

# Official Transcript of Proceedings

## NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

## Title: Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards

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ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON REACTOR SAFEGUARDS

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12 proceeding of the United States Nuclear Regulatory  
13 Commission Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards,  
14 as reported herein, is a record of the discussions  
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1 UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

2 NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

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4 731ST MEETING

5 ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON REACTOR SAFEGUARDS

6 (ACRS)

7 + + + + +

8 WEDNESDAY

9 DECEMBER 3, 2025

10 + + + + +

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

15 COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

16 WALTER L. KIRCHNER, Chair

17 GREGORY H. HALNON, Vice Chair

18 DAVID A. PETTI, Member-at-Large

19 VICKI M. BIER

20 CRAIG D. HARRINGTON

21 ANNIE KAMMERER

22 ROBERT P. MARTIN

23 SCOTT P. PALMTAG

24 THOMAS E. ROBERTS

25 MATTHEW W. SUNSERI

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1 DESIGNATED FEDERAL OFFICIAL:

2 LARRY BURKHART

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## A-G-E-N-D-A

## Opening Remarks by the ACRS Chairman (Open)

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

2 1:00 p.m.

3 CHAIR KIRCHNER: Okay, good afternoon.

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

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

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

23 Annie comes us with a very strong  
24 background. She is an expert in nuclear power plant  
25 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.

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 Burkhart  
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.

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

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.

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.

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.

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

I also want to take this opportunity to welcome Member Kammerer, looking forward to working 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.

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

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

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

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.

12 || CHAIR KIRCHNER: Okay.

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