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ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON REACTOR SAFEGUARDS

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UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

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731ST MEETING

ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON REACTOR SAFEGUARDS
(ACRS)

+ + + + +

WEDNESDAY

DECEMBER 3, 2025

+ + + + +

The Advisory Committee met at Two White
Flint North, 11545 Rockville Pike, Rockville,
Maryland, and via videoconference, at 1:00 p.m. EST,
Walter L. Kirchner, Chair, presiding.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

WALTER L. KIRCHNER, Chair
GREGORY H. HALNON, Vice Chair
DAVID A. PETTI, Member-at-Large
VICKI M. BIER
CRAIG D. HARRINGTON
ANNIE KAMMERER
ROBERT P. MARTIN
SCOTT P. PALMTAG
THOMAS E. ROBERTS
MATTHEW W. SUNSERI

1 DESIGNATED FEDERAL OFFICIAL:

2 LARRY BURKHART

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A-G-E-N-D-A**Opening Remarks by the ACRS Chairman (Open)**

Opening statement 4

Agenda and items of current interest . . . 11

P-R-O-C-E-E-D-I-N-G-S

1:00 p.m.

CHAIR KIRCHNER: Okay, good afternoon.

The meeting will now come to order. This is the first day of the 731st meeting of the Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards, ACRS. I'm Walt Kirchner, Chairman of the ACRS.

We are indeed happy to be back to normal operations after the lapse in appropriations and we are looking forward to staging the final full Committee meeting of the 2025 calendar year. ACRS members attending this meeting in person are Vicki Bier, Greg Halnon Craig Harrington, Robert Martin, Scott Palmtag, Dave Petti, Tom Roberts and Matt Sunseri is attending virtually.

We would like to welcome our newest member, Annie Kammerer. Welcome, Annie. I'm going to just take a moment here to introduce her further. She currently is the lead for the Army Nuclear Energy Office which is the Executive Agent for the DoD as they reestablish a nuclear energy program for installations and power.

Annie comes us with a very strong background. She is an expert in nuclear power plant seismic hazards evaluations, seismic probabilistic risk

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1 analysis, soil structure interactions and nuclear
2 regulatory processes related to sighting and site
3 valuation. That's a mouthful. I'll add to that, she
4 was the lead in developing several -- actually
5 principal author and lead in developing guidance on
6 seismic hazards assessments for nuclear facilities,
7 that's nuclear reg guide 1.208 and also guidance on
8 seismic margins assessments.

9 She has led the development of the initial
10 guidance for seismic isolation systems for nuclear
11 power plans. She was involved in the post-Fukushima
12 response and led a seismic technical team tasked with
13 developing the post-Fukushima reevaluation activities
14 that led to seismic walk downs of all 104 operating
15 U.S. nuclear plants at the time.

16 Prior to that, she has three degrees from
17 the University of California Berkeley including a PhD
18 in Geotechnical Earthquake Engineering, so it's all a
19 mouthful. Welcome, Annie.

20 MEMBER KAMMERER: Thanks very much, I
21 appreciate that warm welcome and look forward to
22 working with the Committee on the important path
23 forward.

24 CHAIR KIRCHNER: Okay, glad to have you.
25 Moving on, for this meeting today, consultant Ron

1 Ballinger is scheduled to join us. Are you on the
2 line, Ron?

3 MR. BURKHART: No, he'll be here tomorrow.

4 CHAIR KIRCHNER: Okay, he'll be here for
5 tomorrow's session. If I missed anyone, please speak
6 up now. I note that we have a quorum. Larry Burkhardt
7 of the ACRS staff is the Designated Federal Officer
8 for this morning's full Committee meeting.

9 No member conflicts of interest were
10 identified and the notice for this meeting was
11 published in the Federal Register on November 18th,
12 2025. The ACRS was established the Atomic Energy Act
13 and is governed by the Federal Advisory Committee Act.
14 Under the Atomic Energy Act, ACRS shall advise the
15 Nuclear Regulatory Commission on the hazards of
16 proposed and existing reactor facilities and the
17 adequacy of proposed safety standards.

