

UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

AFFIRMATION SESSION

PUBLIC MEETING

Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Commission Hearing Room
11555 Rockville Pike
Rockville, Maryland
March 25, 2026

The Commission met in open session, pursuant to notice at 3:30 P.M., Ho K. Nieh, Chairman, presiding.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

HO K. NIEH, Chairman (via teleconference)

DAVID A. WRIGHT, Member of the Commission (via teleconference)

BRADLEY R. CROWELL, Member of the Commission (via teleconference)

MATTHEW J. MARZANO, Member of the Commission (via teleconference)

DOUGLAS W. WEAVER, Member of the Commission (via teleconference)

ALSO PRESENT:

DAVID TAGGART, Acting General Counsel (via teleconference)

TOMAS HERRERA, Deputy Secretary of the Commission (via teleconference)

DISCLAIMER

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[3:30 p.m.]

PROCEEDINGS

CHAIRMAN NIEH: Thank you very much, operator. Good afternoon, I am Ho Nieh, Chairman of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, and I am presiding over this public affirmation session, which is being conducted by teleconference.

Joining me are the other currently serving members of the Commission. And may I have each Commissioner affirm their presence when I call their name:

Commissioner Wright: Here

Commissioner Crowell: Present

Commissioner Marzano: Here

Commissioner Weaver: Here

Great. Also participating are:

Tomas Herrera, Deputy Secretary of the Commission: Here

and

David Taggart, Acting General Counsel: Here

Great. This meeting is open to the public to listen in.

And Mister Deputy Secretary, I believe we have two items for affirmation. Would you please lead the Commission through these items?

TOMAS HERRERA: Yes, good afternoon. Today's first item is SECY-25-0056 - Final Rule: Categorical Exclusions from Environmental Review (RIN 3150-AK54; NRC-218-0300). The Commission is being asked to act on a final rule which amends Title 10 of the Code of Federal Regulations Part 51, "Environmental Protection Regulations for Domestic Licensing and Related Regulatory Functions" for certain licensing, regulatory, and administrative actions that

do not, individually or cumulatively, have a significant effect on the human environment. The revisions to the categorical exclusion regulations will reduce inefficiencies and inconsistencies in the implementation of the NRC's regulatory program. The amendments will eliminate the need to prepare unnecessary environmental assessments for NRC regulatory actions that have no significant effect on the human environment and will provide for the more timely NRC action.

The Commission has voted to approve the publication and implementation of the final rule. The Commission has also certified, under the Regulatory Flexibility Act, that this rule will not have significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities.

Would you please affirm your votes after I call your name?

CHAIRMAN NIEH: Aye.

COMMISSIONER WRIGHT: Aye.

COMMISSIONER CROWELL: Aye.

COMMISSIONER MARZANO: Aye.

COMMISSIONER WEAVER: Aye.

TOMAS HERRERA: Today's second item is SECY-25-0089 - Final Rule: Risk-Informed, Technology-Inclusive Regulatory Framework for Advanced Reactors. The Commission is being asked to act on a final rule amending regulations in Title 10 of the Code of Federal Regulations with the addition of Part 53, "Risk-Informed, Technology-Inclusive Regulatory Framework for Commercial Nuclear Plants." The final rule offers a voluntary, performance-based alternative regulatory framework for licensing commercial nuclear plants.

The Commission has voted to approve the publication and implementation of this final rule. The Commission has also certified, under the Regulatory Flexibility Act, that this rule will not have significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities.

Would you please affirm your votes after I call your name?

CHAIRMAN NIEH: Aye

COMMISSIONER WRIGHT: Aye

COMMISSIONER CROWELL: Aye

COMMISSIONER MARZANO: Aye

COMMISSIONER WEAVER: Aye

TOMAS HERRERA: That's all I have, thank you.

CHAIRMAN NIEH: Thank you, Mister Deputy Secretary. Would any members of the Commission like to make comments regarding the decision just reached?

CHAIRMAN NIEH: This rule is a major NRC action that provides a clear risk-informed, technology inclusive licensing framework to safely enable new nuclear. This new licensing framework accelerates safe, innovative reactor deployment and reinforces U.S. energy leadership, marking the first new reactors licensing framework in decades. It also provides optionality and makes licensing advanced nuclear reactors faster, simpler, and more cost-effective while continuing to prioritize safety. Thank you for your participation, and I now call the affirmation session to a close.

CERTIFICATE

This is to certify that the attached description of a meeting of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory

Commission entitled:

TITLE OF MEETING: Affirmation Session

(PUBLIC MEETING)

PLACE OF MEETING: Rockville, Maryland

DATE OF MEETING: March 25, 2026

was held as herein appears, is a true and accurate record of the meeting, and that this is the original transcript thereof taken stenographically by me, thereafter reduced to typewriting by me or under the direction of the court reporting company.

Transcriber: Samantha Miklaszewski

Reporter: Via Teleconference