required. The conference program and registration information are available on the NRC website nrc.gov.

Source: NRC News Release No: 26-011 January 27, 2026

Contact: Ivonne Couret, 301-415-8200

AI Data Centers, Artificial Intelligence and Nuclear Energy

NRC to Hold Public Meeting to Discuss Progress on Potential Restart of Crane Clean Energy Center

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission will hold a hybrid public meeting Feb. 19 to discuss the agency's activities related to the Crane Clean Energy Center Restart Panel.

.... The meeting will include an update from Constellation, NRC presentations and a question-and-comment session for attendees to engage with the NRC's panel members.

The CCEC reactor (formerly Three Mile Island Unit 1) permanently ceased operations in September 2019. In late 2024, Constellation Energy Generation, LLC, the reactor license holder, notified the NRC of its interest in returning the plant to an operational status.

Source: NRC News Release No: 26-009
January 22, 2026

House Caucus Highlights Transformation From Nuclear Remediation to Renaissance

WASHINGTON, D.C. — U.S. Department of Energy Office of Environmental Management (EM) Assistant Secretary Tim Walsh recently joined U.S. Reps. Chuck Fleischmann and Susie Lee for the first U.S. House Nuclear Cleanup Caucus event of the year, where they highlighted how EM and its federal, state, local and industry partners are helping shape the American nuclear renaissance through remediation, restoration, redevelopment **and the integration of artificial intelligence (AI).**

Participants also focused on the cleanup program's bold approach to implementing the use of AI across EM sites to help accomplish the goals of the Trump administration.

NRC to Host Public Symposium on Artificial Intelligence

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission will host the second annual NRC AI Symposium entitled **"Moving Data and AI into Practice"** on March 12 as a hybrid event to discuss the practical application of artificial intelligence and data-driven technologies in the nuclear sector. **The symposium will bring together NRC, industry representatives, external AI experts, and other stakeholders to share experiences and insights on implementing AI in nuclear applications.**

The event will include an overview of the NRC's AI Strategic and Compliance Plan, highlighting how emerging data and AI capabilities are being translated into operational use to strengthen regulatory decision-making, improve efficiency, and support safety and transparency. Updates will also be provided on agency activities to prepare for industry use of AI. The symposium aims to foster a shared understanding of these technologies and gather feedback to inform future regulatory and technical considerations as AI continues to evolve within the nuclear landscape.

Participants will hear from a variety of NRC and industry speakers about real-world examples of AI integration, lessons learned from early adoption, and opportunities for collaboration across the nuclear community. **The discussions will focus on practical approaches to leveraging data and AI while maintaining the NRC's commitment to safety, security, and public confidence.**

The symposium will be held from 1:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. Eastern in the NRC's Auditorium at 11555 Rockville Pike in Rockville, Maryland and online via Microsoft Teams. The symposium is free and open to the public, but individuals must register in advance.

Source: NRC News Release No: 26-014
February 2, 2026 Christine Saah Nazer, 301-415-8200

Small and Advanced Reactors

NRC Releases Partial Holtec Application for Small Modular Reactor Construction Permit at Palisades

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission has received the first part of a two-part construction permit application from SMR, LLC, a Holtec International subsidiary, related to the proposed Pioneer dual-unit SMR-300 plant that would be co-located with the Palisades Nuclear Plant in Covert, Michigan. The submission is now available for public inspection on the NRC website.

...The NRC anticipates the company will submit the construction permit application's second part by mid-2027. If the NRC issues that permit, the company would still be required to achieve additional safety milestones to obtain a license to operate the facility.

Source: NRC News Release No: 26-008
January 13, 2026

Contact: Scott Burnell, 301-415-8200

Advanced Reactors Stakeholders Meeting

This notice is a reminder of the upcoming periodic advanced reactor stakeholder meeting on Thursday January 15, 2026, from 10:00 AM to 2:30 PM ET. This meeting will be held hybrid, and participants can attend over Microsoft Teams or in person at the NRC. The meeting location has been updated to the Commission Hearing Room.

