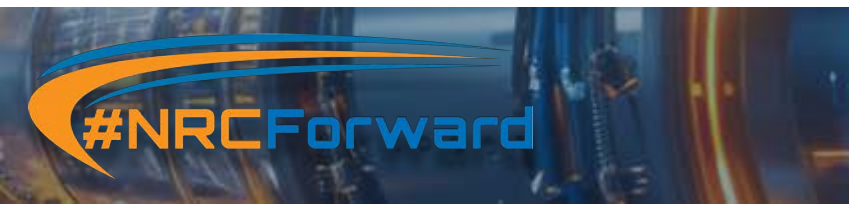


NRC Public Meeting

Executive Order 14300: Implementation of the National Environmental Policy Act

July 23, 2026



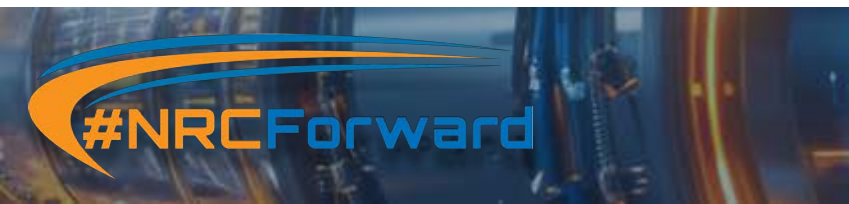
Agenda

- ☐ Meeting Logistics
- ☐ Introductions
- ☐ NRC Presentations
- ☐ Public Q&A



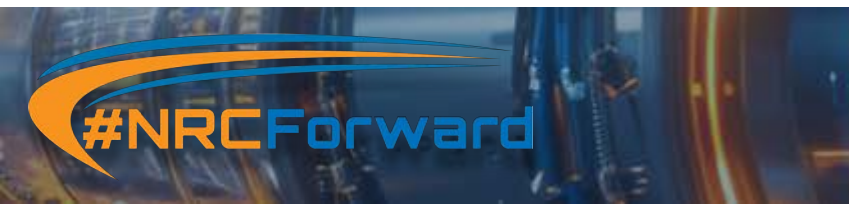
Meeting Logistics

- ☐ Meeting Type: Information Meeting
- ☐ Participants are in listen-only mode until the designated question and answer period
- ☐ Please follow meeting participation guidelines
- ☐ No regulatory decisions will be made at today's meeting



Purpose

The purpose of this meeting is to inform the public about Executive Order (EO) 14300 proposed rule Implementation of the National Environmental Policy Act

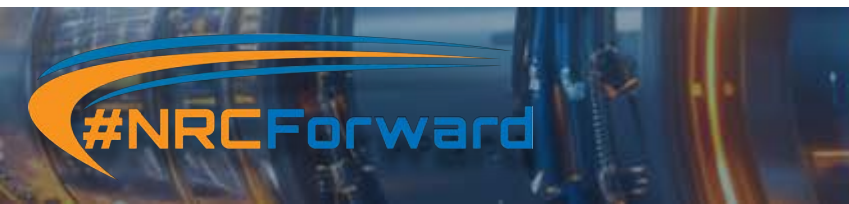


Implementation of the National Environmental Policy Act

Kimyata Savoy

Director, Division of Spent Fuel Storage
and Transportation

Office of Nuclear Material
Safety and Safeguards





Implementation of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)

Key Messages

- The proposed changes address the Accelerating Deployment of Versatile, Advanced Nuclear for Clean Energy Act of 2024 (ADVANCE Act), Executive Orders, and the Fiscal Responsibility Act of 2023 amendments to NEPA
- NRC consulted with the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) to ensure alignment with updated NEPA policy and guidance
- The proposed rule streamlines NRC's implementation of NEPA by narrowing environmental reviews to impacts within the agency's statutory authority without compromising safety and ensuring compliance with environmental requirements



National Environmental Policy Act

- Since 1970, NEPA requires federal agencies to assess the environmental effects of Proposed Federal Actions prior to a final decision
 - NRC regulations for implementing NEPA are in 10 CFR Part 51
- Agencies follow NEPA in evaluating the environmental and related effects of proposed agency actions
- Federal agencies must prepare assessments of the reasonably foreseeable environmental effects (impacts) of proposed agency actions, including reasonable range of alternatives, that could significantly affect the quality of the human environment



