

POLICY ISSUE
NOTATION VOTE

RESPONSE SHEET

TO: Annette L. Vietti-Cook, Secretary

FROM: Commissioner Wright

SUBJECT: SECY-19-0123: Regulatory Options for Uranium in
SITU Recovery Facilities

Approved X Disapproved Abstain Not Participating

COMMENTS: Below X Attached None

I approve the staff's recommended Option 3 to restart the *in situ* recovery (ISR)-specific rulemaking. While the current practice of applying 10 CFR Part 40 Appendix A requirements and site-specific license conditions to these facilities has been effective, a rulemaking would establish a national standard for the licensing, renewal, and oversight of ISR facilities. This would improve the consistency and completeness of information in the applications, increase the transparency, reliability, and efficiency of the review process, reduce undue regulatory burden by streamlining the hearing and licensing process for those items now covered principally by license conditions, and improve the reliability and transparency of reviews between the NRC and the Agreement States.

Given that Agreement States regulate the majority of the currently licensed ISR facilities, the staff should implement SA-801A, "Agreement State Participation in Rulemaking Working Groups," and maximize Agreement State representation on the working group. In developing the proposed rule, the staff should also consider the recommendations in the U.S. Nuclear Fuel Working Group's Report, including the specific NRC commitments.¹

Entered in STARS

Yes X
No

SIGNATURE

August 4, 2020

DATE

¹ The report is available on the Department of Energy's website at:
<https://www.energy.gov/downloads/restoring-americas-competitive-nuclear-energy-advantage>.