Source: NRC News Release No: 26-004
January 8, 2026

Contact: Office of Public Affairs, 301-415-8200

U.S. Department of Energy and NASA to Develop Lunar Surface Reactor by 2030

WASHINGTON—The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) today announced a renewed commitment to their longstanding partnership to support the research and development of a fission surface power system for use on the Moon and future NASA missions to Mars.

A recently signed memorandum of understanding (MOU) between the agencies solidifies this collaboration and advances President Trump's vision of American space superiority by deploying nuclear reactors on the Moon and in orbit, including the development of a lunar surface reactor by 2030. This effort ensures that the United States leads the world in space exploration and commerce.

... "Under President Trump's national space policy, America is committed to returning to the Moon, building the infrastructure to stay, and making the investments required for the next giant leap to Mars and beyond," said NASA Administrator Jared Isaacman. "Achieving this future requires harnessing nuclear power. This agreement enables closer collaboration between NASA and the Department of Energy to deliver the capabilities necessary to usher in the Golden Age of space exploration and discovery."

DOE and NASA anticipate deploying a fission surface power system capable of producing safe, efficient, and plentiful electrical power that will be able to operate for years without the need to refuel. The deployment of a lunar surface reactor will enable future sustained lunar missions by providing continuous and abundant power, regardless of sunlight or temperature.

The agencies' joint effort to develop, fuel, authorize, and ready a lunar surface reactor for launch builds upon more than 50 years of successful collaboration in support of space exploration, technology development, and the strengthening of our national security.

Source: Energy.gov
January 13, 2026

Transportation

Los Alamos Tour Engages Tribal Radioactive Materials

LOS ALAMOS, N.M. — Tribal Radioactive Materials Transportation Committee members recently visited Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) to learn more about the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Environmental Management Los Alamos Field Office (EM-LA) legacy cleanup mission.

EM-LA is dedicated to the cleanup of legacy contamination and waste resulting from nuclear weapons production and research during the Manhattan Project and Cold War era at LANL.

EM-LA and its contractor, Newport News Nuclear BWXT-Los Alamos LLC (N3B), conducted the tour as part of the committee's midyear meeting in Santa Fe, New Mexico. **Tribal governments across the U.S., DOE headquarters staff and representatives from other federal agencies convened to discuss programs and activities relating to the transport and storage of radioactive waste and materials.**

The tour highlighted legacy waste operations at Technical Area 54, Area G — the facility dedicated to storing, characterizing and remediating LANL's legacy transuranic, and mixed and low-level waste before it is shipped offsite for permanent disposal. The visitors learned about the process to safely prepare waste for shipment, including the close coordination with DOE's Central Characterization Program to certify transuranic waste according to the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant's waste acceptance criteria.

Source: EM Update Vol. 17, Issue 4 Feb. 3, 2026

International Conference on the Safe and Secure Transport of Nuclear and Radioactive Material - March 23-27, Vienna, Austria

Every year, around 20 million shipments of nuclear and radioactive material support peaceful uses of nuclear technology in energy, medicine, industry, agriculture and research. **In March, stakeholders will convene in Vienna to explore how design certification, regulatory frameworks, supply chains and new technologies can reinforce safety and security across all transport modes.**

The safe and secure transport of nuclear and other radioactive material is governed by international conventions, codes, and standards developed by relevant United Nations organizations. **The IAEA plays a leading role as a specialized agency in developing safety requirements for the transport of nuclear and other radioactive material which are incorporated into the UN model regulations and modal regulations for the transport of dangerous goods, and security recommendations.** These instruments provide a foundation for sustainable transport, ensuring safety and security. They also support Member States to have processes in place to efficiently and effectively implement regulatory framework and infrastructures at the national level and globally. This framework provides for internationally accepted standardised design of radioactive material and transport packages and a generic design certification approved by the competent authority of the country of origin.

See the conference announcement at https://www.iaea.org/sites/default/files/cn-341-announcement_conference.pdf

Reactor Fuel Developments

Funding Strengthens and Secures Reliable Domestic Fuel Supply for Nation's Growing Energy Demand

WASHINGTON—The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) today announced \$2.7 billion to strengthen domestic enrichment services over the next ten years. In support of President Trump's commitment to enhance energy security and reduce reliance on foreign suppliers, **the historic investment expands U.S. capacity for low-enriched uranium (LEU) and jumpstarts new supply chains and innovations for high-assay low-enriched uranium (HALEU) to create American jobs and usher in the nation's nuclear renaissance.**

Last year, DOE signed contracts with a total of six companies for LEU and HALEU enrichment that allowed them to bid on future work. Today, the Department announced task order awards with three companies that will transition the United States away from foreign sources of uranium and diversify the nation's domestic fuel supply.

