

U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION MANAGEMENT DIRECTIVE (MD)

**MD 9.3**

**ORGANIZATION AND FUNCTIONS,  
ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON REACTOR  
SAFEGUARDS**

**DT-23-18**

*Volume 9:* NRC Organization and Functions

*Approved By:* Scott W. Moore, Executive Director  
Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards

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see the [online MD Catalog](#).

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**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

Management Directive 9.3, "Organization and Functions, Office of Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards," is certified as containing information that is current and adequate.

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For updates or revisions to policies contained in this MD that were issued after the MD was signed, please see the Yellow Announcement to Management Directive index ([YA-to-MD index](#)).

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## I. SUPERVISION

- A. The Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards (ACRS) was established by statute (Sections 29 and 182b of the Atomic Energy Act (AEA) of 1954, as amended) and is subject to Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App) and the Commission's implementing regulations set forth in Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations*, Part 7, "Advisory Committees."
- B. The Committee elects a Chair, Vice-Chair, and Member-at-Large, annually to carry out functions designated by the Committee.

## II. FUNCTIONS

- A. The Committee is responsible for the following functions:
  - 1. Reviews and develops reports on safety studies and applications for construction permits and operating licenses for production and utilization facilities and makes reports thereon.
  - 2. Advises the Commission regarding the hazards of proposed or existing nuclear facilities and the adequacy of proposed reactor safety standards, and reviews matters specifically referred to it by the Commission, including generic issues and proposed amendments or changes to facility construction permits or operating licenses.
  - 3. Upon request from the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), performs reviews, provides reports, and advises DOE regarding U.S. Naval reactor designs and hazards associated with DOE's nuclear activities and facilities. In addition, upon request, with the consent of the Commission provides technical advice to the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board.
  - 4. Conducts a triennial review and evaluation of the NRC Safety Research Program and submits a report to the Commission (at the time of publication of this MD, the last review is referenced in SRM-M220603B, "Staff Requirements – Meeting with Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards," June 14, 2022 ([ML22165A300](#))).
  - 5. Assesses the quality of selected NRC research projects.
- B. Specifically, the Committee—
  - 1. Reviews each application in accordance with the AEA of 1954, as amended, Section 103, "Commercial Licenses," or the AEA of 1954, as amended, Section 104b, "Medical Therapy and Research and Development," for a construction permit or an operating license for production and utilization facilities; and any application under the AEA of 1954, as amended, Section 104c for a construction permit or an operating license for a testing facility.

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2. Reviews any application under the AEA of 1954, as amended, Sections 104a or AEA of 1954, Section 104c specifically referred to it by the Commission.
  3. Reviews any application for an amendment to a construction permit or an amendment to an operating license under the AEA of 1954, as amended, Sections 103 or 104a, b, or c, specifically referred to it by the Commission.
  4. Reviews applications for early site permits, standard design approvals, design certifications, manufacturing licenses and combined licenses for new reactors under the applicable sections of 10 CFR Part 52, "Licenses, Certifications, and Approvals for Nuclear Power Plants."
  5. Reviews any generic issues or other matters specifically referred to it by the Commission for advice.
  6. On its own initiative, may conduct reviews of specific and generic matters or nuclear facility safety-related items in accordance with 10 CFR § 1.13, "Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards."
  7. Reviews applications for the renewal of an Operating License for a nuclear power plant under the applicable sections of 10 CFR Part 54, "Requirements for Renewal of Operating Licenses for Nuclear Power Plants."
  8. Reports to and advises the Commission on issues associated with nuclear materials and waste management. The bases of review include 10 CFR Parts 20, 40, 50, 60, 61, 70, 71, and 72, and other closely related regulations and legislative mandates. These reviews shall include matters related to waste management, radiation health effects, and health physics as they pertain to the disposal of nuclear waste (including transportation issues) and the processing of nuclear materials.
  9. Submits a report based on these reviews that is made part of the record of the application and available to the public, except to the extent that security classification prevents disclosure.

### **III. DELEGATION OF AUTHORITY TO THE ACRS CHAIR**

The ACRS Chair is authorized to act in accordance with ACRS bylaws as is necessary to carry out the ACRS Chair's functions.

