



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

June 18, 2026

Mr. Harold E. Adkins, Jr., Advisor  
Computational Fluids and Mechanics  
Pacific Northwest National Laboratory  
902 Battelle Boulevard  
P.O. Box 999, MSIN K7-15  
Richland, WA 99352 USA

SUBJECT: ACCEPTANCE OF THE SCOPING STUDY TO DEMONSTRATE VIABILITY OF A RISK ASSESSMENT APPROACH FOR APPROVAL OF A TRANSPORTATION PACKAGE OF A TRANSPORTABLE NUCLEAR POWER PLANT FOR MARITIME SHIPMENT – DOCKET NO. 07109409, COST ACTIVITY CODE NUMBER 002240/ENTERPRISE PROJECT IDENTIFICATION NUMBER L-2025-LRM-0090

Dear Mr. Harold E. Adkins:

By email dated March 16, 2026 (Agencywide Documents Access and Management System [ADAMS] Package Accession Number (No.) ML26078A347), you (Pacific Northwest National Laboratory, PNNL) submitted the “Scoping Study to Demonstrate Viability of a Risk Assessment Approach for Approval of a Transportation Package of a Transportable Nuclear Power Plant for Maritime Shipment (DOE/SCO)” to the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff (the staff thereafter) for review and “consideration for endorsement.”

The purpose of this letter is to provide you the results of the staff’s acceptance review of this proposed action request. The staff determined that the report contains sufficient technical information to allow the staff to complete a detailed technical review. The acceptance review is also intended to identify any readily apparent deficiencies that may impede proceeding with the review of the document.

The staff reviewed the document and concluded that it includes technical information in sufficient detail to enable the staff to complete its detailed technical review and make an independent assessment regarding the acceptability of the proposed request in terms of regulatory requirements and the protection of public health and safety and the environment. Given the more limited scope and depth of the acceptance review compared to the detailed technical review, issues that affect the staff’s ability to complete the technical review may still be identified despite the acceptance review being deemed adequate. If additional information is needed, you will be notified by separate correspondence.

The staff determined, based on historical data and current expectations, that the technical review may require and take approximately 1,160 hours and 18 months, respectively. To support a more efficient process, the NRC is setting a goal of completing a review in 15% less time and level of effort. Based on that, the staff estimate for this review is approximately 986 hours and 15 months. However, since the staff understands that PNNL has requested an expedited review (ML26078A349), the staff’s estimated level of effort of 870 hours and 8 months, approximately, and \$150,000 for support from a maritime expert during the review. The staff will try to expedite the review, which will depend on the quality, timeliness, and

completeness of the information provided by PNNL. The schedule includes the issuance, if needed, of a request for additional information (RAI) by June 2026, and receiving your response by July 2026. The staff expects to complete the formal review and issue the requested product, if appropriate, by December 2026. These estimates are based on the staff's initial review of the report and may change due to several factors, including unanticipated expansion of the review scope involvement, or if the submittal is provided to the NRC in advance of or concurrently with industry program initiatives or pilot applications.

The schedule, above, is also based, in part, on PNNL providing RAI responses by the specified timeline, unless another date is agreed upon, RAI responses resolving issues with limited need for follow-up RAIs, and clarification calls being scheduled and conducted promptly, and any additional supporting non-docketed information being provided timely.

To achieve this schedule, the staff intends to engage PNNL frequently to resolve emergent issues or challenges that may arise during the staff's review that affect the initial forecasted completion date or result in significant changes to the estimated review hours. The reasons for those changes, along with updated estimates, will be communicated during routine interactions with the assigned project manager and documented accordingly. Should the review experience a delay for other reasons, the staff will endeavor to make up the time within the schedule.

Your submittal has been assigned Cost Activity Code No. (CAC)/Enterprise Project Identification No. (EPID) 002240/L-2025-LRM-0090. Please reference this number and Docket No. 71-9409 in any future correspondence associated with this request.

In accordance with Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations*, Section 2.390 of the NRC's "Agency Rules of Practice and Procedure," a copy of this letter will be available electronically for public inspection in the NRC Public Document Room or from the Publicly Available Records component of the NRC's ADAMS. ADAMS is accessible from the NRC Web site at <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html> (the Public Electronic Reading Room).

If you have any questions, please contact me.

Sincerely,



Signed by Garcia Santos, Norma  
on 06/18/26

Norma Garcia Santos, Project Manager  
Storage, Transportation, and Microreactors  
Licensing Branch  
Division of Spent Fuel Storage  
and Transportation  
Office of Nuclear Material Safety  
and Safeguards

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DATE: June 18, 2026

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