





An  
Independent  
Regulatory  
Agency

## Mission

*The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) is an independent agency created by Congress. Its mission is to license and regulate the civilian use of radioactive materials in the United States to protect public health and safety, promote the common defense and security, and protect the environment.*

The NRC regulates commercial nuclear power plants; research, test, and training reactors; nuclear fuel cycle facilities; and radioactive materials used in medicine, academia, and industry. The agency also regulates the transport, storage, and disposal of radioactive materials and waste; most Federal agencies' use and possession of radioactive materials; and licenses the export and import of radioactive materials. The NRC regulates industries within the United States and works with agencies around the world to enhance global nuclear safety and security. To fulfill its responsibilities, the NRC performs five principal regulatory functions, as seen in Figure 1: How We Regulate.

## Vision and Values

*A trusted, independent, transparent, and effective nuclear regulator*

To be successful, the NRC must not only excel in carrying out its mission but must do so in a manner that engenders the trust of the public and stakeholders. This vision is an outgrowth of the NRC operating in a manner consistent with its longstanding Principles of Good Regulation—*independence, openness, efficiency, clarity, and reliability*—and its organizational values.

These principles guide the agency—from how the NRC reaches decisions on safety, security, and environmental issues; to how the NRC performs administrative tasks; to how its employees interact with fellow employees and other stakeholders. By adhering to these principles and values, the NRC maintains its regulatory competence, conveys that competence to the stakeholders, and promotes trust in the agency. The agency puts these principles into practice with effective, realistic, and timely actions.

### NRC Organizational Values

**Integrity** in our working relationships, practices, and decisions

**Service** to the public and others who are affected by our work

**Openness** in communications and decisionmaking

**Commitment** to public health and safety, security, and the environment

**Cooperation** in the planning, management, and performance of agency work

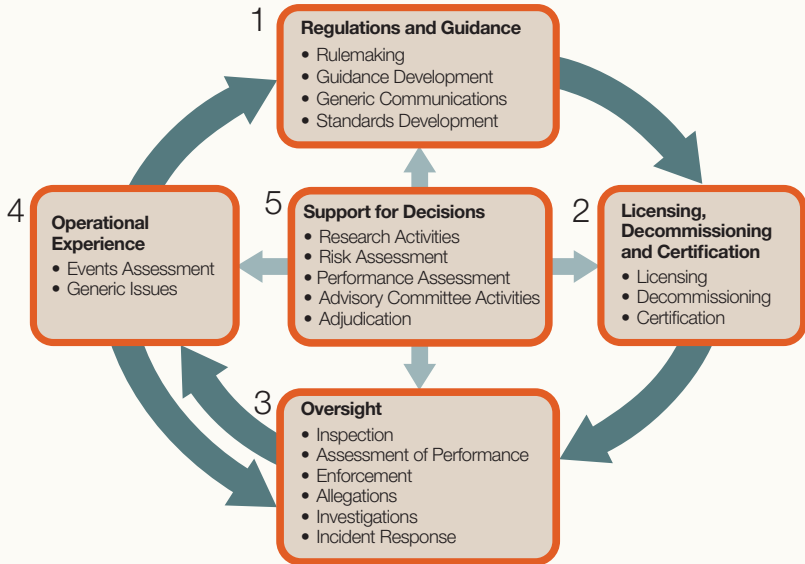
**Excellence** in our individual and collective actions

**Respect** for individuals' diversity, roles, beliefs, viewpoints, and work/life balance



*NRC staff members meet with stakeholders to discuss the agency's regulatory issues.*

### Figure 1. How We Regulate



1. Developing regulations and guidance for applicants and licensees.
2. Licensing or certifying applicants to use nuclear materials, operate nuclear facilities, and decommission facilities.
3. Inspecting and assessing licensee operations and facilities to ensure licensees comply with NRC requirements, responding to incidents, investigating allegations of wrongdoing, and taking appropriate followup or enforcement actions when necessary.
4. Evaluating operational experience of licensed facilities and activities.
5. Conducting research, holding hearings, and obtaining independent reviews to support regulatory decisions.

## Strategic Goals

**Safety:** Ensure the safe use of radioactive materials.

**Security:** Ensure the secure use of radioactive materials.

## Statutory Authority

The Energy Reorganization Act of 1974 created the NRC from a portion of the former Atomic Energy Commission. The new agency was to independently oversee—but not promote—the commercial nuclear industry so the United States could benefit from the use of radioactive materials while also protecting people and the environment. The agency began operations on January 18, 1975. The NRC's regulations can be found in Title 10, "Energy," of the *Code of Federal Regulations* (10 CFR). The principal statutory authorities that govern the NRC's work can be found on the NRC's Web site (see the Web Link Index for more information).

