



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

June 3, 2026

EMAIL ONLY

Jaime Loichinger, Director
Office of Federal Agency Programs
Advisory Council on Historic Preservation
401 F Street NW, Suite 308
Washington, DC 20001
E106@achp.gov

SUBJECT: U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION INITIATION OF SECTION 106
CONSULTATION FOR THE LICENSE APPLICATION OF RADIANT
INDUSTRIES, INC.'S R-50 PROJECT IN ROANE COUNTY, TENNESSEE
(DOCKET NUMBER: 70-7045)

Dear Jaime Loichinger:

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) is considering a license request from Radiant Industries, Inc. submitted on February 25, 2026, pursuant to Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* Part 70, "Domestic Licensing of Special Nuclear Material," for the R-50 project in Roane County, Tennessee. The R-50 project would include receiving tri-structural isotropic particle fuel (TRISO), packaging TRISO compacts into monoliths, and storage. The application for a license is available through the NRC's Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS), accessible at <https://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm>. The environmental report portion of the application is listed under [ML26058A379](#).

As part of the review, the NRC staff is preparing an environmental assessment (EA) under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended (NEPA). In accordance with Title 36 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* (36 CFR) Part 800 "Protection of Historic Properties" Section 800.8(c), the NRC is using the NEPA process to comply with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended (NHPA), in lieu of the procedures set forth in 36 CFR 800.3 through 800.6. The EA will include identification of historic and cultural resources and historic properties, an analysis of potential effects of the proposed action, including potential effects on historic and cultural resources and historic properties as well as the NRC staff's determinations. The purpose of this letter is to initiate NHPA Section 106 consultation.

The proposed site is located within the former K-25 Gaseous Diffusion Plant portion of the Oak Ridge Reservation and was largely undeveloped until construction of uranium enrichment operations infrastructure in 1943. More specifically, the proposed site is located on the former K-27 and K-29 building sites.

The original uranium enrichment operations supported the development of nuclear weapons as part of the U.S. Army's Manhattan Project and later expanded to include production of enriched uranium for fabrication into fuel elements for nuclear reactors. Uranium enrichment continued from 1943 until the DOE terminated the program in 1987, and subsequently initiated site environmental cleanup and restoration activities. In 1997 the K-25 Gaseous Diffusion Plant site was renamed the "East Tennessee Technology Park," to support reindustrialization and reuse of

former DOE assets by private industry. Between 1987 and 2024, more than 500 buildings (including those within the proposed site) were demolished and soil cleanup/remediation activities were completed.

The NRC has determined that the Area of Potential Effect (APE) for the R-50 review includes the area at the proposed site and its immediate environs where the character and use of historic properties may be directly (i.e., physically) or indirectly (i.e., visually or auditorily) impacted by land-disturbing and building activities associated with the construction and operation of the proposed facility. More specifically, the direct effects APE comprises approximately 30 acres and indirect effects APE is a 1-mile radius from the center point of the proposed site (see Enclosure).

Consistent with 36 CFR 800.8(c), the NRC staff has also initiated Section 106 consultation with Indian Tribes, National Park Service, Department of Energy, and Tennessee State Historic Preservation Officer.

The NRC invites you to submit any comments or concerns that you may have to offer on the NRC's Section 106 consultation and historic and cultural resources evaluation. Comments, questions, and concerns may be submitted to Beau Goldstein, Archaeologist, via email at Beau.Goldstein@nrc.gov or Jill Caverly, Senior Environmental Project Manager, via email at Jill.Caverly@nrc.gov within 30 days of the receipt of this letter.

Sincerely,



Signed by Koenick, Stephen
on 06/03/26

Stephen S. Koenick, Acting Chief
Environmental Technical Review Branch 1
Division of Rulemaking, Environmental,
and Financial Support
Office of Nuclear Material Safety
and Safeguards

Docket No. 70-7045

Enclosure: As stated

cc: GovDelivery

J. Loichnger

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DATED: June 3, 2026

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