### **IV. REDELEGATION OF AUTHORITY BY THE ACRS CHAIR**

The ACRS Chair may redelegate their functions to the ACRS Vice-Chair, Member-at-Large, other ACRS members, or to the ACRS Executive Director, as appropriate. (See ACRS Bylaws, Section 8.2, July 2021.)

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## V. ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE AND INTERNAL ASSIGNMENTS

- A. The Committee consists of a maximum of 15 members appointed in accordance with the AEA of 1954, as amended. The term of an appointment for a Committee member is 4 years, and the Act does not specify a maximum number of terms.
- B. The ACRS is a single organizational component comprised of the Technical Support Branch and a Program Management, Policy Development and Analysis Branch. The organization chart and functional descriptions are posted on the NRC internal website, available at <https://intranet.nrc.gov/acrs>.
- C. Section 6 of Public Law 95-209 gives statutory authority to create the ACRS Fellowship Program providing that—
  - To assist the ACRS in carrying out its function, the Committee shall establish a fellowship program under which persons having appropriate engineering or scientific expertise are assigned particular tasks relating to the functions of the Committee. Such fellowships are for two-year periods, and the recipients of such fellowships shall be selected pursuant to such criteria as may be established by the Committee.
- D. The NRC provides the necessary technical and administrative staff to support the work of the ACRS. The ACRS staff consists of an Executive Director and additional technical, administrative, and clerical staff as may be required to effectively support the Committee activities.

## VI. REFERENCES

### *Code of Federal Regulations*

- 10 CFR Part 1, "Statement of Organization and General Information."
- 10 CFR 1.13, "Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards."
- 10 CFR Part 2, "Agency Rules of Practice and Procedure."
- 10 CFR Part 7, "Advisory Committees."
- 10 CFR Part 20, "Standards for Protection Against Radiation."
- 10 CFR Part 40, "Domestic Licensing of Source Material."
- 10 CFR Part 50, "Domestic Licensing of Production and Utilization Facilities."
- 10 CFR Part 52, "Licenses, Certifications, and Approvals for Nuclear Power Plants."
- 10 CFR Part 54, "Requirements for Renewal of Operating Licenses for Nuclear Power Plants."

10 CFR Part 60, "Disposal of High-Level Radioactive Wastes in Geologic Repositories."

10 CFR Part 61, "Licensing Requirements for Land Disposal of Radioactive Waste."

10 CFR Part 70, "Domestic Licensing of Special Nuclear Material."

10 CFR Part 71, "Packaging and Transportation of Radioactive Material."

10 CFR Part 72, "Licensing Requirements for the Independent Storage of Spent Nuclear Fuel and High-level Radioactive Waste, and Reactor-Related Greater than Class C Waste."

### ***Nuclear Regulatory Commission Documents***

ACRS Membership on NRC Public website:

<http://www.nrc.gov/about-nrc/regulatory/advisory/acrs/membership.html>.

Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards (ACRS) Bylaws, Section 8.2, July 2021 ([ML21217A060](#)).

Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards Charter, December 2022 ([ML22357A049](#)).

NRC Organizational Charts:

ACRS website:

<https://intranet.nrc.gov/acrs>.

NRC website on Organization of the Agency:

<https://www.nrc.gov/about-nrc/organization.html>.

Staff Requirements Memorandum, from Brooke P. Clark to Scott W. Moore, SRM-M220603B, "Staff Requirements – Meeting with Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards," June 14, 2022 ([ML22165A300](#)).

### ***United States Code***

Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended (42 U.S.C. 2011 et seq.).

Commercial Licenses (Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended, Section 103 (42 U.S.C. 2133)).

Fellowship Program of Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards; Selection of Fellowship, Pub. L. No. 95-209 (42 U.S.C. 2040).

License Applications (Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended, Section 182 (42 U.S.C. 2232)).

Medical Therapy and Research and Development (Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended, Section 104a, b, and c (42 U.S.C. 2134(a), (b), and (c))).

Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App.).