

Fuel Facility Stakeholders Meeting

May 13, 2026

Public Meeting With Nuclear Energy Institute
and Members from the Nuclear Fuel Facility Industry

Jonathan Rowley, Project Manager

Division of Fuel Management

Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards

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Meeting Category and Public Participation

This is an Observation Meeting. This is a meeting in which attendees will have an opportunity to observe the NRC performing its regulatory function or discussing regulatory issues. Attendees will have an opportunity to ask questions of the NRC staff or make comments about the issues discussed following the business portion of the meeting; however, the NRC is not actively soliciting comments towards regulatory decisions at this meeting.

Agenda – May 13, 2026

| Topic | Time | Speakers |
|---|----------|---|
| Introduction (Purpose, Rules for Meeting) | 9:00 AM | Jonathan Rowley, Project Manager Division of Fuel Management (DFM) |
| Opening Remarks | 9:05 AM | Shana Helton, Director Division of Fuel Management Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission Greg Core, Director Fuel Cycle Facilities Nuclear Energy Institute (NEI) |
| Status of Action Items from May 2025 Meeting and Integrated Schedule and Supplement Updates | 9:15 AM | Jonathan Rowley, Project Manager, DFM |
| Efficiencies Gained During Licensing from Pre-Application Engagements | 9:30 AM | Tekia Govan, Branch Chief, DFM |
| Feedback on Recent Pre-Application Engagements | 10:00 AM | Greg Core, Director Fuel Cycle Facilities Nuclear Energy Institute (NEI) |
| Break | 10:30 AM | |
| Applying for Exemptions to Existing Regulations | 10:45 AM | Greg Core, Director Fuel Cycle Facilities Nuclear Energy Institute (NEI) |
| Public Question and Answer | 11:30 AM | Public |

Agenda – May 13, 2026 (cont.)

| Topic | Time | Speakers |
|--|----------|---|
| Lunch Break | 11:35 AM | |
| Fuel Facilities Inspection Program Rebaseline | 1:00 PM | Gerond George, Branch Chief, DFM Jeanette Arce, Project Manager, DFM |
| Overview of New Fuel Facility Construction Oversight | 1:30 PM | Eric Michel, Division of Fuels, Radiological Safety, and Security |
| Update on M-LEAP Recommendation Implementation | 2:15 PM | Gehan Flanders, Project Manager, DFM |
| Public Question and Answer | 2:45 PM | Public |
| Update on DOE Pilot Fuel Line Efforts | 2:50 PM | Robert Mathis, Project Manager, DFM |
| Environmental Considerations | 3:15 PM | Robert Sun, Branch Chief, REFS, and Staff |
| Public Question and Answer | 3:45 PM | Public |
| Recap of Action Items for the Day | 3:50 PM | Jonathan Rowley, DFM Greg Core, NEI |
| Closing Remarks and Adjourn | 4:00 PM | Shana Helton, DFM Greg Core, NEI |

Opening Remarks

Shana Helton, Director

Division of Fuel Management

Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards

Greg Core, Director

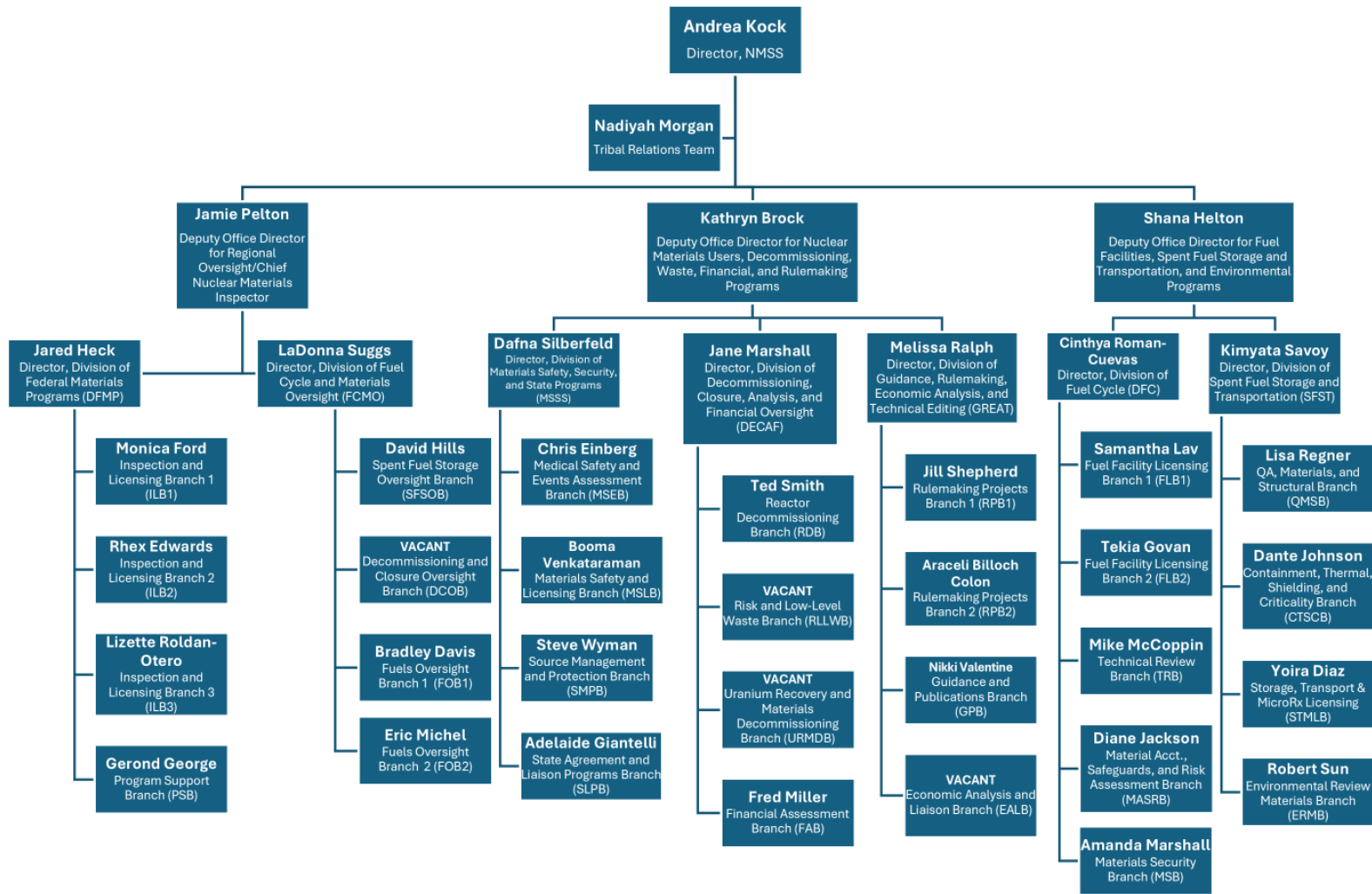
Fuel Cycle Facilities

Nuclear Energy Institute

NRC Reorganization

- The NRC is launching a significant organizational modernization effort designed to streamline decision-making, consolidate functions, and enhance alignment with national priorities for the safe and efficient deployment of innovative nuclear technologies. The reorganization will focus on core business lines of new reactors, operating reactors, and nuclear materials and waste. NRC aims to have the reorganization implemented by mid summer.
 - <https://www.nrc.gov/about-nrc/organization/reorg>

New NMSS Organizational Chart



Action Items from May 2025 Fuel Facility Stakeholders Public Meeting

Jonathan Rowley, Project Manager

Division of Fuel Management

Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards

Action Items – May 2025 Stakeholders Meeting

Action Item 1

The NRC and NEI/Industry shall exchange any meeting presentation materials at least one week prior to the scheduled meeting date.