A Culmination of Past, Present, and Future Activities to Streamline Environmental Reviews

Fiscal Responsibility Act (FRA) of 2023 National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Amendments

*SRM for [SECY-24-0046](#),
Implementation of the FRA
of 2023 NEPA Amendments
including, but not limited to:*

- 1. Time and page limits*
- 2. Applicant-prepared NEPA documents*
- 3. New threshold for EA vs. EIS*
- 4. Direction to examine new categorical exclusions*

Congressional, Executive, and Judicial Direction

- 1. [ADVANCE Act](#) 506 and 206 Reports*
- 2. Executive Orders, including EO 14300 5(c) which directed NRC to consult with CEQ*
- 3. Several recent court cases*

Rulemakings and Commission Direction

- 1. New Reactor Generic Environmental Impact Statement*
- 2. Final Rule: Categorical Exclusions from Environmental Review*
- 3. [SRM-COMSECY-25-0007](#), Withdrawing Environmental Justice*

Internal Efficiency Efforts

- 1. Risk-inform scope of technical information*
- 2. Exemptions for EAs rather than EISs*
- 3. Streamlined comment response approaches*
- 4. Non-Federal representative for consultations*
- 5. Updated resource models*

Revised
10 CFR Part 51
and
Consolidated
Guidance

Proposed Changes

Narrow Scope

Narrow impacts to those NRC has the authority to mitigate

Narrow the purpose and need to the agency's decision

Expand Categorical Exclusions

Add new categorical exclusions

Adopt another agency's categorical exclusion

Categorical exclusions via NRC website

Interested parties can propose categorical exclusions

Align with 2023 NEPA Amendments

Threshold for level of review

Option for applicant-prepared NEPA documents

Remove unnecessary burdens

Consolidate Guidance

One environmental guidance document for the entire agency



Representative Changes to Regulations: NEPA Narrowed Scope

Section or Appendix	What would change?
10 CFR 51.4	Redefine the term “effects” in 10 CFR Part 51 to align with CEQ guidance, recent case law, and executive direction, limiting NEPA analysis to environmental effects the NRC has statutory authority to regulate or mitigate.
10 CFR 51.19	Add new requirements to codify when NEPA does not apply or when NEPA review is not required.
Multiple sections	Narrow the purpose and need to the agency’s decision reduces the range of reasonable alternatives to those within NRC’s authority.
10 CFR 51.53 and Table B-1	Remove environmental justice requirements analyses for license renewal reviews (note: environmental justice was not previously codified for other licensing actions and has since been removed from guidance documents).
Tables B-1 and C-1	Remove NEPA analysis of environmental effects if NRC does not have the statutory authority to regulate or mitigate (e.g., for reactors, this is non-radiological effects, such as dust, noise, some non-radiological impacts on water and air quality)



Changes to Regulations: Level of Review

Section or Appendix	What would change?
10 CFR 51.20	Allow more flexibility in determining whether to prepare an EA or EIS based on the significance of reasonably foreseeable effects; remove the current list of actions that automatically require an EIS (except where required by statute, such as uranium enrichment facilities), enabling streamlined review approaches.



Changes to Regulations: Expand Categorical Exclusions

Section or Appendix	What would change?
10 CFR 51.22	Add four major enhancements to categorical exclusion framework: 1) expand the list in § 51.22, 2) explain the process for adopting other Federal agencies' categorical exclusions, 3) create a process to establish new exclusions via publication on the NRC website, and 4) enable interested parties to propose new exclusions through the petition for rulemaking process.
10 CFR 51.45	Keep the general requirement for applicants and petitioners to submit an environmental report. Requires applicants to submit a justification for the application of an applicable categorical exclusion rather than submitting an environmental report.