18 Following Executive Order 14-300, the
19 Committee has narrowed its focus to only those
20 activities necessary to fulfill its statutory
21 obligations. As a result, ACRS is prioritizing the
22 review and reporting of new reactor facilities and
23 proposed safety standards with particular attention
24 to issues that are unique, novel and noteworthy. The
25 Committee will also consider other nuclear safety

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1 matters at the direction and referral by the
2 commission.

3 Please note that the ACRS speaks only
4 through its published letter reports. All member
5 comments therefore should be regarded as only the
6 individual opinion of that member and not a committee
7 decision. All relevant information related to ACRS
8 activities, such as letters, rules for meeting
9 participation and transcripts are located on the NRC
10 public website and can be easily found by typing
11 Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards in the search
12 field on the NRC's home page.

13 The agenda for this meeting was published
14 in the Federal Register on November 18th, 2025. The
15 agenda may also be found on the ACRS public website
16 and the NRC's public meeting notification system.

17 The ACRS, consistent with the Agency's
18 value of public transparency and regulation of nuclear
19 facilities, provides opportunity for public input and
20 comment during our proceedings.

21 There is a minor change to our agenda and
22 that is we had self-assessment and lessons learned as
23 a topic. That will be moved to our February 2026
24 meeting as it is not ready for full Committee
25 deliberation.

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1 We will begin this afternoon's meeting
2 with our planning and procedures session. Tomorrow
3 morning, the Committee will take up the topic of the
4 Palisades Steam Generator operational assessment. The
5 Committee has received written comments from several
6 members of the public on this topic and these will be
7 made part of the record. We also had received a
8 request from one member of the public to make an oral
9 statement on the topic and again that will take place
10 tomorrow morning.

11 Any additional written statements may be
12 forwarded to today's designated federal officer. We
13 have also set aside time at the end of this
14 afternoon's session for any public comments.

15 A transcript of the meeting is being kept
16 and will be posted on our website. When addressing
17 the Committee, participants should first identify
18 themselves and speak with sufficient clarity and
19 volume so that they may be readily heard. If you are
20 not speaking, please mute your computer on Teams. If
21 you are participating by phone, press *6 to mute your
22 phone and *5 to raise your hands on Teams. The Team
23 chat feature is only for communicating IT issues or
24 brief meeting logistic items. Please do not use it
25 for comments or questions on the topics under

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1 Committee discussion and deliberation.

2 Finally, if you have any feedback for the
3 ACRS about today's meeting, we encourage you to fill
4 out the Public Meeting Feedback form on the NRC's
5 website.

6 Before going on, I would like to also
7 offer a short statement. This is my final committee
8 meeting as the ACRS Chairman. It's been an honor and
9 privilege to serve in this capacity. I need to thank
10 Chairman Wright, Commissioners Crowell and Marzano and
11 former Commissioners Hansen and Caputo and their
12 staffs for their continuing support of the committee.
13 In addition, I want to thank my colleagues, all of
14 you, in particular, Vice Chairman Halnon and Member at
15 Large Petti, Craig and Dave, and all of you and our
16 ACRS staff as well for supporting me as the chairman.

17 The NRC's historian recently stated that
18 the Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards is the
19 oldest committee in the world devoted to reactor
20 safety. Over that time, the committee has been an
21 important element of the NRC licensing process and has
22 made major contributions to resolving a wide range of
23 technical safety issues that shape the regulatory
24 landscape. Its statutory mandate, in my opinion, is
25 as relevant today as it was 70 years ago, providing

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1 public confidence that continue in operation currently
2 and deployment of new reactors is achieved in a safe,
3 timely and transparent manner to benefit the nation's
4 energy priorities.