NRC Staff Resolution

DFM will continue to make the presentation materials available to the public at least one week prior to the meeting date. (*Ongoing Periodic Action*)

Action Item 2

The NRC staff will maintain a current integrated schedule of regulatory activities chart on the NRC public website for the fuel facility stakeholders meeting.

NRC Staff Resolution

The integrated schedule is updated at least twice a year prior to each stakeholders meeting and as needed when new items are added. (*Ongoing Periodic Action*)

Integrated Schedule Chart and Supplement Updates

Jonathan Rowley, Project Manager

Division of Fuel Management

Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards

Updates to Integrated Schedule Chart and Supplement

- Updated information
 - Fuel Facility Stakeholders Meeting
 - <https://www.nrc.gov/materials/fuel-cycle-fac/regs-guides-comm.html#cumeffects>
 - Integrated Schedule (Chart)
 - ADAMS Accession Number [ML26121A278](#)
 - Integrated Schedule Supplement
 - ADAMS Accession Number [ML26121A279](#)
 - Summary of changes to previously listed activities (June 2025 – April 2026)
 - ADAMS Accession Number [ML26121A280](#)

Efficiencies Gaining During Licensing from Pre-Application Engagements

Tekia Govan

Division of Fuel Management

Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards

Pre-Application Engagement

- ***Voluntary*** interaction before submittal of a license application or amendment
 - Frequent and early communication between NRC staff and applicant
- Engagement encouraged 6-12 months before submitting an application



Pre-Application Engagement

- Helps applicants understand NRC expectations
- Supports early identification and discussion of technical and regulatory issues
- Allows NRC to plan resources, assign the right technical staff, and build realistic schedules
- Provides an opportunity for NRC feedback before the formal review

How the Pre-Application Process Works

- Participation is optional but strongly encouraged
- NRC can review draft application sections early
- Early review allows NRC to share observations, identify gaps and guide improvements, and for the applicant to update their draft application prior to submittal
- This increases the likelihood of acceptance for technical review on the first submittal



Technical Review Efficiencies

- Draft “safety evaluations with holes” and draft environmental impact statement (EIS) with holes to focus information needs
- Utilize audits and clarification calls in place of requests for additional information (RAIs) when appropriate
- Utilize prior NRC review decisions to avoid unnecessary duplication of effort

Pre-Application Successes

- Pre-application engagement is successful when observations are addressed in submittal
- Benefits
 - Higher quality applications
 - Acceptance letter issuance ahead of metric
 - Reduction in number of RAIs and HITIs
 - Early completion of environmental consultations
 - Final review timelines 12-18 months

NEI Presentations

Public Participation

At this time, the public is afforded an opportunity to ask questions and/or provide comments on the following topics:

- Integrated Schedule Updates
- Efficiencies Gained During Licensing from Pre-Application Engagements
- Feedback on Recent Pre-Application Engagements
- Applying for Exemptions in Existing Regulations

BREAK

Fuel Facilities Inspection Program Rebaseline

Jeanette Arce, Project Manager
Inspection and Oversight Branch
Division of Fuel Management

Why?

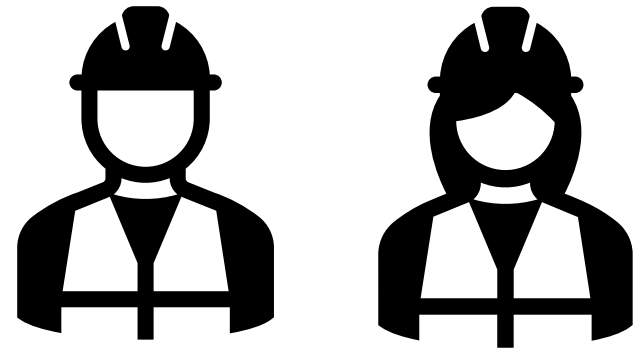


Legislative Driver:

- Accelerating Deployment of Versatile, Advanced Nuclear for Clean Energy Act of 2024 (ADVANCE Act), Section 507, which aimed to improve and modernize the NRC's inspection and oversight programs.
- Specifically, Section 507 (2)&(3) directed the NRC staff to eliminate duplicative activities and use inspection approaches that balance resources commensurate with safety significance.

What are our goals?

- Our overarching safety mission remains unchanged.
- Ensure that the oversight framework remains risk-informed, efficient, and aligned with the current and emerging safety significance of licensed fuel cycle activities.
- Optimize inspection focus, reduce unnecessary burden, and strengthen the consistency and predictability of the fuel cycle inspection program.
- Allocate inspection effort according to risk significance and performance history.



What is changing?

Scope of Changes:

- Inspection frequency, scope and resource allocation are being updated to better align with facility's risk profile.

Assessment Method:

- For each facility, NRC staff conducted a comprehensive evaluation of process characteristics and potential hazards. This assessment also incorporated the broader oversight experience to determine the appropriate level of inspection.

Objectives



- Reductions are measured against stable performance, lower hazard levels, and history of events or violations.
- Range of hours are chosen to ensure safety with minimum oversight, but with the ability to adjust inspection resources in response to performance issues, incidents, significant events, or emerging risks.
- If performance declines, the program preserves the ability to increase inspection resources, conduct “as needed” inspections, or revert facilities to more frequent oversight cycles when warranted.

Inspection Considerations for Emerging Technologies

- The scope and level of effort for inspection activities will be established for new facilities and new processes within existing facilities, based on the specific technologies in use.
- Consider unique operational characteristics, risk profiles, and safety considerations associated with each technological configuration.
- Factors such as process complexity, and hazard potential will guide the determination of the appropriate level of oversight.