Changes to Regulations: Application Flexibilities (Applicant-Prepared NEPA Documents)

Section or Appendix	What would change?
10 CFR 51.46	Provide applicants and petitioners more flexibility by allowing either an environmental report or an applicant-prepared draft EA/EIS (prepared under NRC supervision) when a categorical exclusion does not apply; Establish procedures for applicant- or petitioner-prepared draft environmental documents, including requirements for hiring an independent contractor, avoiding conflicts of interest, following NRC oversight, and meeting NRC-defined schedules.



Changes to Remove Unnecessary Language or Ensure Consistency with 2023 FRA Amendments

Section or Appendix	What would change?
Multiple sections	Limit scoping to rare occasions and remove the requirement to prepare and publish draft EIS for public comment.
Multiple sections	Other changes to conform with the FRA Amendments to NEPA and the CEQ Guidance; Codify page limits and NEPA deadlines for environmental documents.
Multiple sections	Standardize and streamline EA and EIS preparation, largely retaining existing procedures while aligning with updated CEQ guidance; Codify options already in practice, including mitigation-based findings of no significant impact and issuance of concise public decision documents after EIS completion.
Multiple sections	Update the roles and requirements for lead, joint lead, cooperating, and participating Federal agencies, including requiring written identification of the lead agency and leadership of the consultation process
10 CFR 51.23, Tables S-3 and S-4, Appendices B and C	Retain codified environmental impact conclusions for effects within its statutory authority, allowing staff and applicants to rely on these conclusions without duplicating analyses, maintaining heightened requirements for challenges in NRC hearings
10 CFR 51.104 through 51.108	Remove public hearing regulations from 10 CFR part 51 (except § 51.109 for geologic repository hearings) because hearing procedures already exist in 10 CFR Part 2



Guidance Update

- New environmental guidance document (NUREG-2270)
 - Main document is based on CEQ's guidance released in September 2025
 - Appendices provide more specific guidance relative to NRC licensing actions
- First time NRC has developed a technology-neutral environmental guidance document, which will help standardize reviews across the agency
 - Decisions on whether to sunset or update existing guidance documents will depend, in part, on comments received



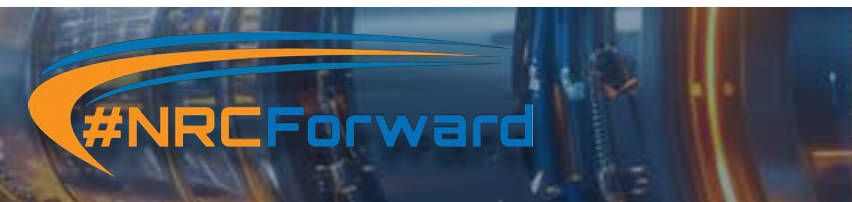
Specific Requests for Comment

1. Areas where the NRC has proposed removing the assessment of any environmental impacts from the scope of its NEPA reviews that should continue to be addressed, consistent with the NRC's statutory authority.
2. Potential unintended consequences or increases in regulatory uncertainty that could result from the proposed changes in this rule, such as the need for additional NEPA reviews by other agencies.
3. Any NEPA procedures that the NRC proposes to eliminate from the regulations that should be retained.
4. Additional specific licensing or regulatory actions that the NRC consider for categorical exclusion.
5. Other types of actions that the NRC should consider developing generic environmental documents for (e.g., technology- or application-specific) that could further streamline future environmental reviews.
6. Additional approaches that the NRC should consider to preserve meaningful public engagement in the NRC's environmental review process.