*See the complete list of NRC's authorizing legislation in Appendix Z.*

The NRC, its licensees (those licensed by the NRC to use radioactive materials), and the Agreement States (States that assume regulatory authority over certain nuclear materials) share responsibility for protecting public health and safety and the environment. Federal regulations and the NRC's regulatory program play a key role. Ultimately, however, the licensees bear the primary responsibility for safely handling and using radioactive materials.

## Major Activities

The NRC fulfills its responsibilities by:

- licensing the design, construction, operation, and decommissioning of commercial nuclear power plants and other nuclear facilities
- licensing the possession, use, processing, handling, exporting, and importing of nuclear materials
- licensing the siting, design, construction, operation, and closure of low-level radioactive waste (LLW) disposal sites in States under NRC jurisdiction
- certifying the design, construction, and operation of commercial transportation casks
- licensing the design, construction, and operation of spent fuel storage casks and interim storage facilities for spent fuel and high-level waste

- licensing nuclear reactor operators
- licensing uranium enrichment facilities
- conducting research to develop regulations and anticipate potential reactor and other nuclear facility safety issues
- collecting, analyzing, and disseminating information about the safe operation of commercial nuclear power reactors and certain nonreactor activities
- issuing safety and security regulations, policies, goals, and orders that govern nuclear activities
- interacting with other Federal agencies, foreign governments, and international organizations on safety and security issues
- investigating nuclear incidents and allegations concerning any matter regulated by the NRC
- inspecting NRC licensees to ensure adequate performance of safety and security programs
- enforcing NRC regulations and the conditions of NRC licenses and imposing, when necessary, civil sanctions and penalties
- conducting public hearings on nuclear and radiological safety and security and on environmental concerns
- implementing international legal commitments made by the U.S. Government in treaties and conventions
- developing effective working relationships with State and Tribal governments
- maintaining an effective incident response program and overseeing required emergency response activities at NRC-licensed facilities
- implementing lessons learned from the March 2011 nuclear accident in Japan to enhance safety at U.S. commercial nuclear facilities
- involving the public in the regulatory process through meetings, conferences, and workshops; providing opportunities for commenting on proposed new regulations, petitions, guidance documents, and technical reports; providing ways to report safety concerns; and providing documents under the Freedom of Information Act and through the NRC's Web site
- engaging and informing the public through social media platforms and by providing interactive, high-value data sets (data in a form that allows members of the public to search, filter, or repackage information)

## Organizations and Functions

The NRC's Commission has five members nominated by the President and confirmed by the U.S. Senate for 5-year terms. The members' terms are staggered so one Commissioner's term expires on June 30 of each year. The President designates one member to serve as Chairman. The Chairman is the principal executive officer and spokesperson of the agency. No more than three Commissioners can belong to the same political party. The Commission as a whole formulates policies and regulations governing the safety and security of nuclear reactors and materials, issues orders to licensees, and adjudicates legal matters brought before it. The Executive Director for Operations carries out the policies and decisions of the Commission and directs the activities of the program and regional offices (see Figure 2: NRC Organizational Chart and Figure 3: NRC Regions).



*During a public meeting, NRC staff members brief the Commissioners on updates to the cumulative effects of regulation and risk prioritization initiatives.*

### Commissioner Term Expiration\*

Commissioner	Expiration of Term
<i>Stephen G. Burns, Chairman</i>	<i>June 30, 2019</i>
<i>Kristine L. Svinicki</i>	<i>June 30, 2017</i>
<i>William C. Ostendorff</i>	<i>June 30, 2016</i>
<i>Jeff Baran</i>	<i>June 30, 2018</i>
<i>Vacant</i>	

\* Commissioners listed by seniority

The NRC is headquartered in Rockville, MD, and has four regional offices. They are located in King of Prussia, PA; Atlanta, GA; Lisle, IL; and Arlington, TX. The major program offices within the NRC include:

The **Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation** handles all licensing and inspection activities for existing nuclear power reactors and research and test reactors.

The **Office of New Reactors** oversees the design, siting, licensing, and construction of new commercial nuclear power reactors.

The **Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research** provides independent expertise and information for making timely regulatory judgments, anticipating problems of potential safety significance, and resolving safety issues. It helps develop technical regulations and standards and collects, analyzes, and disseminates information about the safety of commercial nuclear power plants and certain nuclear materials activities.