Preliminary Adjustments & Savings

| Facility Type / Change | Revised Inspection Plan | Rationale & Est. Savings |
|--|---|--|
| Format Change | Revised IMC 2600 Appendix B – Divided into sections by facility type instead of three tables. | Easier to update; more user-friendly and less error-prone format. |
| Emergency Preparedness Exercise (EPX) | Team Composition: Use the Senior Resident Inspector (SRI) as the third inspector on IP 88051 team. Hours Estimate: Change from 48 hours to a range of 24–48 hours per EPX (three inspectors @ 8–16 hrs each). | More accurate hour estimates, aligned with historical needs (past EPXs took ~30–50 hrs). Reduces travel: resident SRI's involvement means one less inspector traveling, saving ~20–30 hrs of travel/prep time per EPX. |
| Combine Plant Modifications (IP 88070 & 88072) | Procedure Merge: Consolidated annual IP (88070) + triennial (88072) into one biennial procedure, with 60–90-hour range for flexibility. | Eliminates overlap and ensures consistent biennial coverage. Efficiency gain: saves ~48 hours/year per facility in inspection & travel time (≈400 hours program-wide). |

Preliminary Adjustments & Savings

| Facility Type / Change | Revised Inspection Plan | Rationale & Est. Savings |
|--|--|--|
| INFOSEC Core Inspections (program assessment in progress) | Proposed to change the INFOSEC inspection frequency from annual to biennial. Licensees with less mature INFOSEC programs will remain subject to annual inspections. | Savings of direct inspection hours per year across the core INFOSEC program. Maintains oversight through ORR and event-driven inspections as needed to address issues. |
| Annual Material Control and Accounting (MC&A) Inspections (program assessment in progress) | Reduce MC&A suite frequency at Cat I facilities from semi-annual to annual. Facility-specific inspection effort for the existing Cat I facilities changed to a range of 60-90 hrs. annually. | Reduce inspection travel resources. Savings: 60-120 hours of direct inspection annually for existing Cat I facilities. |
| MC&A Inventory Observations (Physical Inventory) (program assessment in progress) | Change to “As Needed” for existing facilities (previously every 3–4 years). Change to required for new facilities or due to performance issues. | Saves ~20 hours (inspection) + travel per avoided observation |

Preliminary Adjustments & Savings

| Facility Type / Change | Revised Inspection Plan | Rationale & Est. Savings |
|------------------------------------|---|--|
| Facility-Type Specific Adjustments | Introduced tailored frequency and hour adjustments for certain facility categories. | Right-sizes oversight by aligning inspection effort to hazard profile and facility size. Yields significant annual savings while preserving safety through risk-informed scheduling. |

Preliminary Adjustments & Savings

| Facility Type / Change | Revised Inspection Plan | Rationale & Est. Savings |
|---|---|--|
| Cat III Laser Enrichment Facility | The name of the facility type has been changed from “Laser Enrichment Facility,” to “Cat III Laser Enrichment Facility” and the inspection program described for this facility type will be totally revised. The inspection program for a full-scale operational facility will be specified in IMC 2600 Appendix B. | Ensures NRC is prepared for future laser enrichment facilities with a transparent inspection framework. |
| Cat III Gas Centrifuge Facility (w/ approved CAP) | Triennial Radiation Protection (RP): 30–60 hrs (was 60). Operational Safety (OPS): 45–60 hrs (was 45 fixed) Staff assessing Problem Triennial Identification and Resolution (PI&R) inspection resource requirement (30-60 hr). We are using the final decision in SRM for ROP to inform our decisions. | Lower hazard profile at gas centrifuge facilities (processes under vacuum, limited heated UF6) justifies reduced hours Savings: up to ~40 hours/year (depending on performance) |

Preliminary Adjustments & Savings

| Facility Type / Change | Revised Inspection Plan | Rationale & Est. Savings |
|---------------------------------|--|---|
| Cat III Dry Conversion Facility | OPS, NCS, RP Inspections: Reduced hours (each lower than comparable wet conversion facility). Tailored frequencies based on facility size and safer “dry” processes. | Dry conversion has inherently lower risk: less acid use (OPS), less special nuclear material (SNM) in solution for Nuclear Criticality Safety (NCS), reduced radioactive leakage risk (RP). Savings: ~90 hours/year program-wide (assuming two dry conversion sites). |

Preliminary Inspection Savings

| Program Area | All Current Facilities Annualized Direct Inspection hours | | | Total Estimated Reduction (hours) |
|-----------------------|---|----------|----------|-----------------------------------|
| | Current | Proposed | % Change | |
| Safety Operations | 2908 | 2820 | -3 | 344 |
| MC&A | 410 | 255 | -38 | 466 |
| PHYSEC | 523 | 489 | -6 | 100 |
| INFOSEC | 249 | 124 | -50 | 373 |
| Radiological Controls | 339 | 319 | -6 | 67 |
| Facility Support | 807 | 478 | -41 | 1007 |
| Totals | 5236 | 4444 | -15% | 2357 |

What's Next?

| Milestone | Target Date |
|---|-----------------|
| Public Meeting with External Stakeholders | June/July 2026 |
| FF Rebaseline Program Implementation | January 1, 2027 |

Completed Fuel Facility Program Updates

| Number | Title | Summary of Changes |
|-----------------|---|--|
| IMC 2600 | Fuel Cycle Facility Operational Safety and Safeguards Inspection Program | Rolling up Advance Act efficiencies and incorporating "major modification" inspection guidance |
| IMC 2600, App B | NRC Core Inspection Requirements | Changes to inspection frequencies and hours. |
| IMC 2600, App C | Resident Inspection Program | Allow SRI to be away from site up to 10 consecutive days to reduce travel funds. |
| IMC 2604 | Licensee Performance Review | Extended assessment period to 3 years. Eliminated mandatory public meeting for good performance. Provide guidance for other communication methods. Streamline internal review process. |
| IMC 2606 | Assessment of the Risk Resulting from a Potential Safety Noncompliance at a Fuel Cycle Facility | Guidance for quicker significance determination. |
| IMC 0616 | Fuel Cycle Safety and Safeguards Inspection Reports | Update VLSSIR and reporting of Construction inspections |
| IMC 1247 | Qualification Program for Fuel Facility Inspectors | Reduced duplication in the qualification process. |
| IMC 2694 | Fuel Cycle Facility Construction and Pre-Operational Readiness Review Inspection Program | Major revision new proposed projects, including "at-risk" construction activities. |
| IP 88200 | Inspections of Safety Significant Items and Services during Construction of Fuel Cycle Facilities | Revision includes 14 appendices on an individual technical subjects. |
| IP 88201 | Inspection of Management Measures during Construction of Fuel Cycle Facilities | Revision includes 8 appendices on an individual MMs elements. |
| IP 88202 | Inspections of Operational Readiness During Construction of Fuel Cycle Facilities | New IP. Provide predictable structure for ORRs |
| IP 88030 | Radiation Protection | Improved inspection guidance on adjusting the inspection sample. |
| IP 88045 | Effluent Control and Environmental Protection | Improved inspection guidance on adjusting the inspection sample. |
| IP 88070 | Plant Modifications | Combined Annual and Triennial IPs, switch to Biennial Frequency |

Questions/Comments

Overview of New Fuel Facility Construction Oversight

Eric Michel

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Region 2

Division of Fuels, Radiological Safety, and Security

Topics

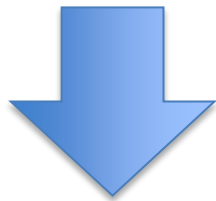
- Intent
- NRC Role & Oversight
- Inspection Process
- Allegations
- Safety Culture & SCWE
- Public Transparency
- Construction vs Pre-construction
- Questions

Intent

- Fuel facility construction oversight insights for applicants/licensees with little to no prior interaction with the NRC
- Put a practical spin on things

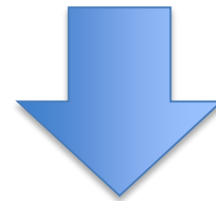
Intent

- New licensees and applicants involved in new construction



Inspection Manual
Chapter 2694

- Existing licensees conducting Major Modifications



Inspection Manual
Chapter 2600

NRC Role & Oversight

- NRC's role – independent civilian nuclear regulator
 - Protect public health and safety, environment, common defense and security
 - Enable safe and secure use of nuclear material
- Applicant/Licensee retains primary responsibility for safety

