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Draft Interim Staff Guidance Evaluations of Risk Assessments for Risk-Informed Decision-Making for Regulatory Applications

Comment On: NRC-2026-3268-0001

Draft Interim Staff Guidance: Evaluations of Risk Assessments for Risk-Informed Decision-Making for Regulatory Applications

Document: NRC-2026-3268-DRAFT-0007

Comment on FR Doc # 2026-17092, NRC-2026-3268-0001, from Nuclear Energy Institute

Submitter Information

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General Comment

See attached file(s)

Attachments

09-18-26_NRC_NEI Comments Draft ISG Risk Assessments for Risk Informed Decisionmaking

September 18, 2026

Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, DC 20555-0001
ATTN: Guidance and Publications Branch

Subject: NEI Comments on Draft Interim Staff Guidance OAR/DARP-ISG-2026-XX, "Evaluations of Risk Assessments for Risk-Informed Decision-Making for Regulatory Applications," Docket ID: NRC-2026-3268

Project Number: 689

Submitted via Regulations.gov

Dear Guidance and Publications Branch:

The Nuclear Energy Institute (NEI),¹ on behalf of its members, appreciates the opportunity to provide comments on draft Interim Staff Guidance (ISG) OAR/DARP-ISG-2026-XX, "Evaluations of Risk Assessments for Risk-Informed Decision-Making for Regulatory Applications."

NEI supports the draft ISG and appreciates the NRC's development of flexible guidance for evaluating probabilistic risk assessments (PRAs) and other systematic risk evaluations (SREs) used to support risk-informed regulatory applications. In particular, NEI supports the broad applicability of the guidance across licensing frameworks. We offer the attached recommendations to further clarify the guidance and promote alignment between NRC and industry approaches.

If you have any questions or require additional information, please contact me at jwf@nei.org or 202.256.0190.

Sincerely,



Jon Facemire
Director, New Nuclear

cc: Mehdi Reisi Fard, Office of Advanced Reactors, NRC
Jack Minzer Bryant, Office of Advanced Reactors, NRC

¹ The Nuclear Energy Institute (NEI) is responsible for establishing unified policy on behalf of its members relating to matters affecting the nuclear energy industry, including the regulatory aspects of generic operational and technical issues. NEI's members include entities licensed to operate commercial nuclear power plants in the United States, nuclear plant designers, major architect and engineering firms, fuel cycle facilities, nuclear materials licensees, and other organizations involved in the nuclear energy industry.

Comment #	Section	Comment Basis	Recommendation
1	Background	The background section should include discussion of Section 208 of the ADVANCE Act, specifically, the direction that “The Commission shall—...develop risk-informed and performance-based strategies and guidance to license and regulate micro-reactors pursuant to section 103 of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954 (42 U.S.C. 2133), including strategies and guidance for—... (E) risk analysis methods, including alternatives to probabilistic risk assessments;” That discussion should also include the direction from the commission in SRM-SECY-24-0008: “The staff should apply Congress’ regulatory direction in Section 208 of the Accelerating Deployment of Versatile, Advance Nuclear for Clean Energy Act of 2024, Public Law 118-67 (ADVANCE Act), which states that the “Commission shall...develop risk-informed and performance-based strategies and guidance to license and regulate micro-reactors... including strategies and guidance for.... risk analysis methods, including alternatives to probabilistic risk assessments.” to more than just microreactors.” The ISG provides guidance that aligns with the directive in the ADVANCE Act and the SRM.	Add a discussion as described in the Comment Basis to the Background of the ISG.
2	Applicability	If Part 57 is finalized prior to this ISG getting published, applicability should be expanded to Part 57. Sections 1-11 should be updated to describe how the guidance in NUREG-2271 Chapter 12 can meet the expectation for a systematic risk evaluation in line with this ISG. In line with the spirit of the ISG, applicability of this ISG should be across all available parts. Description of the NUREG-2271	Expand applicability to Part 57. Update Sections 1-11 to describe how the guidance in NUREG-2271 Chapter 12 can meet the expectation for an SRE in line with this ISG.

Comment #	Section	Comment Basis	Recommendation
		Chapter 12 process within the SRE framework may facilitate efficiencies across Part 57 and other licensing frameworks.	Update section 3, "Selecting Risk Assessment Methods," to include NUREG-2271 Chapter 12 as an example method.
3	10. Review and Self-Assessment Activities	NRC points to "general guidance on eliciting expert judgment in NUREG-2255, 'Guidance for Conducting Expert Elicitation in Risk-Informed Decisionmaking Activities,' issued November 2024." This discussion should also reference Section 4.2 of ASME/ANS RA-S-1.4 in the ISG's discussion of the use of expert judgment. The guidance in the standard is appropriate beyond its use in PRA without being unnecessarily burdensome.	Reference Section 4.2 of ASME/ANS RA-S-1.4 in the ISG's discussion of the use of expert judgment in Section 10 on "Review and Self-Assessment Activities."
4	Throughout	There are several references to trial use RG 1.247, "Acceptability of Probabilistic Risk Assessment Results for Non-Light-Water Reactor Risk-Informed Activities," issued March 2022. NRC has published in the federal register a revision 1 to this Trial Use RG.	Update the references to revision 1 of RG 1.247.
5	6. Demonstrating Acceptable Risk Assessment Methods	Section 6 could be interpreted as expressing a strong preference for PRA-based risk assessments. This would be misaligned with the directive in the ADVANCE Act. The discussion of non-PRA SREs would be strengthened with examples such as NUREG-1513 or NUREG-2271 Chapter 12.	Describe how non-PRA SREs could meet staff expectations for the elements in Section 6 using examples NUREG-1513 or NUREG-2271 Chapter 12.