



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

July 24, 2025

MEMORANDUM ON DATA CENTER DECISION

To: Gregory J. Barbaccia, Office of Management and Budget

From: Michael F. King, Acting Office of Executive Director for Operations

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "M. King".

Signed by King, Michael
on 07/24/25

Approximate date of decision: May 24, 2023

Type of decision: Actions to Optimize NRC Data Center Footprint

Summary of decision: Pursuant to the Federal Data Center Enhancement Act of 2023, the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) is notifying the Federal Chief Information Officer of the following decision: NRC is expanding its contractor managed co-location footprint in Ashburn, Virginia and to a new location in Dallas, Texas to enable the elimination of its federally-operated data centers in its headquarters Three White Flint and Region IV facilities. This investment will avoid the costs of renovating existing data centers to meet the availability requirements of NRC's mission essential systems estimated at \$1.12 million, and will lead to a reduction in lease, connectivity, and maintenance costs estimated at \$1.75 million in yearly savings.

Compliance with minimum requirements of M-25-03, Section III:

- A. Chief Information Office (CIO) Oversight: The CIO has appointed subject matter experts to direct co-location contractors in appropriately sizing, designing, and equipping the planned co-location space and will review the final configuration before approval.
- B. Data Center Infrastructure Management (DCIM): Within the Statement of Work provided to the contractor are requirements to monitor power and temperature of the co-location space, and for this information to be available upon request. NRC will also utilize existing DCIM software, Nlyte Asset Optimizer within the environment to monitor rack utilization.
- C. Energy Efficiency: CIO's appointed subject matter experts include a certified Data Center Energy Practitioner (DCEP) who has been involved with the co-location contractor throughout design. The Ashburn co-location facility is certified LEED Silver and utilizes a reflective roof to reduce extraneous heat loads as well as wind power for sustainability, the Dallas co-location facility

boasting a 100 percent utilization of renewables from RECs from United States wind Virtual Power Purchase Agreements and Green-e wind Renewable Energy Certificates.

- D. Mission Availability: NRC is moving all critical assets and Mission Essential Functions to these privately owned co-location facilities with 99.999 percent availability to reduce the capital expenditure needed for this data center to meet uptime requirements. Federally managed data centers at the headquarters and Region IV campus will be downsized to house exclusively edge services, telephony, and network, which will exclude them from Federal Data Center Enhancement Act's scope of defined data centers.
- E. Information and Physical Security: Regarding physical security, the NRC fully implements the guidance and standards in accordance with the Interagency Security Committee Risk Management Process (ISC RMP). Trained and qualified Physical Security Specialists conduct annual and ongoing independent inspections of all facilities in addition to collaborative inspections with the Federal Protective Service. Additionally, the NRC's Office of Inspector General conducts regular audits of Federal Information Security Modernization Act (FISMA) physical security standards (NIST SP800-53A) and collaborates with the responsible security representatives to address any items identified. For information security, the NRC will ensure that the new data center is implemented in compliance with the applicable security control standards from NIST SP 800-53, Revision 5. Additionally, IT assets deployed in the new data center will be compliant with all continuous diagnostics and mitigation requirements outlined in Office of Management and Budget Memo M-21-31 and CISA BOD 23-01. Both co-location facilities are certified FISMA High facilities under NIST 800-53 as well as SOC 1 and 2 Type II.