- Oversight:



Inspections



Investigations



Allegations



Incident Response



Enforcement



Performance Assessment

Inspection Process

- Why do we inspect?
 - Key element of oversight supporting reasonable assurance of adequate protection
- What & When do we inspect?
 - Principle Inspection Plan
 - Risk informed
 - Safety significant items and services (SSIS)
 - Items Relied On For Safety (IROFS); other required components, programs, processes
 - Management Measures - Configuration Management
 - Programs: Fire Protection (FP), Emergency Preparedness (EP), etc.
 - Approximately quarterly
 - Announced inspections

Inspection Process

- How do we inspect?
 - Coordination with you
 - Early and thorough communications are essential
 - Schedule information
 - Document requests & inspection prep
 - Entrance meeting*
 - Inspection Procedures
 - Field observations, interviews, walkdowns



Inspection Process

- What are we inspecting for?
 - Focused on nuclear safety
 - Compliance with current/anticipated licensing basis – set of obligations/regulatory requirements, mandated licensing basis documents, and commitments
 - Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* (10 CFR) Part 70, 10 CFR 20, etc.
 - License
 - License Application
 - FNMCP, Physical Security Plan, Emergency Plan, etc
 - Other safety concerns

Inspection Process

- Identified Issues
 - Inspectors will work to fully develop issues during the week
 - Some leeway to provide additional info after an inspection
 - Unresolved Item – could be used for more complex issues when determining whether a violation exists
 - All issues presented at the Exit Meeting*
 - Subject to management review
 - Should be no surprises
 - Contrary to statement (violations) & Severity
 - Observations

Inspection Process

- Outcomes of inspection
 - Construction Open Items (applicant)
 - Violations (licensee)
 - Publicly available reports
 - With the exceptions of Physical Security and MC&A
- Enforcement (violations)
 - Graded approach
 - References: [Enforcement Policy](#) & Manual
- Corrective actions
 - Open Items – assessed under license condition to possess/process SNM
 - Violations - compliance must be restored
 - Inspectors will review for cited violations

Allegations

- Definition of allegation
 - An assertion of impropriety or inadequacy with NRC-regulated activities, the validity of which has not been established
- NRC will disposition IAW the [Allegations Manual](#)
 - Confidentiality and handling to preserve alleged identity protection
- Areas of applicant/licensee involvement
 - Requests for Information
 - Early Alternative Dispute Resolution
 - Office of Investigation investigations
- *Encourage internal reporting first, NRC last*

Safety Culture

- NRC Safety Culture Policy Statement

- Nine values & behaviors intended to emphasize safety over competing goals
- Not regulations
- Resources

| | | |
|--|--|---|
| Leadership Safety Values and Actions | Problem Identification and Resolution | Personal Accountability |
| <p><i>Leaders demonstrate a commitment to safety in their decisions and behaviors.</i></p> | <p><i>Issues potentially impacting safety are promptly identified, fully evaluated, and promptly addressed and corrected commensurate with their significance.</i></p> | <p><i>All individuals take personal responsibility for safety.</i></p> |
| Work Processes | Continuous Learning | Environment for Raising Concerns |
| <p><i>The process of planning and controlling work activities is implemented so that safety is maintained.</i></p> | <p><i>Opportunities to learn about ways to ensure safety are sought out and implemented.</i></p> | <p><i>A safety conscious work environment is maintained where personnel feel free to raise safety concerns without fear of retaliation, intimidation, harassment or discrimination.</i></p> |
| Effective Safety Communications | Respectful Work Environment | Questioning Attitude |
| <p><i>Communications maintain a focus on safety.</i></p> | <p><i>Trust and respect permeate the organization.</i></p> | <p><i>Individuals avoid complacency and continually challenge existing conditions and activities in order to identify discrepancies that might result in error or inappropriate action.</i></p> |

Safety Conscious Work Environment

- An environment where personnel feel free to raise nuclear safety concerns without fear of retaliation, intimidation, harassment or discrimination.



Public Transparency

- Documents made publicly available in ADAMS (some, not all):
 - Inspection reports
 - Inspection document requests
 - (Operations) Event Notifications (EN) and subsequent evaluation
 - (Operations) Assessment letters
- FOIA processes
 - 10 CFR 9, Subpart A
 - Agency Records
 - Exempt from public disclosure
 - [Resources](#)
- Information sharing portals
 - NRC External Sharepoint
 - Applicant/Licensee's portal

Construction vs Pre-construction

- “Construction” as defined in 10 CFR 70.4
 - Activities with a nexus to radiological safety or security
- "Commencement of Construction"
 - §70.21(f) – Application shall be submitted 9 months prior to commencement
 - §70.32(a)(7) – Commencement may be grounds for denial prior to conclusion that the action called for issuance of a license
- References:
 - [SECY 25-0074](#) – “Expedited Construction of Certain SSCs”
 - [ML26036A037](#) – Preapplication Public Meeting Summary
- Early and thorough communications are essential

For Further Information

- Allegations: NRC.Allegation@nrc.gov
- Oversight (licensing): Your HQ project manager
- Oversight (other than licensing): Your senior project inspector
- Anything: Your assigned branch chief

Questions/Comments

Update on M-LEAP Recommendation Implementation

Gehan Flanders

Project Manager

Division of Fuel Management

What is M-LEAP?

Materials Licensing Efficiencies and Processes (M-LEAP)

- NMSS initiative to modernize and improve efficiency, timeliness, and predictability in materials licensing.
- Reviews processes, lessons learned, and prior decisions to identify targeted enhancements that maintain safety and security.
- Supports the objectives of the ADVANCE Act (Section 505: Nuclear Licensing Efficiency).

Overview of Implementation: Four Categories of Action

To ensure structured and effective implementation, we translated 79 original recommendations into 16 actionable tasks organized into four categories:

- **Pre-Application Activities (4 tasks)**
 - ✓ Examples include:
 - Documenting the end-to-end pre-application process
 - Defining applicant readiness expectations
 - Improving external communication materials
 - Clarifying internal roles and coordination mechanisms
 - ✓ All tasks completed; practices have been implemented
 - ✓ Final documentation is in progress

Implementation Status: Licensing Action Reviews

- ✓ All 5 tasks in progress
- ✓ Examples include:
 - Standardizing licensing review logic and acceptance criteria
 - Streamlining review workflows and coordination points
 - Evaluating review performance using feedback and lessons learned
 - Refining templates, checklists, and review tools
 - Clarifying staff roles and ownership responsibilities

Implementation Status: Communication & Guidance

- ✓ All 4 tasks in progress
- ✓ Examples include:
 - Improving external communication and stakeholder engagement
 - Updating key guidance and supporting communication materials
 - Standardizing messaging and information-sharing approaches
 - Strengthening internal communication and knowledge-sharing practices

