





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

June 17, 2025

MEMORANDUM TO: Shana Helton, Director
Division of Fuel Management
Office of Nuclear Material Safety
and Safeguards

THRU: Samantha C. Lav, Chief  Signed by Lav, Samantha
on 06/17/25
Fuel Facility Licensing Branch
Division of Fuel Management
Office of Nuclear Material Safety
and Safeguards

FROM: Jonathan G. Rowley, Project Manager  Signed by Rowley, Jonathan
on 06/17/25
Fuel Facility Licensing Branch
Division of Fuel Management
Office of Nuclear Material Safety
and Safeguards

SUBJECT: SUMMARY OF MAY 14, 2025, FUEL FACILITY STAKEHOLDER
PUBLIC MEETING

The staff of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) conducted a hybrid meeting (in-person and virtual via Microsoft Teams) with representatives of the Nuclear Energy Institute (NEI), the fuel facility industry, and members of the public on May 14, 2025. The purpose of this observation meeting was to discuss the status of several regulatory issues involving the fuel facility industry. Topics discussed during the meeting included: the resolution of action items from the November 13, 2024, fuel facility stakeholder meeting; updates to the integrated schedule and its supplement; modernizing environmental reviews, environmental report pre-application guidance; endangered species act (ESA) non-federal representative process; defining likelihood definitions for fuel cycle facilities; budget and fee update; transition to SharePoint external sharing; fuel facilities construction inspection program updates; and Incorporation by Reference as a tool for developing National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) documents.

The public meeting notice with the agenda topics and the meeting presentations are available in the Agencywide Documents Access and Management System under Accession Nos., [ML25128A118](#), [ML25127A313](#), and [ML25149A256](#) respectively. No regulatory decisions or commitments were made during the meeting.

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The activities started with the NRC staff providing an overview of the meeting's category, purpose and logistics. Opening remarks were provided by Shana Helton, Director of the Division of Fuel Management (DFM), and Greg Core, Fuel Cycle Facilities and Transportation Director, NEI.

Next, the NRC staff provided an update on the resolution of the action items from the Spring 2024 Fuel Facility Stakeholders Public Meeting. The action items included the following:

Action Item 1:

The NRC and NEI/Industry shall exchange any meeting presentation materials at least 1 week prior to the scheduled meeting date.

DFM and NEI/Industry will continue to make the presentation materials available to the public at least 1 week prior to the meeting date.

This action item is an ongoing periodic action.

Action Item 2:

The NRC staff will maintain a current Integrated Schedule of Regulatory Activities chart on the NRC public website for the fuel facility stakeholders meeting.

The NRC website (<https://www.nrc.gov/materials/fuel-cycle-fac/regs-guides-comm.html#cumeffects>) is updated at least twice a year prior to each stakeholder meeting and as needed when new items are added.

This action item is an ongoing periodic action.

Action Item 3:

A discussion on what happens to unutilized Part 170 fees is to be include in the Spring 2025 stakeholder meeting.

A discussion was included in the NRC presentation for the May 14, 2025, fuel facility stakeholders meeting.

This action item is closed.

Action Item 4:

The industry and the NRC should develop separate lists of areas for targeted guidance updates and then meet to compare the lists before the NRC begins revising NUREG-1520, "Standard Review Plan for Fuel Cycle Facilities License Applications."

The NRC provided a list of areas for targeted guidance updates during the November 2024 stakeholders meeting. The industry continues to develop their list. A meeting date has not been established; however, there is a possibility for a discussion during the fall 2025 stakeholders meeting.

This action item is ongoing.

Action Item 5:

The NRC will schedule a meeting or workshop on licensing best-practices and areas of improvement in conjunction with the spring 2025 fuel facility stakeholders meeting

A public meeting on potential improvements for licensing fuel facilities was held on April 10, 2025. A licensing best-practices workshop was held on May 14, 2025.

This action item is closed.

Modernizing Environmental Reviews

The NRC staff informed the public of numerous changes to streamline environmental reviews for fuel cycle facility licensing actions resulting from the anticipated increased workload, Fiscal Responsibility Act of 2023, and the Accelerating Deployment of Versatile, Advanced Nuclear for Clean Energy (ADVANCE) Act of 2024. The NRC staff spoke of continuing to apply a risk-informed approach to NEPA decision-making, the increased focus on pre-application activities, and non-federal designees for ESA consultations. The NRC staff presentation showed a decrease in the average time to prepare an environmental impact statement (EIS) and average number of pages of an EIS. The industry inquired if the reduction in time and pages is the only metric used to indicate efficiency or if there are other metrics being used. The industry also asked if there are plans to update NUREG-1748, "Environmental Review Guidance for Licensing Actions Associated with NMSS Programs," to incorporate the efficiency changes.