Developing this new domestic production capacity for LEU and HALEU ensures an adequate fuel supply is available to maintain operations of the nation's 94 commercial reactors and builds a strong base to supply future deployments of advanced nuclear reactors. To ensure accountability, these awards will be distributed to the companies under a strict milestone approach.

The following companies were awarded task orders totaling \$2.7 billion to provide enrichment services for LEU and HALEU:

- American Centrifuge Operating (\$900 million) to create domestic HALEU enrichment capacity
- General Matter (\$900 million) to create domestic HALEU enrichment capacity
- Orano Federal Services (\$900 million) to expand U.S. domestic LEU enrichment capacity

Innovative Technology Funding Opportunities

DOE also awarded an additional \$28 million today to Global Laser Enrichment to continue advancing next generation uranium enrichment technology for the nuclear fuel cycle.

The award is the result of a competitive solicitation issued last December. Source: Energy.gov January 5, 2026

NRC Licenses TRISO-X LLC Fuel Fabrication Facility in Tennessee

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission has issued a license to TRISO-X, LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of X-energy, LLC, authorizing the commercial fabrication of nuclear fuel for advanced reactors known as tristructural isotropic fuel. **This license marks the first-ever U.S. approval of a category II fuel fabrication facility.**

...The license allows TRISO-X to possess and use special nuclear material at a facility that is under construction on the 110-acre Horizon Center Site, a greenfield site in Oak Ridge, Tennessee.

TRISO fuel is composed of small spheres of enriched uranium that are coated with multiple layers of carbon and ceramic materials, forming a robust shell that can withstand high temperatures. Compared to the fuel used by the operating fleet, high-assay low-enriched uranium fuel, or HALEU, has a higher percentage of U-235, the form of uranium that is able to sustain a chain reaction. Enriched uranium is one form of special nuclear material, which is defined based on its ability to fission.

Source: NRC News Release No: 26-019 February 13, 2026

Contact: Office of Public Affairs, 301-415-8200

Spent Nuclear Fuel

Center for Used Fuel Research at Idaho National Laboratory

WASHINGTON — The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Office of Nuclear Energy announced the establishment of the Center for Used Fuel Research (Center) at Idaho National Laboratory (INL), officially designating INL as its leading institution for critical research, development, and demonstration efforts concerning used nuclear fuel (UNF) management. This strategic move underscores the DOE's renewed commitment to solving one of the nation's most pressing energy and environmental challenges and delivers on a key element of the 1995 Idaho Settlement Agreement establishing INL as the DOE lead used nuclear fuel research laboratory.

The new Center is specifically designed to be a national and international hub for applied research on the management of UNF that supports and maintains compliance, and advances public confidence in the safe storage and transportation of both commercial and DOE-managed UNF.

...As the lead institution, INL will coordinate a broad and diverse collaboration through a "hub-and-spoke" model. This network will encompass other national laboratories within the DOE complex, leading universities, and key industry partners across the United States. Crucially, the Center will also extend its support and actively collaborate with international partners.

Source: Office of Nuclear Energy
January 14, 2026

Projects to Spur Innovation to Drastically Reduce Nation's Nuclear Waste

WASHINGTON — The U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE) Office of Nuclear Energy awarded over \$19 million to five U.S. companies to research and develop recycling technologies for used nuclear fuel. Projects will support

President Trump's bold and ambitious nuclear energy agenda by helping to maximize reliable power production, end U.S. reliance on foreign sources of enriched uranium, and drastically reducing the volume of used fuel stored across the country.

"Used nuclear fuel is an incredible untapped resource in the United States," said Assistant Secretary for Nuclear Energy Ted Garrish. "

...Less than five percent of the potential energy in the nation's nuclear fuel is extracted after five years of operation in a commercial reactor. Recycling used nuclear fuel could increase resource utilization by 95 percent, reduce waste by 90 percent, and decrease the amount of uranium needed to operate nuclear reactors.