Implementation Status: Internal NRC Processes

- ✓ All 3 tasks in progress
- ✓ Examples include:
 - Mapping internal workflows and coordination points
 - Defining internal roles, ownership, and handoffs
 - Enhancing internal documentation and knowledge-management practices

New Applicant Webpage

- Provides a clear, applicant-focused starting point for new fuel cycle facility applicants
- Simplifies access to licensing information, requirements, and key resources
- Improves understanding of NRC processes
- Supports more efficient and effective pre-application engagement

<https://www.nrc.gov/materials/fuel-cycle-fac/new-fac-applicants>



Key Features of the New Landing Page

- **User-Centered Structure**
- ✓ Content organized into a clear, applicant-focused framework
- ✓ Centralized entry point with a structured roadmap
- **Clear Licensing Pathway**
- ✓ Step-by-step view from pre-application through license issuance
- ✓ Direct access to timelines, milestones, license types, and fee information

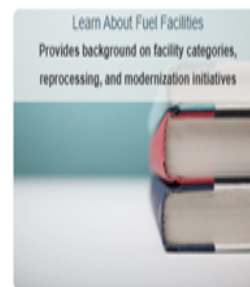
New Fuel Cycle Facility Applicants

New to NRC licensing? Start here to understand the process and what you need to do first.

Welcome to the NRC's landing page for prospective fuel facility applicants. This page provides applicant-focused guidance on licensing new fuel cycle facilities. You'll find the licensing process steps, links to NRC regulations and review guidance, public involvement details, schedules and fees, and how to engage with NRC licensing staff.

Applicant Checklist

- [Review NRC Licensing Process](#)
- [Submit a Letter of Intent](#)
- [Prepare Complete Application \(License + Environmental Report\)](#)
- [Understand Fees and Schedules](#)
- [Contact the NRC Project Manager](#)



Page Last Reviewed/Updated Thursday, March 12, 2026

Learn About Fuel Facilities: Key Information for Applicant

- Provides foundational information on NRC-regulated fuel facility types
- Summarizes major licensing modernization and efficiency initiatives
- Highlights key policy drivers, including Executive Order 14300, ADVANCE Act
- Includes general references and regulatory topics to support applicant understanding

Learn About Fuel Facilities

On this page:

- [Introduction](#)
- [Fuel Facility Information](#)
- [New Fuel Facility Information](#)
- [Important Initiatives Related to Fuel Facilities](#)
- [General References and Key Topics](#)

- [Executive Order 14300](#) titled "Ordering the Reform of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC)," is a directive aimed at facilitating the development and construction of new nuclear reactors and technologies in the United States. The order is a mandate for comprehensive structural and regulatory overhaul aimed at accelerating nuclear deployment and requires the NRC to expand its focus from being solely a safety regulator to also being a "facilitator" of nuclear energy deployment.
- Accelerating Deployment of Versatile, Advanced Nuclear for Clean Energy Act of 2024 ([ADVANCE Act](#)) requires the NRC to take a number of actions, particularly in the areas of licensing of new reactors and fuels, while maintaining the NRC's core safety and security mission. The Act affects a wide range of NRC activities, including enhancing the regulatory framework for advanced reactors and fusion technology, and initiatives to support the NRC's efficient, timely, and predictable reviews of license applications.
- [Materials Licensing Efficiencies and Processes \(M-LEAP\)](#): The NRC established the M-LEAP team to review existing licensing process, past lessons learned, and licensing decisions to identify if further enhancement is needed to streamline licensing reviews and to enable efficient, timely, and predictable regulatory decisions while continuing to meet the safety and security principles of our mission. M-LEAP aligns with NRC's efforts on Section 505, "Nuclear Licensing Efficiency," of the ADVANCE Act of 2024. There have been three Public Meetings on M-LEAP as follows:
 - March 24, 2025 ([summary](#), [slides](#))
 - April 10, 2025 ([summary](#), [slides](#))
 - May 14, 2025 ([summary](#), [slides](#))
- The NRC also conducted a [comprehensive review](#) of and implemented various improvements to NRC's reactor and materials licensing processes to meet the requirements of Section 505 of the ADVANCE Act and consistent with the spirit of EO 14300.
 - In May 2025, the NMSS director issued a [licensing efficiencies expectation memorandum](#) to the NMSS staff to improve the efficiency, predictability, and timeliness of the materials licensing programs. See [Memo](#) Entitled "[Licensing Efficiency Expectations](#)".
 - In August 2025, the NRC issued a memo, [NRC Licensing Efficiency Initiatives Update](#), to provide the status of the NRC's implementation of licensing efficiency efforts in response to ADVANCE Act Section 505.
 - To ensure transparency and track our progress in these areas the NRC will [continue to provide updates](#).
- In support of these initiatives and modernization activities, a number of [Rulemakings](#) have been promulgated and will continue to be developed within the NRC's regulatory framework.

General References and Key Topics

Understanding the Licensing Process: Key Features

- Covers the end-to-end licensing pathway, from pre-application through license issuance
- Provides links to regulations, guidance, and review procedures
- Outlines NRC oversight activities, including safety, safeguards, and environmental inspections

Understanding the Licensing Process

Licensing Process Overview

The NRC licenses fuel cycle facilities that include [uranium conversion](#), [uranium enrichment](#), [fuel fabrication](#), and [plutonium processing and fuel fabrication](#). The NRC is also preparing to license [reprocessing facilities](#). A company that wishes to operate a fuel cycle facility must apply to the NRC for a license. The applicant must demonstrate how the facility will be operated to ensure adequate safety and safeguards and protection of the environment in accordance with NRC regulations found in [10.CFR Parts 20, 30, 40, 51, 70, 73, 74, and 95](#). The licensing process typically includes:



Regulations and Guidance

Fuel cycle facility licensing is governed by NRC regulations. Applicants should review applicable regulations and guidance documents to ensure a high-quality application.

- [Guidance](#)
- [SNNI Regulations](#)
- [Source Material Regulations](#)
- [Fire Protection Regulations and Guidance for Fuel Cycle Facilities](#)
- [Nuclear Material Control and Accounting](#)

Other guidance that may be useful to applicants and other stakeholders are:

- [Chemical Toxicity of Uranium Hexafluoride Compared to Acute Effects of Radiation \(NUREG-1391\)](#)
- [Chemical Process Safety at Fuel Cycle Facilities \(NUREG-1601\)](#)
- [Material Control & Accountability – Acceptable Standard Format and Content for the Fundamental Nuclear Material Control Plan Required for Special Nuclear Material of Moderate Strategic Significance \(NUREG-2159\)](#)
- [Environmental Review Guidance for Licensing Actions Associated with NMSS Programs \(NUREG-1748\)](#)

Below is a list of guidance documents in use by NRC staff during the licensing process. All documents shown are publicly available in [ADAMS Public Search](#):

- [Overview and Expectations of the Certification and Licensing Process \(ML22130A659\)](#)
- [Acceptance Review Process \(ML22161B042\)](#)
- [Safety Evaluation Reports \(ML22273A029\)](#)
- [Requests for Additional Information \(ML22208A272\)](#)

For more information regarding the licensing process and environmental reviews, please see the following:

- [OEEO Procedure-0235 "Driving Regulatory Decisions Through More Effective Communications."](#)
- [Licensing](#)
- [Environmental Reviews](#)
- [Hearing Process](#)

⌕ TOP

Oversight

The NRC fuel cycle facility oversight program includes inspections in the areas of safety, safeguards, and environmental protection. This oversight program applies to major commercial facilities processing highly enriched uranium, low-enriched uranium, natural uranium, depleted uranium, and/or plutonium.

