

# The Future of Operator Licensing

Modern Approaches for a Changing  
Nuclear Landscape  
Panel Discussion

February 2026

The NRC is developing two new regulatory options for licensing future nuclear power plants and revising existing regulations, including those for operators' licenses.

<b>Rule</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Next milestone / estimated date*</b>
New - Part 53	Risk-informed, technology-inclusive regulatory framework for advanced reactors	Final rule / April 30, 2026
New - Part 57	Licensing requirements for microreactors and other low consequence reactors	Proposed rule for public comment / February 23, 2026
Revised – Part 55	Regulatory enhancements for reactor licensing, decommissioning, and operational oversight	Proposed rule for public comment / April 22, 2026

\*Estimated dates are subject to change

# You can stay informed of the status of these rules and provide comments.

- Stay informed:
  - Visit the NRC's website at [www.nrc.gov](http://www.nrc.gov)
    - Select "Documents for Comment" under the "Public Meetings & Involvement" tab on the home page
    - Select "Rulemaking Activity" under the "Spotlight" section on the home page, then select the rule of interest
  - Subscribe to email updates via GovDelivery
    - Select "Subscribe to email updates" under the "Public Meetings & Involvement" tab on the home page and make selections (select "Documents for comment" and/or Federal Register Notices).
- Provide comments:
  - Comments can be submitted electronically on [www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov) during the comment period.

The NRC has developed, and continues to develop, tools and strategies to effectively and efficiently license operators.

The NRC has:

- Integrated testing of generic fundamentals knowledge into the site-specific written exam.
- Better aligned operating test performance deficiency grading to safety significance.
- Established processes for efficient use of examiner resources to support initial exams and requal inspections across the nation.

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The NRC continues to:

- Maintain awareness of industry efforts and activities, conduct research as needed, share information, and request feedback
- Develop the NRC Portal for web-based document submissions
- Maintain examiner resources
- Prepare regulatory guidance for advanced reactors

**Any Questions / Comments /  
Feedback?**