



UNITED STATES  
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

April 30, 2026

ALL AGREEMENT AND NON-AGREEMENT STATES  
STATE LIAISON OFFICERS  
ALL FEDERALLY RECOGNIZED AMERICAN INDIAN  
AND ALASKA NATIVE TRIBES

SUBJECT: ISSUANCE OF FINAL RULE AND NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF THE GENERIC ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT FOR LICENSING OF NEW NUCLEAR REACTORS (NUREG-2249) (STC-26-026)

**Purpose:** To inform States and Federally recognized Tribes that the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) has published a final rule to amend the regulations governing the NRC's environmental reviews for licensing of new nuclear reactor applications under the National Environmental Policy Act.

**Background:** The Generic Environmental Impact Statement for Licensing of New Nuclear Reactors (NR GEIS) proposed rule and associated guidance were issued on October 4, 2024, for a 75-day comment period ending on December 18, 2024 ([89 FR 80797](#) and [89 FR 83632](#)).

**Discussion:** The final rule codifies the generic findings of NUREG-2249, "Generic Environmental Impact Statement for Licensing of New Nuclear Reactors," in Part 51 of Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations*, "Environmental Protection Regulations for Domestic Licensing and Related Regulatory Functions." The NRC is issuing the final NR GEIS and associated guidance contained in Regulatory guide 4.2, Revision 4, "Preparation of Environmental Reports for Nuclear Power Stations," and COL-ISG-030, "Environmental Considerations Associated with New Nuclear Reactor Applications that Reference the Generic Environmental Impact Statement (NUREG-2249)."

NR GEIS analyzes the potential environmental impacts that may result from the construction, operation, and decommissioning of a new nuclear reactor. NR GEIS uses a technology-neutral framework and establishes a set of plant and site parameters to determine which potential environmental impacts would be common to the construction, operation, and decommissioning of many new nuclear reactors, and thus appropriate for a generic analysis, and which would require a project-specific analysis. Environmental reviews for new nuclear reactor license applications could incorporate the generic findings of the NR GEIS, if the applicable plant and site parameters are met, thereby allowing the NRC staff to focus on those potential environmental impacts requiring project-specific analyses in a supplemental environmental impact statement.

The final rule was published in the *Federal Register* on April 24, 2026, along with the NR GEIS and associated guidance (91 FR 22394). The final rule will be effective on May 26, 2026.

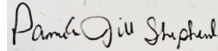
STC-26-026

If you have questions regarding the NR GEIS rulemaking or this correspondence, please contact the individuals named below:

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Sincerely,



Signed by Shepherd, Jill  
on 04/30/26

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