Plan Your Project: Key Features

- Supports project budgeting with fee estimates and milestone schedules
- Provides guidance on NRC interactions and engagement opportunities
- Outlines document submission requirements and controls for classified and SGI materials
- Provides lessons learned

Plan Your Project

To help applicants prepare for NRC interactions, the following information outlining fees, schedules, and engagement opportunities is provided below. Included are links to project manager contacts, facility indexes, and lessons learned to support efficient planning and resource allocation.

• Fees and Schedules

Understand NRC licensing and inspection fees and review milestone schedules to plan your resources. This section provides transparency on cost recovery under 10 CFR Part 170 fees for service and Part 171 annual fees and outlines key timelines for licensing actions, helping applicants and stakeholders anticipate requirements and manage budgets.

- [License Fees](#) – provides the regulations governing the assessment and collection of fees, and the forms used in processing payments from licensees
- [Nuclear Energy Innovation and Modernization Act Milestone Schedules](#) – provides schedules for licensing actions requiring a safety evaluation
- [Fuel Facility Fee Estimate](#) – provides historic data on resource expenditures for different types of licensing actions. The NRC will determine the resources needed for each review based on the content of the application.

• Engagement and Contacts

Early and open communication with the NRC helps applicants understand the licensing process and plan effectively. We encourage new applicants to participate in pre-application activities and public meetings. These interactions allow NRC staff to learn about your project timeline and help us allocate resources efficiently.

Engagement opportunities can include discussions on licensing approaches, issue resolution, and schedule expectations. By connecting with NRC staff and stakeholders, applicants can build a clear path forward and ensure transparency throughout the process.

- [Project Manager Contacts](#)
- Public Meetings and Documents for Comment
 - [Documents for Comment](#)
 - [Public Meeting FAQ](#)
 - [NRC Public Meeting Schedule](#)
- [Stakeholders Meetings](#) - the NRC conducts a semi-annual meeting with interested stakeholders to improve efficiency and effectiveness in the development of regulations and guidance.

• Document Submission

All official documents for your application must be sent through the NRC's online portal called the Electronic Information Exchange (EIE). This system is secure and can handle sensitive or proprietary information. Do not email design-related or important documents directly to NRC staff, especially if they contain sensitive details.

Expected Benefits

- Clarify expectations
- More efficient reviews
- Improved communication
- Strengthened transparency and stakeholder confidence

What's Next

Expand Applicant Support Resources (by end of FY26)

- ✓ Develop an updated FAQ based on applicant questions and common RAI themes to improve clarity and reduce repetitive inquiries.

Fully Implement the 16 M-LEAP Tasks (by end of FY27)

- ✓ Continue implementing the 16 consolidated improvement tasks derived from the original 79 M-LEAP recommendations to enhance consistency, efficiency, and predictability across licensing activities.

Update Division Instructions and Guidance (by end of FY28)

- ✓ Revise division instructions (e.g., LIC-FM-1 and related procedures) and update NUREG-1520 to reflect process improvements and lessons learned.

Questions

Public Participation

At this time, the public is afforded an opportunity to ask questions and/or provide comments on the following topics:

- Fuel Facilities Construction Inspection Program Rebaseline
- Demystifying New Fuel Facility Construction Implementation
- Update on M-LEAP Recommendation Implementation

Update on DOE Pilot Fuel Line Efforts

Robert Mathis, Project Manager

Fuel Facility Licensing Branch

Division of Fuel Management

Office of Nuclear Material Safety and
Safeguards

Building the Roadmap: Leveraging DOE Authorizations for Predictable Transition to NRC Licensing



DOE Authorization of Pilot Fuel Lines

DOE-NRC Transition Roadmap for Developing NRC License Applications



NRC License for Commercial Operations



TERRESTRIAL
ENERGY

- Map DOE authorization requirements to NRC licensing requirements
- Categorize differences based on impacts for facility construction and operations
- Identify additional information needed to meet statutory and regulatory requirements for commercial operations

- Leverage DOE authorization to streamline NRC review
- Focus review on risk-significant differences and additional information needs
- Make independent safety, security, and environmental findings

Strengthening Readiness Through Active NRC Engagement



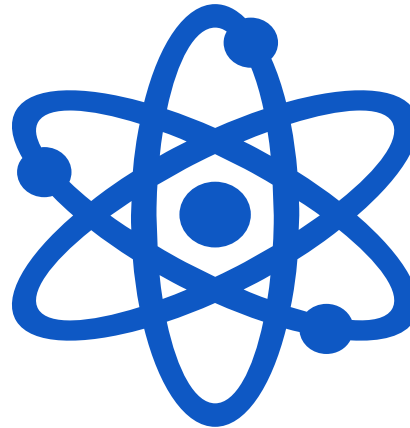
DOE Authorization Observations

Provide early insight into facility design, safety basis, and operational strategy and highlight potential gaps early



Expectations Memo

Establishes consistent NRC staff roles in observations and describes the use of observations as part of pre-application engagement for a future NRC license application



Ongoing Coordination with DOE

Regular calls ensure continuous situational awareness of authorization activities and support resolution of jurisdictional issues



NRC Staff Detailed to DOE

Provide deeper technical insight, help identify gaps with NRC requirements, and strengthen overall readiness



Questions/Comments

Environmental Considerations

Robert Sun, Branch Chief

Environmental Project Management Branch 2
Division of Rulemaking, Environmental, and
Financial Support

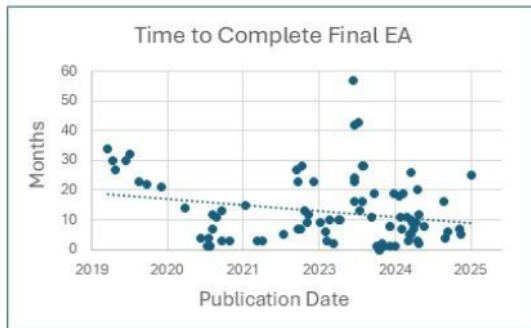
Environmental Considerations

- Introduction
- Environmental Streamlining and Efficiencies
 - Presenter: Amy Minor
- Endangered Species Act (ESA)
Consultation/Non-Federal Representatives (NFR)
 - Presenter: Mitchell Dehmer
- Incorporation By Reference (IBR)
 - Presenter: Peyton Doub

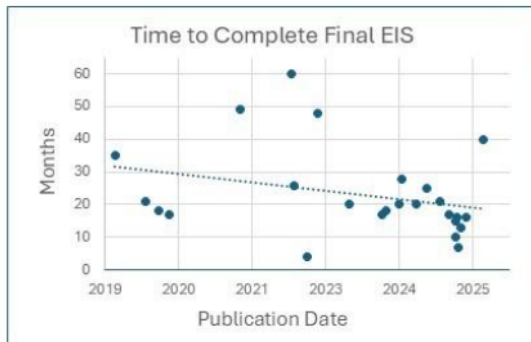
Environmental Streamlining and Efficiencies