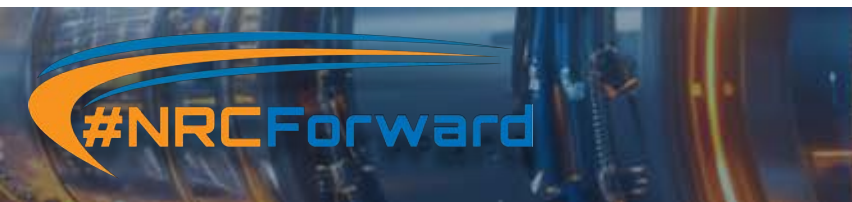
Specific Requests for Comment

7. Changes that the NRC should consider to make the process for applicant-prepared EAs and EISs clearer or more efficient.
8. Suggested improvements related to interagency coordination under NEPA and other environmental statutes, and potential effects of the proposed changes on NHPA section 106 consultations with State Historic Preservation Officers, Indian Tribes, and interested parties.
9. Suggested improvements on the organization, accessibility, or usability of the draft consolidated NEPA guidance document, NUREG-2270.
10. Topics or issues that may be missing from the draft NUREG-2270.
11. Whether the NRC should sunset or retain existing NEPA guidance.
12. Feasible alternatives or procedural changes that could ensure efficient, timely, and predictable decisionmaking for limited work authorizations.



Submitting Comments

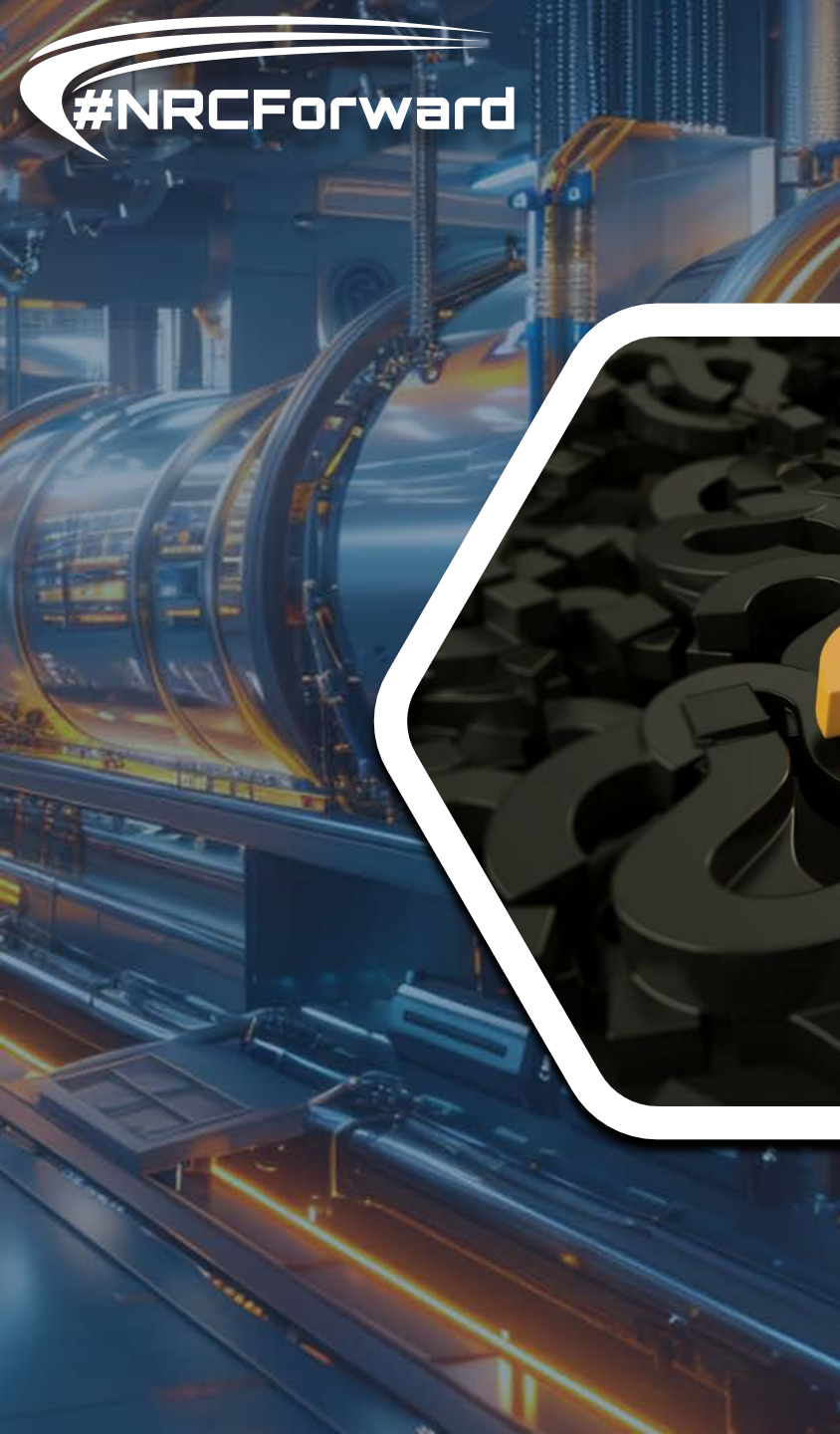
- NRC will consider information and perspectives discussed today.
- To receive formal consideration in the rulemaking, comments must be submitted using <https://www.regulations.gov> by 11:59 p.m. eastern time on August 21, 2026.
- Please include Docket ID NRC-2025-0478 in your comment submission.