Additional benefits to nuclear fuel recycling include the recovery and extraction of valuable radioisotopes for medical, industrial, and defense purposes.

The following companies were selected to help solve the economic and technological challenges associated with nuclear fuel recycling technologies that also meet the nation's strict nonproliferation standards and national security goals:

Alpha Nur Inc. will research and validate a process that will recover highly enriched uranium (HEU) from used nuclear fuel produced by U.S. based research reactors and transform it to a usable high assay low enrichment uranium (HALEU) form for reuse in small modular reactor designs.

Curio Solutions, LLC will develop a process designed to produce uranium hexafluoride gas from used fuel.

Flibe Energy Inc. will study the use of electrochemical methods to process used nuclear fuel.

Oklo Inc. will study heavy element deposition in molten salt to optimize a pyro-processing plant design.

Shine Technologies, LLC will develop a process design that incorporates transport, storage, and disposal together with hydro-processing of used fuel.

The projects will last up to three years and require a minimum 20 percent cost share from each award recipient.

Office of Nuclear Energy February 5, 2026

Risk Assessment

NRC Schedules Public Workshop on Probabilistic Risk Assessment

Staff from the Nuclear Regulatory Commission will hold a public workshop on January 7 from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Eastern to discuss efforts to improve realism in probabilistic risk assessment. PRA is a key tool the NRC uses to assess plant safety by estimating the likelihood and consequences of potential accidents. This workshop is a continuation of the workshop

originally scheduled for earlier in the year.

The workshop will focus on enhancing risk-informed decision-making for nuclear power plants by making PRA models more realistic and reflective of reactor design, operations and real-world behavior. It will highlight ongoing efforts to improve realism and will discuss topics such as operating experience, external hazards and human reliability analysis.

Source: NRC News Release No: 25-068

Contact: Ivonne Couret, 301-415-8200

Waste Disposal

ICRP Webinar Introducing ICRP Publication 159: Radiological Protection in Surface and Near-surface Disposal of Solid Radioactive Waste - March 19, 2026

Publication Abstract

This publication provides an update of the recommendations of the International Commission on Radiological Protection for application of the fundamental radiological protection principles for the disposal of radioactive waste in a surface and near-surface disposal facility. The goal of a surface and near-surface disposal system is to provide protection of humans and the environment from the hazards associated with the radioactive waste suitable to the prevailing circumstances. Application of the ICRP System of Radiological Protection for a surface and near-surface disposal facility includes justification of the practice generating the waste, and is considered in the context of a planned exposure situation. The design basis for the facility considers the potential for exposures to humans and the environment associated with its expected evolution, taking into account reasonably foreseeable faults. Optimisation of protection

is an iterative, systematic, and transparent evaluation of protective options to reduce the impacts to humans and the environment. Optimisation is essential throughout all life phases, and is of particular importance in the design phase, as this will determine the performance of the facility in the operational and post-closure phases. To deal with the distant future and low-probability scenarios, optimisation has to be complemented by aspects such as robustness, defence in depth, etc. to provide assurance that reasonable steps have been taken to maintain the long-term integrity of the facility. In the case of severe natural disruptive events or human intrusion beyond the design basis, application of the ICRP System of Radiological Protection should be considered with reference to existing exposure situations. Due to the nature of the hazards and associated time scales, the fundamental strategy adopted for the disposal of low- and very-low-level radioactive waste is: to contain and isolate the waste until

the short-lived radionuclides have decayed to levels that can no longer give rise to significant exposures; and to limit the activity content of longer-lived radionuclides to ensure that doses and risk are also limited in the long term, when containment and isolation capacities may be diminishing. The successful implementation of this strategy is demonstrated through a structured safety case. The specific options for a surface and near-surface disposal facility will depend upon the particular situation, including the nature of the waste, the local physical environment, and the societal context. Dialogue between the operator, regulator, and stakeholders should be established as early as possible in the process, with the inclusion of ethical values to help contribute to promoting a shared understanding of the application of the ICRP System of Radiological Protection.