5 Our activities conducted in the public
6 forum and our reviews of new reactors to assess the
7 overall safety case of a proposed facility's design
8 and operation with focus on unique, novel and
9 noteworthy features helps us in providing timely
10 advice and recommendations to the Commission on the
11 safety, technical rigor and completeness of a
12 licensing or rule making action. In accomplishing
13 this role, we provide a technical complement to the
14 Commission's policy and regulatory decision making
15 responsibilities in ensuring safe deployment of
16 nuclear power and, as stated in the recent Executive
17 Order, maintaining the NRC's leading reputation for
18 nuclear safety, both at home and internationally as
19 the gold standard for nuclear regulation.

20 I thank you for this opportunity to serve
21 as Chairman and with that, we will move on to our
22 planning procedure session and our Executive Director,
23 Marissa Bailey, is participating remotely. Marissa,
24 go ahead.

25 MS. BAILEY: Thank you, Chairman Kirchner.

1 First, before we get started, I'd like thank you for
2 your service, your leadership and your guidance as our
3 ACRS Chairman this past couple of years. Just to
4 remind everyone, we are going to end this P&P session
5 with election of new officers, that'll be at the end
6 of the session.

7 I also want to take this opportunity to
8 welcome Member Kammerer, looking forward to working
9 with you and welcome back to the NRC.

10 Let's go ahead with our usual first agenda
11 item and that is the anticipated workload and I'll
12 turn that over to Larry.

13 MR. BURKHART: Thank you, Marissa. I will
14 be referring to what we call the rainbow chart, which
15 I distributed to everybody prior to the meeting and
16 that is the calendar for the ACRS subcommittee/full
17 committee meetings and engagements over the next six
18 months as well as the anticipated workload schedule,
19 which is the anticipated full committee agenda items
20 over the next six months.

21 I pulled up December on the rainbow chart.
22 I won't go over thing, of course, we're in the midst
23 of a full committee meeting, we're at the beginning of
24 the full committee meeting. There are no subcommittee
25 meetings scheduled for the month of December, so I

1 will move into the new year.

2 Per our bylaws, there is no full committee
3 meeting in January. We do have something tentatively
4 scheduled for January 15th in the afternoon on EO
5 14300 related rule making activities; however, you
6 will hear later that that is likely to be moved and an
7 event might be put in its place to do an
8 administrative meeting on bylaws.

9 Moving into February, February 3rd, 2026,
10 we have reserved time for the Clinch River
11 construction permit application to talk about unique,
12 novel and noteworthy topics. You'll hear more about
13 the proposed topics for discussion by the committee
14 later from Member Harrington.

15 On February 4th through the 6th, is the
16 next scheduled full committee meeting and potentially
17 on that agenda is a Westinghouse Topic Report on Full
18 Spectrum LOCA, which you will hear Member Martin lead
19 the discussion about very soon in this P&P agenda. The
20 self-assessment lessons learned and paths forward
21 topic will also be discussed at the February full
22 committee meeting.

23 Going back to the rainbow chart, the
24 February subcommittee week, February 17th in the
25 afternoon is a Field Material Destruction Subcommittee

1 meeting on a Framatome Top Report on increased burn up
2 for PWRs. February 18th and 19th, we have the two
3 days reserved for potential closed engagements with
4 the staff on various aspects of EO 14300 rule makings.
5 We're going to talk on that a little bit later.

6 Moving into March, we have the March full
7 committee meeting from the 4th through the 6th. On
8 that agenda, we have some time reserved for the
9 microreactor rule making as part 57. That is
10 contingent on the draft rule being made public. Also,
11 we have reserved some time for EO 14300 draft rule
12 language letters and, again, that would be contingent
13 upon any such draft rule being made public.

14 Just to note on the calendar, we see that
15 the RIC is March 10th through the 12th. Some of you
16 may be attending. The March subcommittee week, March
17 17th in the afternoon is the EPRI Top Report o
18 Alternative Licensing Strategy, LOCA, FFRD. March
19 18th and 19th, we have reserved times to talk about as
20 yet to be determined topics for the Clinch River
21 Construction Permit Application.

22 Moving to April, we have the April full
23 committee from April 8th through the 10th. On that
24 agenda potentially is the EO 14300 draft rule
25 language, preparation for a commission meeting and the

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1 EPRI Top Report on Alternative Licensing Strategy for
2 LOCA induced FFRD.

