



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

May 19, 2026

MEMORANDUM TO: Robert Sun, Chief
Environmental Project Management Branch 2
Division of Rulemaking, Environmental,
and Financial Support
Office of Nuclear Material Safety
and Safeguards

FROM: Stacey Imboden, Sr. Project Manager
Fuel Facility Licensing Branch
Division of Fuel Management
Office of Nuclear Material Safety
and Safeguards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Stacey Imboden".

Signed by Imboden, Stacey
on 05/19/26

SUBJECT: SUMMARY TRIP REPORT - SITE VISIT AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT
MEETING FOR THE PROPOSED ORANO ENRICHMENT USA, LLC
ENRICHMENT FACILITY IN ROANE COUNTY, TENNESSEE
(DOCKET NUMBER: 70-7038)

By letter dated January 30, 2026, Orano Enrichment USA, LLC (Orano) submitted an environmental report (ER) (Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS) Accession No. ML26030A236) under Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* Part 51, "Environmental protection regulations for domestic licensing and related regulatory functions," as part of a bifurcated application for possession and use of special nuclear material at a proposed uranium enrichment facility called Project IKE in Roane County, Tennessee. On March 27, 2026, Orano submitted the remaining portion (safety and safeguards discussion) of its license application (ML26086A377). On April 27, 2026, staff of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) and its contractor, Argonne National Laboratory, conducted a site visit and local government-to-government meeting related to the staff's review of the application. The trip report is enclosed.

At the time of the site visit and the writing of this memo, the NRC staff's decision regarding acceptance of Orano's license application is still pending. The NRC staff engaged in informed discussion with Orano before and during the site visit to understand the level of detail of the ER and to identify any information gaps. Therefore, the observations from the site visit do not pre-determine whether the license application will be accepted and docketed.

CONTACT: Stacey Imboden, NMSS/DFM
(301) 415-2462

Docket No. 70-7038

Enclosure: As stated

SUBJECT: SUMMARY TRIP REPORT - SITE VISIT AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT MEETING
FOR THE PROPOSED ORANO ENRICHMENT USA, LLC ENRICHMENT FACILITY
IN ROANE COUNTY, TENNESSEE (DOCKET NUMBER: 70-7038)

DATED: May 19, 2026

DISTRIBUTION:

Osiris Siurano-Perez, DFM/FFLB
Katie Barnes, DFM/FFLB
Tekia Govan, DFM/FFLB
Beau Goldstein, REFS
Patrick Donohue, REFS
Margaret MacDonnell, ANL (macdonell@anl.gov)
Sunita Kamboj, ANL (skamboj@anl.gov)
Peter Vescovi (peter.vescovi@orano.group)
Damon Brewer (damon.brewer@orano.group)
Bri Eddy (brianna.eddy@orano.group)

ADAMS Package No: MLML26134A26; Memo: ML26134A271

e-Concurrence case: 20260514-80010

Orano’s Proposed Enrichment Facility in Roane County, Tennessee –Site Visit and Local Government Meeting April 27, 2026

Docket Number: 70-7038

Summary Trip Report

INTRODUCTION

On April 27, 2026, staff of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) and its contractor, Argonne National Laboratory (ANL), conducted a site visit and local government meeting in support of the NRC’s license application review for a proposed gas centrifuge enrichment facility in Roane County, Tennessee.

On January 30, 2026, the Orano Enrichment USA, LLC (Orano) submitted an environmental report as part of a bifurcated application for a proposed enrichment facility (Orano 2026). On March 27, 2026, Orano submitted the remaining portion (safety and safeguards discussion) of its license application. NRC review of the application is ongoing.

This trip report summarizes the staff’s interactions during their trip to Oak Ridge and Roane County, Tennessee, in support of the application review. This included a meeting with Orano; a site tour of the property and surrounding areas; and a meeting with local government officials in the region.

Table 1 identifies the staff members who participated in the site visit and information gathering meetings.