Source: https://icrp.org/page.asp?id=708&utm_

Workforce Development & Recruitment

Three Workforce Trends in Nuclear Energy in 2025

America's nuclear energy workforce is poised for rapid growth as the nation enters a nuclear renaissance guided by President Trump's executive orders.

That's just one of the findings in the 2025 U.S. Energy & Employment Report (USEER), an annual report published by the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) that breaks down statistics across the energy industry including employment numbers, workforce demographics, and salary data for all fuel sources and electric power generation sectors.

The 2025 report revealed several key trends in nuclear energy, from consistently high wages to new optimism around industry growth.

1. Nuclear energy employment stayed level in 2024, but more jobs are on the horizon.

The nuclear energy sector employed 67,900 workers in 2024 across fuels and electric power generation according to the USEER, nearly identical to 2023 employment data. Eighty-five percent of those jobs were in electric power generation.

However, employers surveyed in 2024 expressed more optimism about growing the nuclear energy workforce than in previous years and predict a 9.2% increase in the nuclear construction industry, with similar gains expected in other industries.

Nuclear fuels employers anticipated a 5.7% increase, the highest of any fuel source.

That's without taking into account President Trump's four executive orders on nuclear energy, issued in May, which aim to reestablish the U.S. as a global leader in nuclear energy by quadrupling U.S. nuclear capacity and creating tens of thousands more high-paying jobs.

Top 6 states for nuclear energy jobs are South Carolina - 4306; Illinois - 4209; Pennsylvania - 4107; California - 4106; New York - 3545; and Texas - 3159.

2. Nuclear jobs are high paying.

The USEER report surveyed salaries and benefits across the U.S. energy sector, and several nuclear careers came out near the top.

Of 101 surveyed occupations in electric power generation, three of the top five careers by median salary were in nuclear energy: nuclear engineer (\$127,520), nuclear power reactor operator (\$122,610), and nuclear technician (\$104,240).

Several other careers commonly hired by nuclear power plants (although not nuclear-specific) are also ranked highly on pay, such as power plant operators and electricians.

Many of these jobs don't require a four-year advanced STEM degree.

3. The nuclear energy sector needs more qualified employees.

A pipeline of young talent will be essential as the U.S. nuclear sector seeks to commercialize and deploy next-generation advanced reactors in the coming decades.

All industries of the U.S. nuclear sector experienced difficulties finding enough qualified workers in 2024, with 63% of manufacturing employers in nuclear power generation reporting that hiring was "very difficult" — more than any other single electric power generation sector.

Over 80% of employers across nuclear construction, manufacturing, wholesale trade, professional & business services, and utilities said they experienced at least "some" hiring difficulty.

Our University Nuclear Leadership Program seeks to bolster our nuclear workforce by offering fellowships and scholarships to students studying in nuclear energy related fields. Additionally, the Nuclear Energy University Program funds nuclear energy research and equipment upgrades at U.S. colleges and universities and provides students with training and mentorship in preparation for nuclear careers.

Source: Office of Nuclear Energy

See the full report at https://www.energy.gov/sites/default/files/2025-08/National%20USEER_08282025.

Rethinking Low-Level Radioactive Waste Management in the United States

by Rich Janati, MS, Administrator, Appalachian Compact Commission

In the United States, low-level radioactive waste (LLRW) is classified into Classes A, B, and C under NRC regulation 10 CFR Part 61, based primarily on radionuclide concentration and long-lived isotope content. This classification drives disposal requirements, including packaging and facility waste acceptance criteria.

While the U.S. system relies heavily on radionuclide concentration and half-life, it is also shaped by the origin of waste and the regulatory authority overseeing it. In contrast, most countries follow the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) framework, which applies a more integrated approach that classifies all radioactive waste based primarily on radiological hazard and disposal pathway, rather than by origin or regulatory jurisdiction.

The U.S. framework has proven effective in protecting health and the environment, but it was developed in the 1980s with commercial light-water reactor waste in mind. **It may no longer provide the most efficient approach for advanced reactors, advanced fuel designs, and innovative nuclear technologies.** These could generate new waste streams with isotopic profiles or non-standard mixes of radionuclides that do not fit neatly into the current classification scheme.