Efficiency and Outcomes: Shorter timelines & documents

Prepared in less time

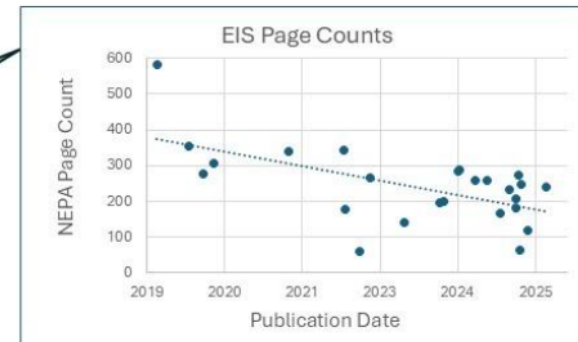
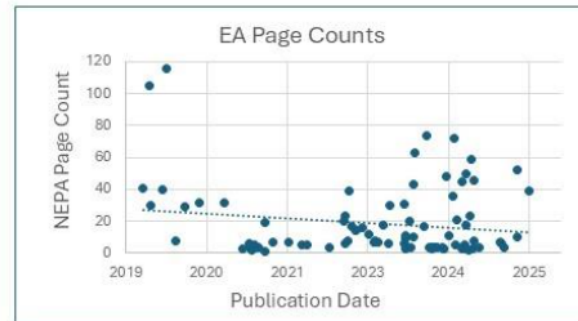


Average time to prepare an EIS has decreased by about 39% from 2019 to 2026



Average EIS pages have decreased by about 53% from 2019 to 2026

Shorter documents focused on important environmental issues



2025-2026

Part 51 Revisions and New Environmental Guidance

- **Reflects** the 2023 NEPA amendments issued via the Fiscal Responsibility Act, Commission direction, and recent court cases and executive orders.
- **Developing** a new environmental guidance document for applicants and staff that consolidates guidance and ensures consistency and similar requirements for environmental reviews across all business lines.
- **Anticipated** to be completed late 2026 while meeting Advance Act, FRA, and EOs. Stakeholder outreach will follow as allowed.

What Are Our Tools?

Recent examples of efficiencies applied

- **Pre-application** submittal of ER, responses to observations, and bi-weekly check-ins resulted in no formal environmental RAIs
- **Non-Federal Representative** option *may* allow staff to focus on other parts of the review and meet aggressive schedules
- **Public meetings** are not required but may be beneficial
- **Tribal virtual information meetings** supported consultation involvement and increased positive feedback
- **Public comment** disposition process is focused on substantive comments
- **Alternatives** analyzed are based on NRC's authority
- **Legal reviews** of final NEPA documents are streamlined



Check out the ECOE
Website

Testing New Tools

What PermitAI™ is doing



Data Collection, Enrichment, Management, and Governance

PermitAI™ is creating standardized data to improve quality and access. This includes building connections for NEPA data, including data on projects, processes, documents, and public involvement as well as comments and geographic information system records.



AI Model Development and Evaluation

Using large language models to analyze thousands of environmental review documents, like categorical exclusions, environmental assessments, and environmental impact statements, can boost efficiency. This method can help to uncover trends, create a detailed map, and catalog all NEPA efforts.



NEPA Application Development and Deployment

The PermitAI™ team offers safe and reliable support to NEPA experts and users in government agencies, academia, Tribal governments, and the public for developing and evaluating permitting tools and applications.

<https://www.pnnl.gov/projects/permitai>

Trending Fuel Facility EIS Outcomes

Triso-X FFF Environmental Review

License issued
February 13, 2026

NRC Staff Review Hrs

2,870 Hrs

(4500 Hrs planned)

Contract Costs

\$860K

(\$1.5M planned)

Environmental Review Efficiencies Applied

- Decreased the total number of pages in the EIS
- Decreased the number of formal RAIs through use of other regulatory processes (biweekly check-ins, early audit, technical check-ins)
- Eliminated non-required public meetings (and supporting travel)
- Streamlined the alternatives section
- Streamlined comment disposition and resolution, including use of regs.gov
- Reduced OGC engagement
- Published the EIS as a non-NUREG

>45% ↘

>45% decrease in number of pages in comparison to recent comparable EISs



Page Count Decreased

>50% ↘

>50% decrease in number of formal Env. RAIs (17 RAIs) in comparison to recent comparable EISs

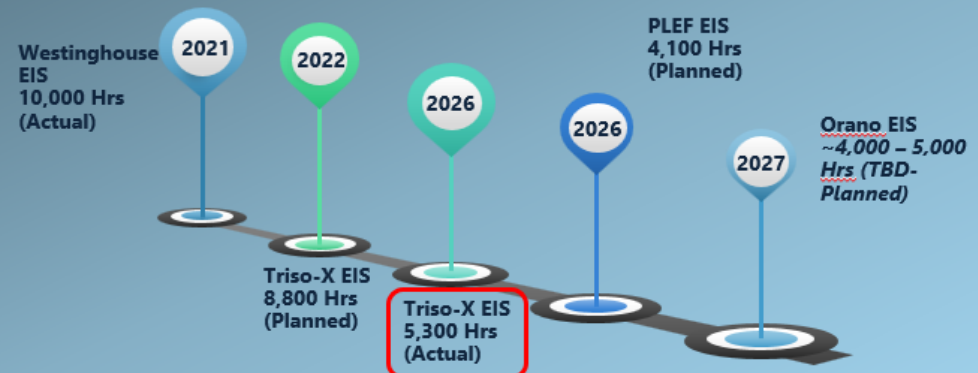


of RAIs Decreased

Total Resource savings realized from efficiencies

↘ **40%**

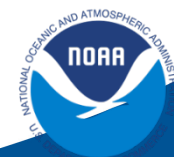
Recent EIS Reviews for New Fuel Facility/Enrichment Applications Total Resource Needs (Staff+Contract)



