

**From:** JERRY AUSTIN <jerryaustin4328@comcast.net>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, July 1, 2020 2:52 AM  
**To:** AdvancedReactors-GEIS Resource  
**Subject:** [External\_Sender] support of a generic Environmental Impact Statement for new nuclear reactors

Dear Nuclear Regulatory Commission,

I am writing in support of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission's proposal to produce a generic environmental impact statement (GEIS) for small-scale advanced nuclear reactors. This action directly supports the NRC's primary mission to protect the public health and safety, by streamlining America's access to clean, safe, nuclear power plants. There are several reasons supporting this effort, including:

- 1) NRC has decades of experience evaluating and overseeing small scale and advanced nuclear reactors (ANRs).
- 2) While the category of advanced reactors covers a far wider variety of potential reactor designs than exist today, fundamentally, lower material, the lack of use of incredible amounts of natural watersheds, and more inherent safety characteristics means lower overall impact and significant topic areas which may be ruled on in a generic fashion for these technology types.
- 3) There is significant basis for assuming small-scale ANRs would not be able to cause significant offsite radiation releases. The U.S. has had experience with literally hundreds of small-scale reactors without a single significant release.
- 4) 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, and these non-LWR microreactors lend themselves to a generic evaluation.
- 5) Advanced reactors that utilize a fast spectrum are the only effective tool in the world to both produce clean electricity as well as reduce radioactive waste. In fact, they are key to closing the fuel cycle and turning current hazards into valuable assets to the public.
- 6) All of the environmental impacts of small-scale ANRs will have significantly positive environmental justice impacts, especially due to their fundamental ability to have more distributed and smaller footprints, as well as the ability to reduce cost overruns, and for communities to "opt-in" as opposed to having large plants of any kind which are generally forced on small, underprivileged, or remote communities.

America is currently squandering billions of dollars every year on unreliable, weather-dependent sources of electricity like wind and solar. Our country needs affordable,

reliable electricity, and I believe that nuclear power must play an important part of our energy future.

The NRC must consider the importance of streamlining the environmental review and licensing process for ANRs to keep America safe and secure, and to keep our economy strong.

Thank you for continuing to ensure health and safety, in particular by enabling efficient review of clean power plants.

Sincerely,

Jerry Austin

**Federal Register Notice:** 85FR24040  
**Comment Number:** 3148

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**Subject:** [External\_Sender] support of a generic Environmental Impact Statement for new nuclear reactors  
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