3 Back to the rainbow chart, right now there
4 are no subcommittee meetings scheduled for that week
5 and in April.

6 Moving into May, May 6th through the 8th
7 is the next full committee meeting. We have some
8 reserve time for EO 14300 draft rule language letter
9 and commission meeting dry runs.

10 We have no meetings right now scheduled in
11 May for the subcommittee. Any questions, comments on
12 the rainbow chart for the next six months, we just
13 talked about until May, that's the next six months.

14 CHAIR KIRCHNER: I would just like to
15 observe there's a lot of blank space there. I would
16 propose that as Larry is showing for the March
17 subcommittee, we consider two things. One, moving any
18 subcommittee activities where possible to the Tuesday
19 and/or Wednesday before the full committee meeting.
20 Secondly, I think we should a little bit further out
21 because we know that both the Long Mott CPA with X-
22 energy and the Clinch River CPA with GE PWR x300 are
23 looming just off to the right so to speak in calendar
24 space, roughly early next fall, for a conclusion for
25 those activities. To the extent that we can bring our

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1 review activities forward, whether the staff is ready
2 or not, and use the time to deliberate over what we
3 think are the key issues, I would encourage that with
4 that span between April, May and June.

5 I think that one of the immediate
6 decisions that we will have to make today is whether
7 we'll have a hybrid meeting in February, whether
8 that's mostly virtual for members or in person just
9 with an eye on travel expenses if nothing else.

10 We have full spectrum LOCA and lessons
11 learned.

12 MR. BURKHART: We may not have the full
13 spectrum LOCA.

14 CHAIR KIRCHNER: And we may not have that.

15 MR. BURKHART: Yes.

16 CHAIR KIRCHNER: We'll come to that topic
17 in a little bit here.

18 MR. BURKHART: We will be dealing with the
19 end of the continuing resolution at the end of
20 January.

21 MEMBER PETTI: I think one of the key
22 issues is whether or not the staff will be ready for
23 with the GE PWR x300 discussion. Even if we're not
24 meeting again, we have to kind of make a decision at
25 this meeting to decide what we're going to do. Do we

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1 have any insight into that?

2 (Simultaneous speaking.)

3 MR. BURKHART: Yes, I suggest we discuss
4 the UNN topic and then make a decision there.

5 CHAIR KIRCHNER: Yes and maybe we move it
6 over to Wednesday too, that would cut down a day of
7 travel.

8 MR. BURKHART: Yes and if we're going to
9 travel, yes.

10 CHAIR KIRCHNER: And a day of expenses for
11 travel is a better way to say it.

12 MR. BURKHART: I do anticipate after the
13 committee's talk about the UNN for Clinch River and
14 Long Mott and there then able to be an interaction on
15 the planning with NR that you'll hopefully see some of
16 these subcommittee interactions on this too, but let's
17 wait and see. Okay, anything else on the rainbow
18 chart and AWS? Okay, Marissa.

19 MS. BAILEY: All right, our next item, our
20 Regulatory Guide reviews. We've got one reg guide to
21 talk about, that's Reg Guide 14220, Acceptability of
22 ASME code OM2 for code component testing requirements
23 at nuclear facilities. Member Harrington recommends
24 not reviewing this one and so I'll turn it over to
25 you, Member Harrington.

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1 CHAIR KIRCHNER: That was several months
2 ago now that we're checking on it.

3 MR. BURKHART: Yes, it was, it started
4 from this and you'll see under Top Report review
5 recommendations, we carried over some things from
6 previous full committee meetings. On that note -- I'm
7 sorry to interrupt, we do have the court reporter on
8 still, so I think we can let him go for now and I have
9 told him to be back for 8:30 or whoever's is covering
10 it for tomorrow morning, so we're in the midst of P&P.
11 We usually don't have this transcribed.

12 CHAIR KIRCHNER: Okay.

13 (Whereupon, the above-entitled matter went
14 off the record at 1:21 p.m.)
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