This challenge extends beyond waste types to disposal technologies. Modern engineered barriers, advanced treatment, and solidification methods can make some waste streams more stable and suitable for near-surface disposal. The use of rigid, table-based classification limits can restrict the system's ability to accommodate new waste forms or enable performance-based evaluations, highlighting the need for a more flexible, risk-informed approach. Under the current waste classification system, exceeding Class A limits, even by a narrow margin, can trigger more restrictive disposal requirements regardless of the actual hazard. Similarly, even though NRC staff have concluded that some

GTCC waste could be safely managed at a near-

surface facility, current NRC rules generally require geologic disposal for GTCC.

Beyond classification, the current U.S. regulatory structure presents additional challenges. Waste from commercial nuclear plants, industrial, and medical facilities falls under NRC rules, while similar materials from DOE sites or technologically enhanced naturally occurring radioactive material (TENORM) from the oil and gas industries are governed by a patchwork of DOE orders, EPA guidance, and state regulations. This inconsistency complicates efforts to manage waste in a consistent and risk-informed manner.

In summary, the U.S. LLRW management system is fundamentally safe, but in some cases the classification and disposal requirements do not line up well with the actual hazard posed by specific waste forms. As nuclear technologies continue to evolve, updating the system will likely require criteria that better reflect risk and the performance of engineered barriers.

The proposed NRC 10 CFR Part 61 Integrated Rulemaking would be a step in the right direction, as it would alleviate some of the problems and weaknesses in the current system. **However, the rulemaking alone does not address the full set of inconsistencies in the U.S. radioactive waste management framework. Some disparities remain among NRC, DOE, EPA, and state regulatory authorities, particularly where similar waste streams are regulated differently based on origin rather than risk.** In the long term, addressing these gaps will require broader regulatory coordination to improve integration among NRC, DOE, EPA, and the states, harmonize standards across waste types, and better align U.S. practice with international best practices.

Ultimately, the question is not whether LLRW is adequately regulated, but whether it is being managed in the most effective, risk-informed, and forward-looking manner possible.

Atlantic Compact

Connecticut•New Jersey•South Carolina

Meeting

March 4, 2026

The Atlantic Compact Commission will meet on March 4 2026 in Columbia. Please visit atlanticcompact.org for information.

Appalachian Compact

Delaware•Maryland•
Pennsylvania•West Virginia

Meeting

November 6, 2026

10:00 AM - 12:30 PM

Harrisburg Hilton

Also see the article on page 16 in this issue by Rich Janati, MS , Administrator.

Central Midwest Compact

Illinois•Kentucky

Meeting

Fiscal Year 2026 — Annual Meeting

September 23, 2026

Frankfort, Kentucky

Northwest Compact

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

Meeting

Tuesday, February 17, 2026

NWIC Special Meeting

The Committee of the Northwest Interstate Compact on Low-Level Radioactive Waste Management met on

Tuesday, February 17, 2026 for a Special Meeting to discuss the draft indemnification agreement between EnergySolutions and the Compact, as required by Paragraph 16 of the Resolution and Order Allowing Access to the Region for Disposal of Certain Class A Low-Level Radioactive Waste from The Province of Ontario, Canada, and may consider action on this indemnification agreement. The committee also discussed the frequency of routine meetings.

New Mission for Hanford Facility to Unleash American Nuclear Renaissance

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Office of Environmental Management(EM) announced today that it is partnering with American nuclear fuel company General Matter for the potential use of Hanford's Fuels and Materials Examination Facility (FMEF).

This partnership holds great promise for rebuilding the domestic nuclear fuel supply chain and unlocking nuclear energy critical for meeting growing demand for affordable, reliable baseload power needed to fuel the artificial intelligence (AI) race.

...DOE signed a lease with General Matter, unlocking the potential of FMEF to be used for advanced nuclear fuel cycle technologies and materials. General Matter will undertake the evaluations necessary to assess returning the facility to service, including site characterization, potential facility upgrades and engagement with community leaders and stakeholders. By giving FMEF a new life, DOE will be putting this asset to work for the American people, helping unleash next-generation nuclear and advancing the Trump administration's American energy dominance and affordability agenda.