Table 1. NRC Participants in Pre-Application Orano Site Visit and Information Gathering Meetings, April 27, 2026
NRC Staff Member and Title
Stacey Imboden, Senior Environmental Project Manager
Patrick Donohue, Environmental Project Manager
Robert Sun, Chief, Environmental Project Management Branch 2
Beau Goldstein, Archaeologist
ANL Staff Member and Title
Margaret MacDonell, Project Manager
Sunita Kamboj, Project Manager

INFORMATION GATHERING AND SITE TOUR OF THE PROPOSED ORANO ENRICHMENT FACILITY AND SURROUNDING AREAS

Meeting Location: Orano Offices at Oak Ridge Corporate Center - 151 Lafayette Drive, Oak Ridge, TN

NRC and ANL Attendees: Stacey Imboden, Patrick Donohue, Robert Sun, Beau Goldstein, Margaret MacDonell (ANL), and Sunita Kamboj (ANL)

Additional Attendees: Leah Alexander, DOE; Damon Brewer, Orano Project Manager; Joseph Dillard; Curtis Roberts, Orano Press Officer; Josh Hill, Orano Outreach Coordinator; and Tracey Jenkins, CRA Field Supervisor

Date: Tuesday, April 27, 2026

After initial introductions, Orano staff gave a presentation responding to topics of interest to the NRC staff that were provided ahead of the trip to the proposed facility site. Orano provided maps and images showing locations of interest on the site property and the surrounding region for NRC to review during the site visit. The following is a summary of observations collected by the staff during the site tour and reconnaissance.

- On the way to the site, Orano and the NRC staff drove south down Oak Ridge Turnpike, viewing the proposed site location from the road – including the proposed main entrance at Novus Drive. The group entered the site through an access road off of State Route (SR) 95 south of the White Wing Scrap Yard. The NRC staff were able to see White Wing Scrap Yard from the van and understand its vicinity to the site.
- The first stop was the Moneymaker archaeological site, where Cultural Resources Analysts, Inc. (CRA) staff were excavating a homestead and privy. Field Supervisor Tracey Jenkins explained the historical significance of the Great Depression-era site.



Photo of Orano, DOE, and NRC staff at the Moneymaker site with CRA staff.

- Orano and the NRC staff passed a second culturally-significant site, the Gallaher Tenement Quarters, on the way to meet Mr. Jenkins at the third and final site, the Gallaher House. Again, Orano and the NRC staff observed CRA staff excavating artifacts at the site, and Mr. Jenkins explained the historical significance of the Gallaher House and its outbuildings.



Photo of the remains of the cellar behind the Gallaher House.

- The next stop was the Smith-Gallaher Cemetery, a separate plot retained by U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) on the northern part of the property and outside the site limits of disturbance. The cemetery, positioned up on a ridge, was surrounded by trees – none of which were slated to be cleared within 100-150 feet. Damon Brewer explained that visitation of the cemetery was low and that Orano staff had not seen any members of the public accessing it during their site preparation work.



Photo of Orano, DOE, and NRC staff at the Smith-Gallaher Cemetery.

- The Orano and the NRC staff drove along the proposed new location of the re-routed transmission lines on the northwest side of the site, and observed the current location of the transmission lines.
- The final stop on the site tour was to the overgrown spur of Old Highway 95. Orano and the NRC staff walked the roadbed and observed the surrounding vegetation.
- The group then departed the site and traveled along the Oak Ridge Turnpike to the Horizon Center Industrial Park on the western side of the turnpike (SR 95) across from the Project IKE site. The group observed that large industrial buildings are under construction at the TRISO-X site.
- The group traveled from the TRISO-X site along the turnpike to the residential area closest to the Project IKE site. This area is across the turnpike west of the site, with a wooded ridge between the highway and the homes. The NRC staff observed that the site would not be visible from that area.

During the afternoon of April 27, 2026, the NRC staff and Orano staff returned to Orano's offices to discuss the January 2026 environmental report (ER). The NRC staff emphasized to Orano the need to include any and all new information and clarifications that were provided during the meeting as updates to the ER so that the information is publicly available and can be used as part of the analysis in the NRC's environmental impact statement (EIS). There were clarifying discussions about the following topics:

- Orano staff confirmed the positioning of the planned transmission line relocation.
- NRC and Orano staff discussed legibility and references of various ER figures. NRC staff asked about updating several ER maps, and about several new maps that could be helpful in the review.
- NRC staff asked Orano for clarification regarding transportation methods for feed and waste material. NRC staff asked about the long-term solution for radioactive and nonradioactive wastes, including planned disposal locations.

- NRC staff asked Orano about the status of their baseline environmental site assessment and Orano's plans to incorporate the results into the ER.
- Orano provided additional confirmatory information about potable water use, municipal utility use, and groundwater use.
- Orano updated NRC on the status of their Clean Water Act Section 401 and 404 certifications and their development of a spill prevention, control, and countermeasure plan.
- Orano and the NRC staff had clarification discussions regarding land use, water resources, ecology, meteorology, air quality, noise, and public and occupational health.
- NRC staff and Orano discussed the Historic and Cultural Resources section of the ER. Orano clarified the area of potential effect (APE) and the indirect APE.
- NRC staff asked Orano about the details of their Burial Treatment Plan.
- Orano presented a series of photographs displaying site views from various surrounding locations. NRC staff discussed the need for additional site views.
- NRC staff and Orano discussed committing to various mitigation strategies in the ER.
- Orano provided additional information about their coordination and discussions with the state of Tennessee regarding planned environmental monitoring frequency, locations, and media.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT MEETING SUMMARY

Date: Monday, April 27, 2026

Meeting Location: Oak Ridge Conference Center, 1403 Oak Ridge Turnpike, Oak Ridge, TN

City of Oak Ridge Attendees: Amy Fitzgerald, Government Affairs Director; Jim Dodson, Mayor Pro Tem; Randy Hemann, City Manager; Tom Pessemier, Deputy City Manager; Ellen Smith, City Council; Travis Solomon, Fire Chief; Jody Durham, Deputy Fire Chief; Matthew Tedford, Police Department; Bryan Mills, City Engineer; Jakob Hawks, Planner; and Mike Magill, Corridor Development Corporation President

Roane County Attendees: Charlotte Bowers, Commissioner; Carol Wood, Environmental Review Board; Tim Suter, Emergency Management Agency; Jerry Cunningham, Waste Management; and Lance Duff

Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation Attendees: Ron Parsons, Division of Radiological Health Licensing Manager; Matthew Greenwood, Division of Radiological Health Licensing Manager; Matthew Greenwood, Division of Radiological Health Environmental Fellow; and Katherine Stephens, Air Pollution Control Permitting Manager

NRC and ANL Attendees: Stacey Imboden, Robert Sun, Patrick Donohue, Beau Goldstein, Keion Henry, Margaret MacDonell (ANL), Sunita Kamboj (ANL)

DOE Attendee: Leah Alexander

Summary: The NRC staff began the meeting with a short presentation of the NRC's role in the review of the Orano license application, with a focus on the environmental review process which, pending acceptance, will result in an EIS. The presentation included a high-level overview of the license application and the proposed enrichment facility. The NRC staff outlined the distinction between the safety and environmental reviews, their parallel timelines, and

opportunities for public input. The NRC staff also mentioned that the DOE would be a cooperating agency in the development of the EIS.

Following the presentation, there was an opportunity for questions. The assembled local government officials asked whether any public meetings were planned for the application. The NRC staff explained that process changes had resulted in a reduction in activities that were not mandated by regulation or legislation, and that public meetings were among the activities removed as part of that streamlining. Another question addressed the ongoing rulemakings at NRC and whether those updates would apply to this application. The NRC staff responded that they would implement the rules when they were final and otherwise continue adhering to the current regulations. A series of questions pertained to cumulative impacts and the region-wide effects of multiple nuclear projects starting concurrently around Oak Ridge and Roane County. The NRC staff explained that recent reevaluation of the definition of cumulative impacts by the Council on Environmental Quality resulted in NRC environmental reviews focusing on reasonably foreseeable impacts occurring on the site of the application in question. Other questions were clarifying in nature, relating to air quality monitoring and schedule.

REFERENCES:

Orano (Orano Enrichment USA, LLC), IKE Enrichment Facility Environmental Report, January 2026, ADAMS Package No. ML26030A236.