Environmental Report Pre-Application Guidance

The NRC staff informed the fuel cycle industry of forthcoming NRC guidance on environmental report pre-application engagement that is intended to improve the efficiency of the environmental review process. The NRC staff shared anticipated advantages of having pre-application engagement for prospective applicants and the NRC. Examples of information that should be discussed during pre-application engagement were given. The draft guidance document will be shared with the public for comment prior to issuing the final guidance. The guidance will be incorporated into a revision of NUREG-1748, "Environmental Review Guidance for Licensing Actions Associated with NMSS Programs."

Endangered Species Act Non-Federal Representative Process

The NRC staff provided an overview of section 7 of the ESA Non-Federal Representative (NFR) Process. ESA section 7 requires the Federal action agencies to consult with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) and the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) to ensure their actions do not affect federally listed species or modify critical habitat. ESA section 7 regulations allow consultation to be conducted by either the Federal action agency or by an NFR designated by the action agency. The NFR will analyze the impacts of the proposed action on federally listed species and critical habitats, prepare a biological assessment, and communicate directly with FWS and NMFS. The process streamlines consultations, reduce NRC staff resources, and supports efficiency initiatives. The NRC staff explained the process an licensee or applicant would use to request to become the NFR.

Defining Likelihood Definitions for Fuel Cycle Facilities

The NRC staff informed the fuel cycle industry of its intent to develop additional guidance that will outline an alternative approach than what is currently documented in NUREG-1520 that can be used by an applicant to demonstrate compliance with the performance requirements for limiting facility risk by identifying specific approaches for likelihood determinations for the major areas within its safety program. The alternative approach will provide applicants flexibility while ensuring safety, utilize risk-informed decision-making, and focus on facility design and operation aspects that have the highest safety significance. The NRC staff reinforced its openness to alternative approaches for demonstrating compliance with applicable regulations.

Budget and Fee Update

The NRC staff provide some background on the differences between the business line budget and fee class, how changes in budget assumptions impact fees and how the NRC can control that. The NRC staff informed the attendees that the business line budget and the fee class budget are not the same and that the fee class includes additional mission-indirect program support and agency support resources that are a large contribution to the hourly rate and annual fees. The NRC staff indicated that there are limited opportunities for the NRC to adjust budgeted resources within the budget cycle to account for changes in estimated workload. The NRC has the most flexibility to make appropriate adjustments during budget formulation before the President's budget is issued, and there is a lesser degree of flexibility for appropriate adjustments after the President's budget is issued and before a full-year appropriation is enacted for the fiscal year. The NRC staff also explained the impact on annual fees when the amount of estimated 10 CFR Part 170 work (i.e. licensing and inspection) is different in the budget execution year than during budget formulation. The attendees were also informed of the updates to the fuel facility cost estimates for 2025. Additional categories of licensing actions were added for granularity and to enhance the planning and budgeting of applications.

SharePoint External Sharing

The NRC staff informed the fuel cycle industry of the upcoming change of the platform used to share files with external parties. In the fall of 2025, the NRC will replace [Box.com](#) with SharePoint Online as the external file sharing and collaboration platform. The industry was informed to be on the lookout for an email containing a link to the NRC guest user registration form. External parties will need to complete the registration form to be able to access the new SharePoint Online platform and share files with the NRC.

Fuel Facilities Construction Inspection Program Updates

The NRC staff provided an update on the fuel facilities construction inspection program revisions. The NRC staff informed the fuel cycle industry of the updates to Inspection Manual Chapter (IMC) 2600, "Fuel Cycle Facility Operation Safety and Safeguards Inspection Program," IMC 2694, "Fuel Cycle Facility Construction and Pre-Operational Readiness Review Inspection Program," draft Inspection Procedure (IP) 88200, "Inspections of Safety significant Items and Services During Construction of Fuel Cycle Facilities," and draft IP 88021, "Inspections of Management Measures During Construction of Fuel Cycle Facilities," that resulted from stakeholder feedback received during the April 9, 2024, meeting on the construction inspection program. The NRC staff discussed the near-term goal to publish IMC 2694, IP 88200, and IP 88201. The NRC staff also indicated that draft IP 88202, "Inspections of Operational Readiness During Construction of Fuel Cycle Facilities" is currently in development.

Incorporation by Reference Tool for NEPA Documents

The NRC staff provided a presentation on the use of Incorporation by Reference (IBR) as a tool for streamlining NEPA documents. IBR is a tool to reduce page length, preparation time, and redundant analysis for both applicant environmental reports and NRC environmental documents (e.g. environmental impact statements and environmental assessments) by incorporating environmental planning studies, analyses, or other relevant information by reference. The NRC staff provided examples for when, where, and how to use IBR.

Summary of Meeting's Discussions

Following the completion of the discussions of the agenda items, the NRC staff provided a summary of the discussions held during the day. The NRC staff concluded the meeting with closing remarks by Shana Helton, Director, DFM, and Greg Core, Fuel Cycle Facilities and Transportation Director, NEI.