Timeline/Dates

- Proposed rule published in the *Federal Register* on July 7, 2026 (91 FR 42086)
- 45-day public comment period ends on August 21, 2026
- NRC will consider public comments submitted under Docket ID NRC-2025-0478
- Estimated date to publish final rule in the *Federal Register*: December 2026 ([NRC Planned Rulemaking Activities](#))





#NRCForward

Questions



Participation Guidelines

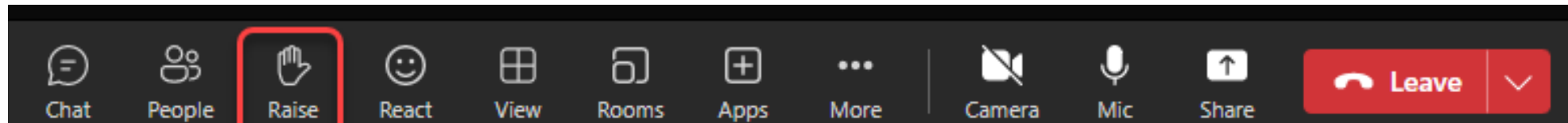


- ☐ Hoping to hear from as many participants as possible
- ☐ Listen-only mode unless acknowledged to speak
- ☐ Maintain a cordial and professional environment
- ☐ No regulatory decisions will be made

Virtual Participation



- 1) Raise your virtual hand to indicate your desire to be recognized
 - Teams: Use the “Raise my Hand” button
 - Phone: Press “*5”

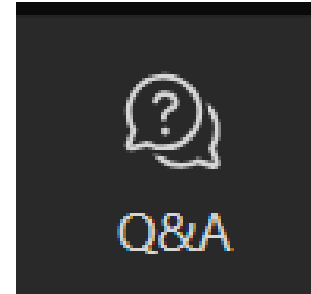


- 2) Wait for the facilitator to acknowledge your turn to speak
- 3) Unmute yourself
 - Teams: Use the “unmute/mic” button
 - Phone: Press “*6”



Virtual Participation Alternative

- 1) Provide questions using the “Q&A” feature:



- 2) We will get to as many questions as we are able
- 3) Because of limitations involving Teams, certain participants may only be able to provide their questions using the Q&A feature. We apologize for this unavoidable limitation.

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Date/Time	Purpose	Location	Contact
* Date/Time Change *	Meeting info The purpose of the meeting is to follow-up discussions	Webinar NA	John G. Lamb (301) 415-3100

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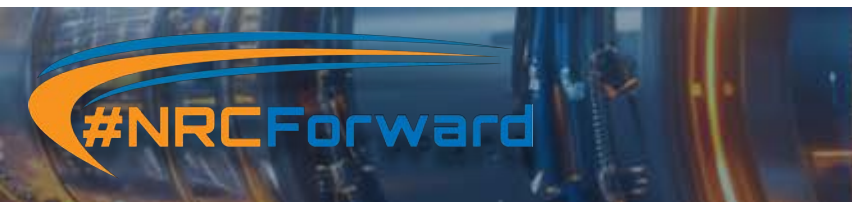
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Closing Remarks

- Submit comments on <https://www.regulations.gov> and search for Docket ID NRC-2025-0478
- Proposed Rule published on July 7, 2026 (91 FR 42086)
- 45-day public comment period ends on August 21, 2026





Thank you for joining us today