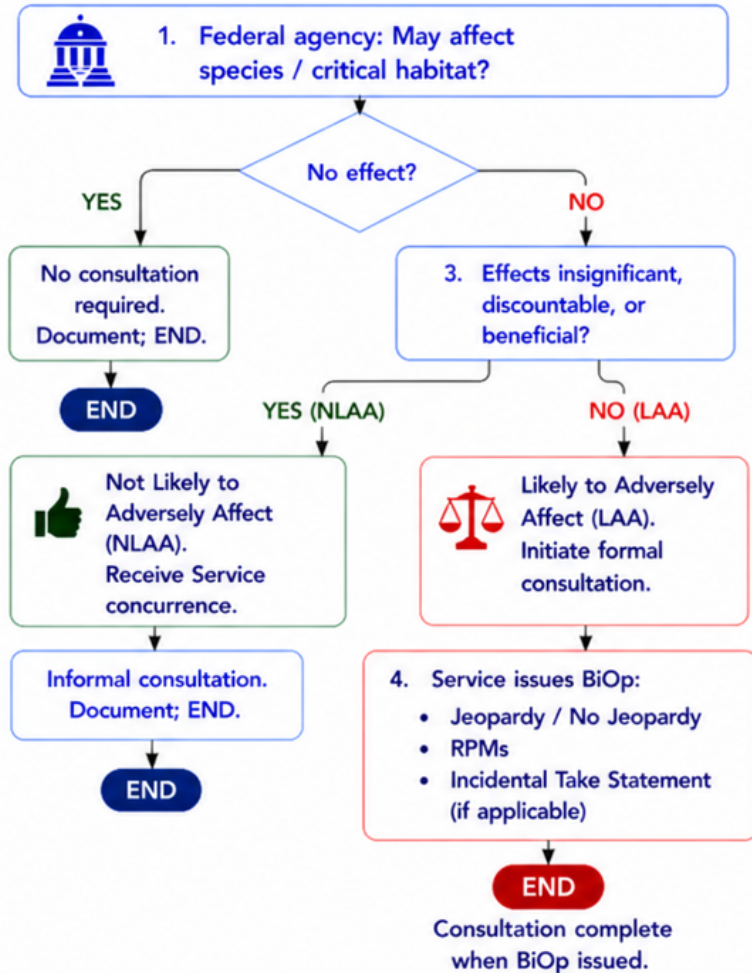
ESA Consultation Overview

How NRC Engages Under Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act

- **When is Consultation Required?**
 - NRC engages in Section 7 consultation when an agency action “**may affect**” listed species or critical habitats.
- **NRC actions that require consultation include:**
 - Issuance of new or renewed licenses
 - License termination plans
 - License amendments and exemptions
- **Types of Consultation**
 - Informal: Used when impacts are **insignificant** or **discountable**; most NRC actions fall into this category
 - Formal: Required when “**take**” may occur; results in a **Biological Opinion** and **Incidental Take Statement** that become part of the NRC license.
- **Examples that Require Formal Consultation**
 - **Construction** resulting in the modification or destruction of eastern indigo snake critical habitat
 - **Impingement and/or entrainment** of listed sea turtles or fish into a cooling water intake system
 - **Tree removal** in habitat known to be occupied by federally listed bats
 - **Vehicle collisions** with listed species that occur on a site, such as the American crocodile
 - **Land clearing** large acreage of grassland where listed pollinators are present
- **Why this Matters?**
 - Ensures ESA requirements are fully integrated into NRC licensing
 - **Protects** listed species and habitats
 - Supports safe and environmentally responsible facility operations



STANDARD ESA CONSULTATION (50 CFR 402.13 & 402.14)

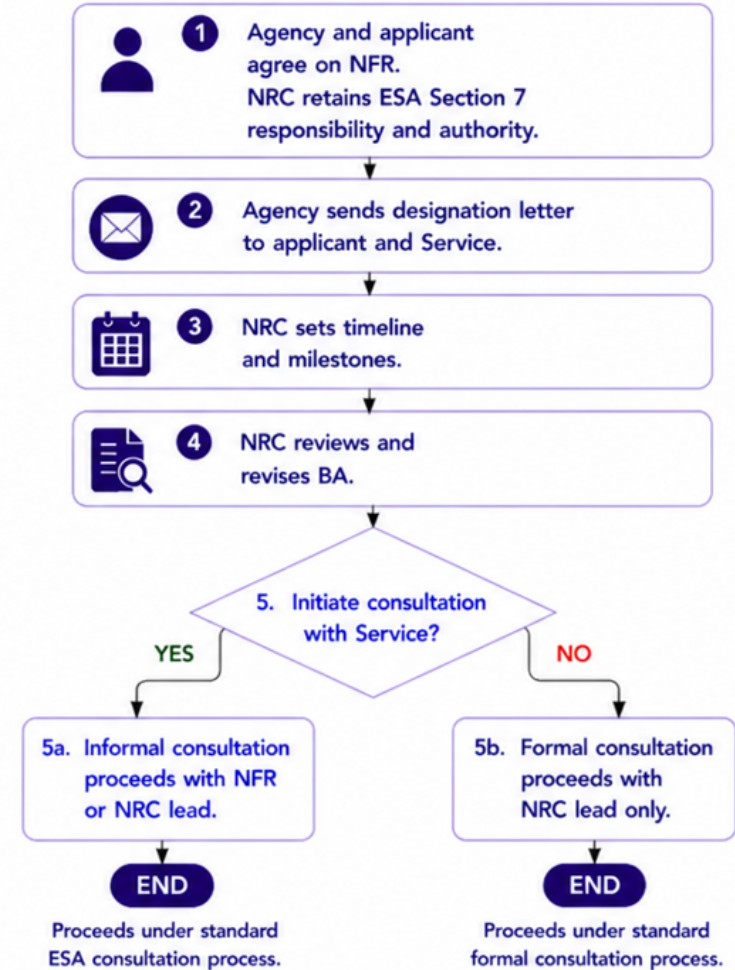


NOTE – TIMELINES

- Informal: 60 days (50 CFR 402.13)
- Formal: 135 days (50 CFR 402.14)

USFWS = U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service | NMFS = National Marine Fisheries Service
 NLAA = Not Likely to Adversely Affect | LAA = Likely to Adversely Affect

NON-FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE DESIGNATION PROCESS (50 CFR 402.08)



NOTE – TIMELINES

- Typically follows ESA timeframes:
 - Informal: 60 days (50 CFR 402.13)
 - Formal: 135 days (50 CFR 402.14)
- **IMPORTANT:** NFR cannot conduct formal consultation.

ESA NFR Lessons Learned

How to get the most of out the process

- **Program Snapshot**
 - NRC has designated 10 licensees as NFRs
 - 1/3rd had a significant efficiency gain
- **What's Working Well?**
 - Drivers: strong and rapid licensee responsiveness, minimal revisions, early engagement in pre-application space, and strong interagency collaboration or positive existing relationships with Services
- **Challenges**
 - Drivers: Poor submittal quality, contractor inexperience, contracting delays, and communication gaps
- **Patterns and Efficiency Drivers**
 - Licensee prepared BAs perform better instead of contractors; BAs for formal consultation resulted in more revisions and less time savings
 - A 20% improvement in BA quality correlates to roughly 1-1.5-month reduction in ESA timeline
 - Early and frequent communication during the BA development phase – collaborative process.
- **Environmental Consultation Outreach Hub (EcoHub)**
 - External SharePoint Site for initiating consultations earlier
 - Collaborative space for licensees/NRC to work on NFR documents
 - Project time savings \geq 1 month

How IBR Has Benefited NRC Applicants and Environmental Staff

- Reduced Page Length for EISs and EAs
- More Informative, Easier to Read EISs and EAs
- Maximized Use of Application Material – Less Redundant Effort by Staff
- Reduced Potential for Transcriptional Errors
- Ability to Meet Tighter Review Schedules
- Less Material Requiring Internal Review and Concurrence
- Effort Better Focused on Key Environmental Issues
- Reduced Administrative Effort and Costs

Questions

Public Participation

At this time, the public is afforded an opportunity to ask questions and/or provide comments on the following topics:

- Update on DOE Pilot Fuel Line Efforts
- Environmental Considerations

Recap of Action Items

Jonathan Rowley, Project Manager

Division of Fuel Management

Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards