

From: Rountree, Marthea <Rountree.Marthea@epa.gov>
Sent: Monday, June 29, 2020 11:49 AM
To: AdvancedReactors-GEIS Resource
Cc: Cushing, Jack
Subject: [External_Sender] Advanced Nuclear Reactor (ANR) Generic Environmental Impact Statement - USEPA Scoping Comments
Attachments: NRC scoping letter signed.pdf

Dear Sir/Madame:

For your consideration - attached are the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's scoping comments in response to NRC's April 30, 2020 Notice of Intent to prepare an Advanced Nuclear Reactor (ANR) Generic Environmental Impact Statement (GEIS). Please contact me if you have any questions.

Regards,

Marthea Rountree

Federal Register Notice: 85FR24040
Comment Number: 2798

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UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

OFFICE OF
POLICY

June 29, 2020

Office of Administration
Mail Stop TWFN-7-A60M
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D.C. 20555-0001

Dear Sir/Madame:

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is responding to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's (NRC) April 30, 2020 Notice of Intent (NOI) to prepare an Advanced Nuclear Reactor (ANR) Generic Environmental Impact Statement (GEIS). We also reviewed SECY-20-0020 referenced in the NOI.

The purpose of the GEIS is to generically evaluate the construction and operation of ANRs. According to NRC, small-scale advanced reactors are not specific to only one reactor design and could be sited anywhere in the United States that meets NRC's siting requirements. For this reason, NRC decided to pursue a technology neutral approach using a plant parameter envelope (PPE) approach to bound any reactor design with a generating output up to approximately 30 megawatts thermal per reactor with a small site environmental footprint. The intent of the GEIS is to generically resolve many environmental issues that fit within the PPE, thus, streamlining the review process and avoiding duplication of effort. It will define the PPE criteria (e.g., site acreage) and analyze each environmental resource (e.g., land use) using these criteria. This process is expected to save staff resources for individual reviews and provide predictability for potential applicants in developing their applications.

The proposed ANR GEIS analysis would reflect the same process used for NRC's license renewals for operating power reactors. We generally agree with this approach; however, EPA recommends that NRC specifically assess the potential impacts on water resources, air quality, hazardous materials/waste management, seismic risk, and environmental justice communities.

The EPA looks forward to reviewing the Draft GEIS for this proposed action. If you have any questions, please contact Marthea Rountree, the lead reviewer for this project, at 202-564-7141 or by e-mail at Rountree.Marthea@ep.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert Tomiak", is positioned above the printed name.

Robert Tomiak
Director
Office of Federal Activities