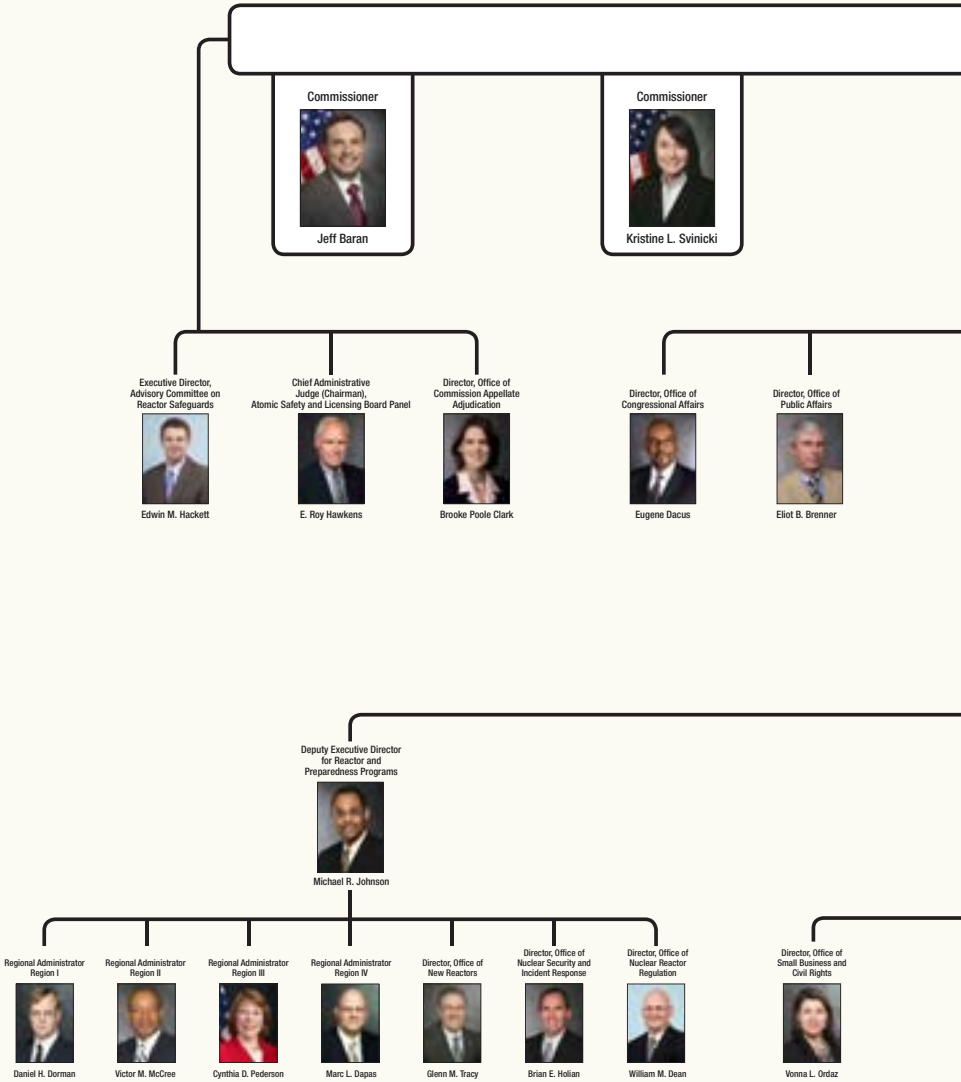
The **Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards** regulates activities and oversees the regulatory framework for the safe and secure production of commercial nuclear fuel and the use of nuclear material in medical, industrial, academic, and commercial applications; uranium-recovery activities; and the decommissioning of previously operating nuclear facilities. It regulates safe storage, transportation, and disposal of high- and low-level radioactive waste and spent nuclear fuel. The office also works with other Federal agencies, States, and Tribal and local governments on regulatory matters.

The **Office of Nuclear Security and Incident Response** initiates and oversees implementation of agency security policy for nuclear facilities and users of radioactive material and coordinates with other Federal agencies and international organizations on security issues. This office also maintains the NRC's emergency preparedness and incident response programs.

The **Regional Offices** conduct inspections and investigations, take enforcement actions (in coordination with the Office of Enforcement), and maintain emergency response programs for nuclear reactors, fuel facilities, and materials licensees. In addition, the regions carry out licensing for certain materials licensees.

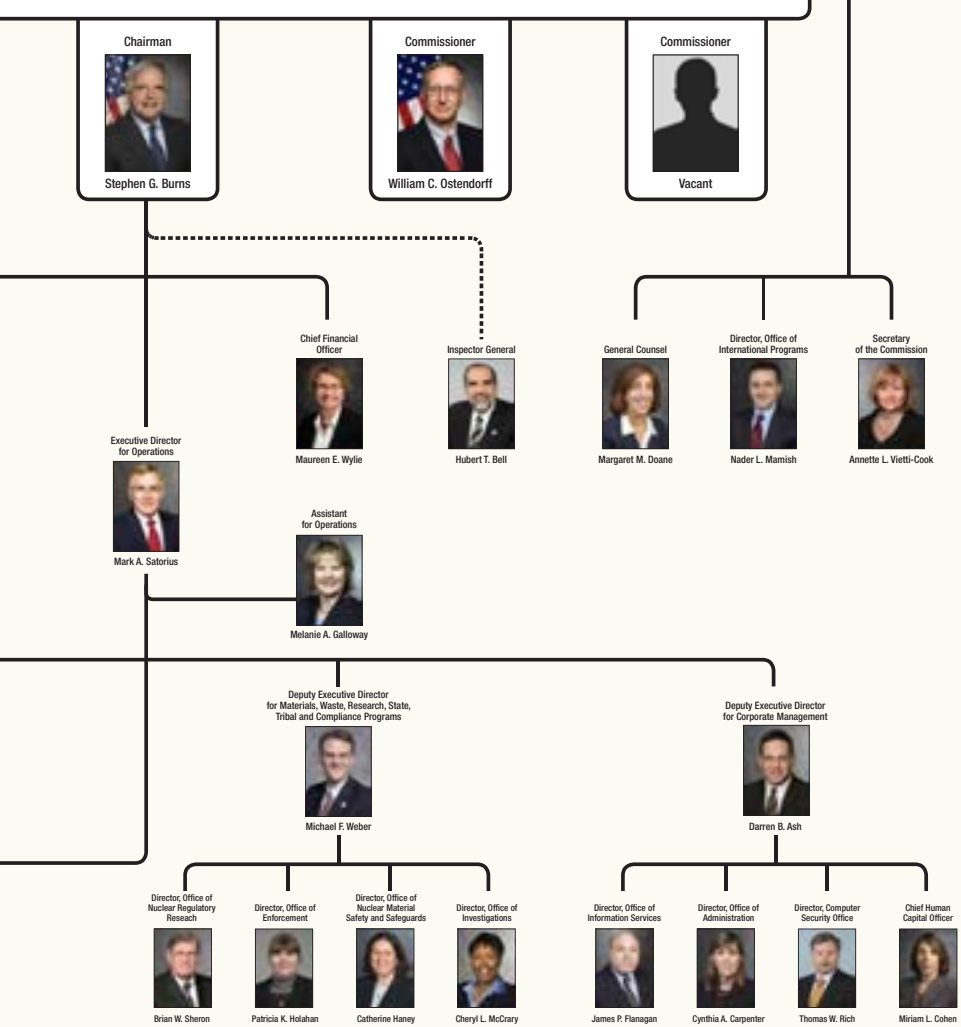


**Figure 2. NRC Organizational Chart**

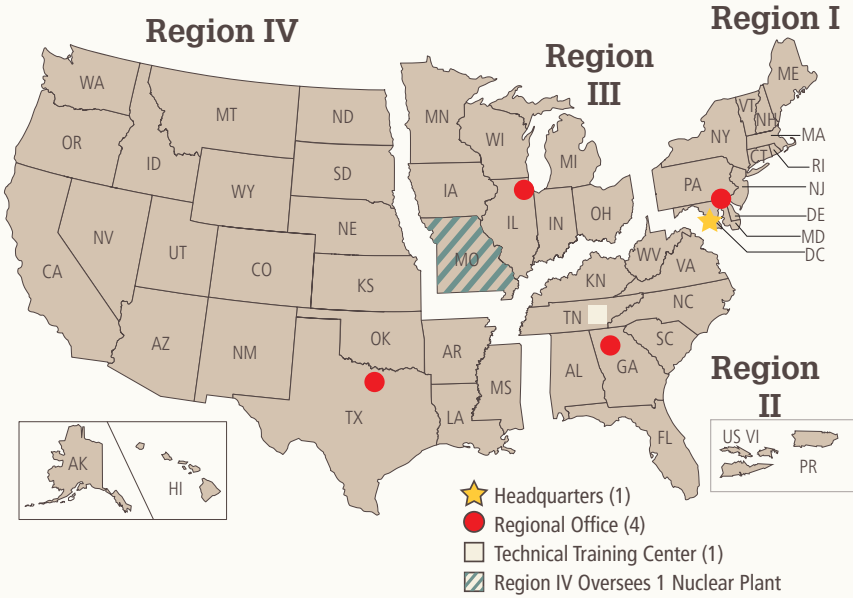


As of June 1, 2015

# The Commission



**Figure 3. NRC Regions**



**Nuclear Power Plants**

- Each regional office oversees the plants in its region—except for the Callaway plant in Missouri, which Region IV oversees.

**Materials Licensees**

- Region I oversees licensees and Federal facilities located geographically in Region I and Region II.
- Region III oversees licensees and Federal facilities located geographically in Region III.
- Region IV oversees licensees and Federal facilities located geographically in Region IV.

**Nuclear Fuel Processing Facilities**

- Region II oversees all the fuel processing facilities in all regions.
- Region II also handles all construction inspection activities for new nuclear power plants and fuel cycle facilities in all regions

## Fiscal Year 2015 Budget

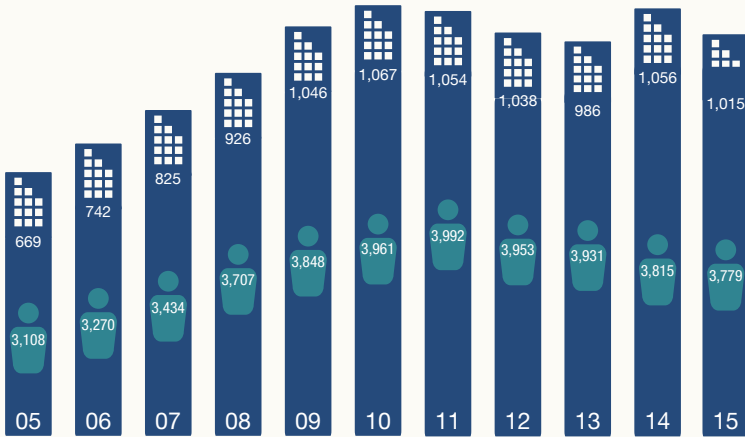
For fiscal year (FY) 2015 (October 1, 2014, through September 30, 2015), the NRC's budget is \$1,015.3 million. The NRC's FY 2015 personnel ceiling is 3,779 full-time equivalent (FTE) staff; this includes the Office of the Inspector General (see Figure 4: NRC Budget Authority and Personnel Ceiling, FYs 2005–2015). The Office of the Inspector General received its own appropriation of \$12 million. This amount is included in the total NRC budget. The breakdown of the budget is shown in Figure 5: NRC FY 2015 Distribution of Budget Authority and Staff; Recovery of NRC Budget.

By law, the NRC must recover, through fees billed to licensees, approximately 90 percent of its budget authority, less the amounts appropriated from general funds for waste-incident-to-reprocessing activities and generic homeland security activities. The NRC collects fees each year by September 30 and transfers them to the U.S. Treasury. The total budget amount the NRC will recover in FY 2015 is approximately \$895.5 million (see Figure 6: NRC Public Participation and Interaction).



*The four members of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission listen to members of the Senate Energy and Water Appropriations Subcommittee during a hearing on the NRC budget. (left to right) Commissioners Kristine Svinicki and William Ostendorff, Chairman Stephen Burns, and Commissioner Jeff Baran.*

**Figure 4. NRC Budget Authority and Personnel Ceiling, FYs 2005–2015**

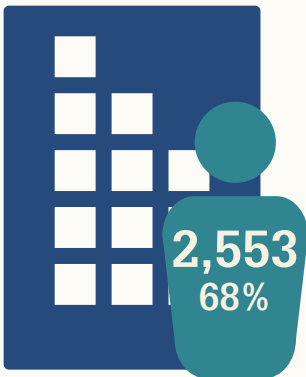


 Budget Authority  
Dollars in Millions

 Full-Time Equivalent (FTE) Staff

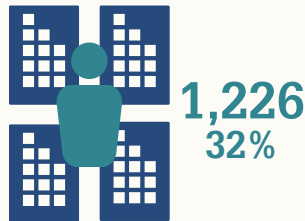
Note: Dollars are rounded to the nearest million.

## Headquarters



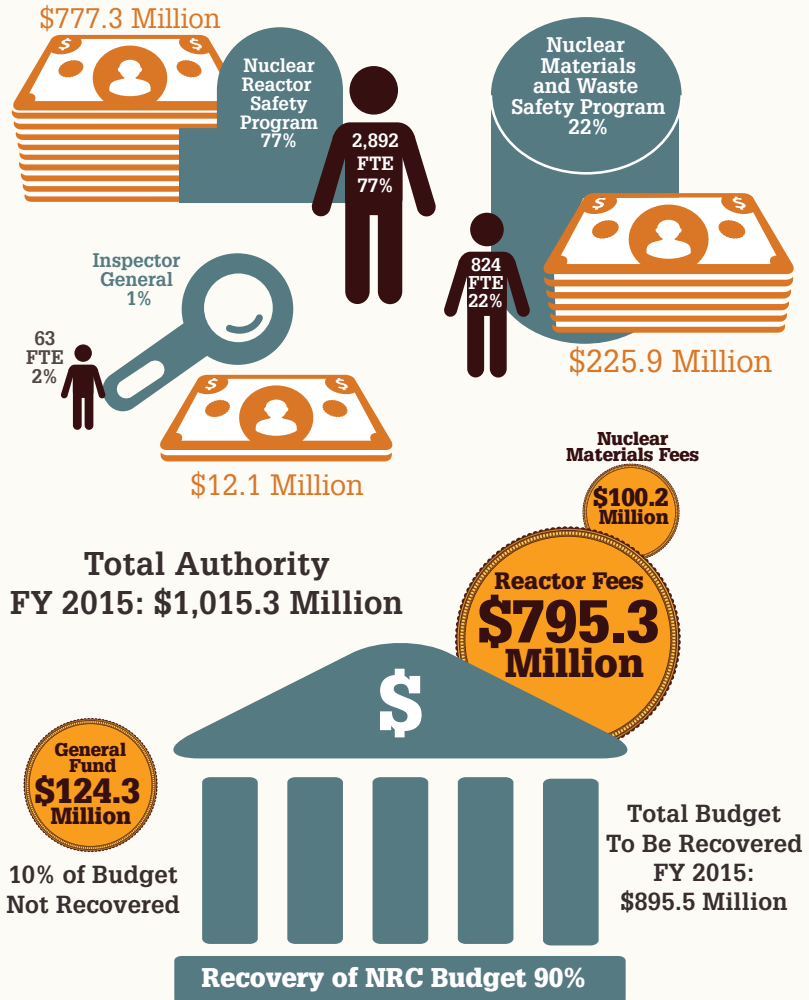
## FY 2015 Staff by Location Total FTE: 3,779

## Regions



Note: Numbers are rounded. Budget for FY 2015.

**Figure 5. NRC FY 2015 Distribution of Budget Authority and Staff; Recovery of NRC Budget**

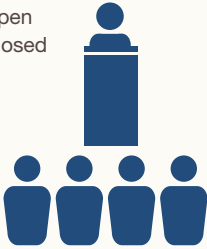


Note: The NRC incorporates corporate and administrative costs proportionately within programs. Numbers are rounded. Budget for FY 2015.

Figure 6. NRC Public Participation and Interaction

**Public Meetings**

Open  
Closed



**General Inquiries**

Phone  
Mail  
E-mail  
In Person



**Information Meetings**

Scoping  
Preliminary  
Counterpart  
Information Exchanges



**Resident Inspectors in the Community**



**10 CFR 2.206 Petition**

Electronic or Hard Copy



**Advisory Committee Meetings**



**Public Document Room**

Phone  
E-mail  
In Person



**Conferences**

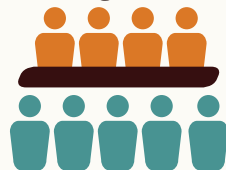
International  
Trade  
Industry



**Open Houses**



**Congressional Hearings**



## Education and Business Outreach

Minority Groups  
Small Business  
Vendors/Contracts  
Recruitment



## Media Outreach

Press Conferences  
Press Releases  
Editorial Boards  
Interviews



## Public Comments

Regulations.gov  
Mail  
E-mail  
Fax  
Verbally at  
Public Meetings



# U.S. NRC

Regulatory Commission  
and the Environment

## Web Site

[www.nrc.gov](http://www.nrc.gov)



## Adjudicatory Hearings



## Emergency Preparedness

Federal  
State  
Local



## Social Media

Blog

Twitter

YouTube

Flickr

Facebook

flickr



## Visitors to the Agency



## Allegations



## Petitions for Rulemaking



## Federal Register Notices

