



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

May 21, 2026

Peter Vescovi
Manager
Environmental, Safety, Health, and Licensing
4747 Bethesda Avenue
Suite 1001
Bethesda, MD 20814

SUBJECT: ACCEPTANCE OF ORANO ENRICHMENT USA LLC SPECIAL NUCLEAR MATERIAL LICENSE APPLICATION - ENTERPRISE PROJECT IDENTIFICATION NUMBERS L-2026-NEW-0002, L-2026-LNE-0001, and L-2026-LNE-0002

Dear Peter Vescovi:

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff received the March 27, 2026, letter submitting the safety and safeguards portion of Orano Enrichment USA, LLC's (Orano) license application (LA) (Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS) Accession No. ML26086A378), for possession and use of special nuclear material (SNM). This submittal followed the earlier submittals of the Environmental Report on January 30, 2026 (ML26030A238), and the Physical Security Plan on March 26, 2026 (ML26085A700). Orano supplemented its LA on May 8, 2026 (ML26128A423), providing responses to the NRC's May 1, 2026, request for supplemental information (ML26114A041). Together, these documents constitute Orano's application to possess and use SNM at its proposed uranium enrichment facility to be located in Oak Ridge, Tennessee. Orano also requested an exemption from the requirements in Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* (10 CFR) 70.22(m) to submit the required Information Systems Security Plan (ISSP) no later than 4 months after application acceptance.

The NRC staff has completed the acceptance review of your submittals and determined that the LA provides sufficient information to proceed with a detailed technical review. The following Enterprise Project Identification Numbers (EPIDs) are being assigned for the effort associated with this application:

- L-2026-NEW-0002, Orano Enrichment USA LLC - Project IKE Enrichment Facility License Application
- L-2026-LNE-0001, Environmental PM Activities for Orano License Application
- L-2026-LNE-0002, Environmental Review for Orano License Application

Please reference these EPIDs in any communication regarding the LA.

To meet the requested need-by date, the NRC has established an expedited review schedule with an estimate completion of April 30, 2027. This acceleration is supported in part by Orano's commitment to provide, by May 29, 2029, a detailed crosswalk comparing the Project IKE application to the previously approved Eagle Rock Enrichment Facility (EREF) license which shares some similarities to Project Ike. The crosswalk is an important tool that will enable the NRC review team to leverage the precedent from the Eagle Rock safety evaluation. While the

staff will rely on the similarities between the two facilities to support scheduled efficiencies, the staff will perform a complete regulatory review of the Project Ike application, and the accelerated schedule assumes those similarities can be effectively leveraged.

The NRC identified observations requiring clarification. Timely, comprehensive responses to these issues are essential to minimize requests for additional information (RAIs) and maintain the accelerated review schedule, which allows one round of formal RAIs per technical area. Sustaining the schedule assumes Orano will provide high quality RAI responses and supplemental submittals, and promptly support clarification calls and audits, particularly in technical areas where EREF precedent cannot be leveraged because of differences between programmatic, design, or site characteristics. These differences include: inconsistencies in the integrated safety analysis methodology; determination of management measure quality levels for IROFS; differences in the nuclear criticality safety program; differences in the approach to structural design; maturity of electrical and instrumentation and control IROFS information and uncommitted use of referenced codes and standards; applicable security requirements; and environmental impacts requiring assessment due to the new site location. The staff is identifying these differences now - supported by the detailed information in the enclosure - to facilitate early clarification, enable more efficient resolution of potential review issues, and help maintain the accelerated review schedule

Regarding Orano’s request for an exemption from 10 CFR 70.22(m), the NRC approved the request on May 20, 2026 (ML26135A230). The exemption allows Orano to submit the ISSP within 4 months of the NRC’s acceptance of the LA, making the ISSP due by September 21, 2026. Failure to submit the ISSP by this deadline may result in an extension of the review schedule or denial of the application.

The table below provides key milestones for the LA review schedule.

Review Milestones	Estimated Completion
Acceptance	May 22, 2026
Public Scoping and Comment Period	June - July 2026
Draft RAIs and Draft Safety and Safeguards Evaluation Report (SER) with holes provided to the NRC Project Manager ¹	May – July 2026
RAIs to Applicant ¹	May – July 2026
RAIs Responses and Supplements ¹	June – August 2026
Horizontal and Vertical Slice Audit (as needed)	September 2026
Draft Final SER provided to the NRC Project Manager ¹	October 2026
Final SER Package into Concurrence	November 2026
Issue Draft EIS for Public Comment	October – November 2026

¹ Some review milestone completion dates are listed as a range because the review steps for the different technical review areas will be conducted in parallel with staggered due dates for each area as part of the larger review milestone (e.g., completion of draft RAIs and SER, issuance of RAIs, responses to RAIs, completion of the draft final SER, and issuance of the final EIS and Record of Decision).

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3

Final EIS Issued in Federal Register, Prepare Record of Decision	February - March 2027
Issuance of Final SER	April 2027

The NRC staff estimates that completing the review of your submittal will require approximately 8750 staff hours for the LA review, including safety and security, and 2300 staff hours and \$900,000 contract costs for the environmental review which corresponds to about \$3,513,900.00 (\$318.00/hr.). We will promptly communicate significant schedule and cost changes, if any.

The enclosure to this communication contains sensitive security-related information. Accordingly, it is marked as "Official Use Only," and is withheld from public disclosure. When separated from the enclosure, this letter is decontrolled and publicly available, in accordance with 10 CFR Section 2.390 of the NRC's "Agency Rules of Practice and Procedure."

In accordance with 10 CFR 2.390, "Public inspections, exemptions, requests for withholding," of the NRC's "Agency Rules of Practice and Procedure," a copy of this letter will be available for public inspection in the NRC Public Document Room (PDR) or electronically from the publicly available records component of ADAMS. The PDR is currently open Monday-Friday by appointment only. To schedule an appointment, you may submit your request to the PDR via email at PDR.Resource@nrc.gov or call 1-800-397-4209 between 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. (EST), Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays. The ADAMS database is accessible from the NRC website at <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html>.

If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact me at (301) 415-7827, or via email at Osiris.Siurano-Perez@nrc.gov.

Sincerely,



Signed by Siurano-Perez, Osiris
on 05/21/26

Osiris Siurano-Perez, Project Manager
Fuel Facility Licensing Branch
Division of Fuel Management
Office of Nuclear Material Safety
and Safeguards

Docket No. 07007038

Enclosure:
Observations (non-public)

This letter transmits Security-Related Information . When separated from the enclosure, this letter is decontrolled.

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4

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IDENTIFICATION NUMBERS L-2026-NEW-0002, L-2026-LNE-0001, and
L-2026-LNE-0002

DATED: May 21, 2026

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**ADAMS Accession Nos. PKG: ML26134A328, LTR: ML26134A324, ENCL: ML26134A326,
econcurrence: 20260518-10002**