Adjourn

Neither the NRC staff, the NEI, industry, nor members of the public raised further questions or comments, and the meeting was adjourned at 12:00 p.m. The NRC staff plans to conduct its next fuel facility stakeholder meeting during the fall of 2025.

Action Items

The following action items resulted from the discussions during the meeting:

1. The NRC will continue making meeting materials available to the public at least 7 days in advance of the meeting.
2. The NRC will continue to maintain an up-to-date Integrated Schedule of Regulatory Activities chart on its [public webpage](#).

There were no new actions items resulting from the meeting.

Enclosure:

1. List of Attendees

SUBJECT: SUMMARY OF MAY 14, 2025, FUEL FACILITY STAKEHOLDER PUBLIC MEETING

DOCUMENT DATE: June 17, 2025

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LIST OF ATTENDEES

MAY 14, 2025, FUEL FACILITY STAKEHOLDERS PUBLIC MEETING

Name	Affiliation
Alexis Sotomayor-Rivera	The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC)
Amy McKenna	NRC
Amy Minor	NRC
Andrea Jennetta	International Nuclear Associates, Inc. - Fuel Cycle Week
Andrea Johnson	NRC
Ashby Bridges	General Matter, Inc. (General Matter)
Ashley Morris	Nuclear Fuel Services (NFS)
Benjamin Karmioli	NRC
Bob Sanders	Honeywell International, Inc. (Honeywell)
Brandon Bout	NRC
Brandon Hanson	Framatome Inc. (Framatome)
Brian Wagner	NRC
Brittany Lutz	Nuclear Innovation Alliance
Bryson Roberson	ClearPath
Camille T. Zozula	Westinghouse Electric Company (WEC)
Carolyn Fairbanks	NRC
Caylee Kenny	NRC
Celimar Valentin Rodriguez	NRC
Chad Oelstrom	NRC
Chandi Davidson	Global Nuclear Fuel - Americas
Christine Saah Nazer	NRC
Cintha Roman	NRC
Clinton McGill	NRC
Cynthia Taylor	NRC
Dallas M. Gardner	NFS
Dan Watts	Centrus / America Centrifuge Operating, LLC
Daniel Ashworth	BWXT Nuclear Operations Group
Daniel Forsyth	NRC
Dante Johnson	NRC
Dave Gasperson	NRC
David Tiktinsky	LIST
Deric Tilson	The Breakthrough Institute
Diana Diaz Toro	NRC
Diana Woodyatt	NRC
Doug Weaver	General Matter
Douglas Diethrich	NRC
Eben Allen	NRC
Eliezer Goldfeiz	NRC
Eric C. Michel	NRC
Faris Badwan	Orano USA
Gerond George	NRC

Name	Affiliation
Grace Pennington	NRC
Greg Core	Nuclear Energy Institute (NEI)
Gregg Goff	NRC
Greta Knowles	NRC
Haimanot Yilma	NRC
Hector Rodriguez	NRC
Isaac Johnston	NRC
James Downs	NRC
James Drabble	NRC
James Hammelman	NRC
Jana Bergman	Curtiss-Wright
Jannette Worosilo	NRC
Jason Plotter	NRC
Jeanette Arce	NRC
Jennfier Wheeler	TRISO-X, LLC
Jesse Carlson	NRC
Jill Shepherd	NRC
Jimmy Chang	NRC
John Russell	NRC
Jonathan Marcano Lozada	NRC
Jonathan Rowley	NRC
Joseph Goodridge	NRC
Joy Jiang	The Breakthrough Institute
Juan Lopez	NRC
Justin Raudabaugh	NRC
Kelly Sullivan	NRC
Kimyata Morgan-Butler	NRC
LaDonna Suggs	NRC
Langston Lewis	NRC
Lindsey Cooke	NRC
Lisa Dimmick	NRC
Lou McKown	NRC
Martin M Ortiz Gonzalez	NRC
Matt Bartlett	NRC
Matthew Doyle	NRC
Meg Day	NRC
Mike Call	NRC
Mitchell Dehmer	NRC
Nicole Cortes	NRC
Noel Pitoniak	NRC
Norma Garcia Santos	NRC
Osiris Siurano-Perez	NRC
Patrick Donohue	NRC
Peter Vescovi	Orano USA
Peyton Doub	NRC

Name	Affiliation
Ravi Penmetsa	NRC
Richard Skokowski	NRC
Robert Mathis	NRC
Robert Sun	NRC
Samantha Lav	NRC
Scott Murray	NEI
Sean Patterson	Honeywell
Shana Helton	NRC
Stacey Imboden	NRC
Stephen G. Subosits	WEC
Stephen Poy	NRC
Steven Pope	Information Systems Laboratories
Tekia Govan	NRC
Thomas Vukovinsky	NRC
Tim Knowles	Global Laser Enrichment, LLC
Tim Tate	Framatome
William Deric Tilson	The Breakthrough Institute
Wyatt Padgett	Urenco USA
Yawar Faraz	NRC
Yilia Vega Claudio	NRC
Zee St Hilaire	NRC