

From: Nathan Roser <ndr93091@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 30, 2020 5:25 PM
To: AdvancedReactors-GEIS Resource
Subject: [External_Sender] Approve GEIS for advanced reactors

Dear Nuclear Regulatory Commission:

I write to support the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission's proposal for a Generic Environmental Impact Statement (GEIS) for small-scale advanced nuclear reactors. This supports the NRC's mission to protect public health & safety. By ensuring the process to approve new nuclear power plants can be streamlined, the USA can remain a world leader in nuclear technology & prevent future air pollution deaths. There are several reasons supporting this effort, including:

- 1) The NRC has decades of experience evaluating and overseeing small scale and advanced nuclear reactors (ANRs). There is a significant basis for assuming small-scale ANRs would not cause harmful offsite radiation releases. The U.S. has experience with hundreds of small-scale reactors without a single significant release.
- 2) The category of advanced reactors covers a wider variety of reactor designs than exist today. These designs have lower overall impact due to the lack of use of incredible amounts of natural watersheds, and more inherent safety characteristics. This makes them suitable to be ruled on in a generic fashion for these technology types. Similarly, non-light water reactor microreactors contemplated in the GEIS would, by definition, have a dramatically smaller environmental footprint than large light water reactor plants traditionally evaluated in large plant EIS analysis.
- 3) Advanced reactors are the best tool in the world to both turn existing spent fuel & depleted uranium stockpiles into more fuel, and ensure energy security over the long term by reducing the need to mine additional uranium. Developing the ability to use thorium in the fuel cycle will also greatly lengthen the long term viability of nuclear fission as an energy source.
- 4) Small-scale ANRs will have significant positive environmental justice impacts, due to having a more distributed and smaller footprint, and reducing fossil fuel air pollution. The lower costs than conventional large power plants can reduce energy prices. Dirty, polluting power plants and activities have been located disproportionately on indigenous peoples' lands and in African-American, Latinx, and other communities of color. Using emissions free nuclear energy to replace these sources will improve the health of these communities.

The NRC should streamline the environmental review and licensing process for ANRs due to the realities of climate change. Nuclear power provides a majority of U.S. emission-free power, and is the best option for scaling up clean electricity & industrial process heat. Decades of oil industry funded lobbying & disinformation have turned public opinion against the world's safest & lowest impact energy source. The misguided views of anti nuclear activists cannot be allowed to block technology which would ensure a better future for the USA, and all of humanity. Please enable efficient review of advanced nuclear reactors to put this country on a path towards

abundant & low cost clean energy. And I thank the NRC for ensuring that American nuclear plants are the safest & most reliable in the world.

Sincerely,

Nathan Roser

Federal Register Notice: 85FR24040
Comment Number: 3036

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