“Activating FMEF for a modern mission reflects responsible stewardship and forward momentum for the site,” said Ray Geimer, manager for Hanford Field Office. “This lease puts an asset back to work for the American people and reinforces the Department’s commitment to safe revitalization across the Hanford footprint.”

“Rebuilding America’s nuclear fuel capabilities is critical to strengthening our nuclear industrial base, reducing our reliance on foreign providers and lowering energy costs for utilities and consumers,” added General Matter CEO Scott Nolan. “We thank our partners in Hanford and the Department of Energy for supporting us in the development of a stronger, more secure nuclear fuel supply chain built here in the United States.”

NRC Considering Wyoming’s Request to Amend State Agreement

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission is considering Wyoming’s request to amend its state agreement to assume regulatory authority for source material recovered from mineral resources processed primarily for purposes other than uranium or thorium content.

The proposed amended agreement and a summary of the NRC staff’s draft assessment of the Wyoming program were published in the Federal Register, and will be open for public comments for four weeks, ending on March 2.

Before amending the agreement, the NRC must determine that Wyoming’s radiation control program is adequate to protect public health and safety and is compatible with the NRC’s regulations with respect to the materials covered by the proposed amended agreement.

Wyoming became the 38th Agreement State on Sept. 31, 2018. The current agreement transferred to Wyoming the responsibility for licensing, rulemaking, inspection and enforcement related to uranium or thorium milling and the management and disposal of milling waste or mill tailings. The NRC would retain jurisdiction over any commercial nuclear power plants and other radioactive materials.

See <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2026/01/30/2026-01850/state-of-wyoming-nrc-staff-assessment-of-a-proposed-amendment-to-the-agreement-between-the-nuclear>

Source: NRC News Release: No: 26-016 February 3, 2026 Contact: Christine Saah Nazer, 301-415-8200

By letter dated August 5, 2025, Governor Mark Gordon of the State of Wyoming requested that the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC or Commission) amend its Agreement with the State of Wyoming as authorized by Section 274b. of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended (AEA). Under the proposed amendment to the Agreement, the Commission would discontinue, and the State of Wyoming would assume, regulatory authority over source material recovered from any mineral resources processed primarily for purposes other than its uranium or thorium content. Since 2018, Wyoming’s existing Agreement allows the State to assume regulatory authority over byproduct materials as defined in Section 11e.(2) of the AEA, and source materials involved in the extraction or concentration of uranium or thorium in source material and ores at milling facilities.

Additional Information on Agreements Entered Under Section 274 of the AEA

Under the proposed amended Agreement, the NRC would discontinue its authority over source material recovered from any mineral resources processed primarily for purposes other than its uranium or thorium content and would transfer its regulatory authority to the State of Wyoming. There is currently one NRC licensee that would be transferred to the State of Wyoming under this proposed amended Agreement. The NRC periodically reviews the performance of the Agreement States to assure compliance with the provisions of Section 274.

Texas Compact Texas • Vermont

Meeting **April 16, 2006**

The next scheduled meeting is set for April 16, 2026 in Austin, Texas.

Low-Level Radioactive Waste Disposal Compact Membership



Northwest accepts Rocky Mountain waste as agreed between Compacts

Unaffiliated States

- | | |
|----------------------|----------------|
| District of Columbia | New York |
| Maine | North Carolina |
| Massachusetts | Puerto Rico |
| Michigan | Rhode Island |
| Nebraska | |
| New Hampshire | |

Membership details available at llwforum.org/membership/

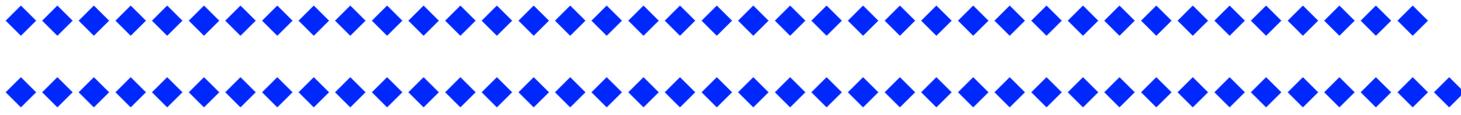
Information Resources

- 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) listserv@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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