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

October 27, 2026

Peter Vescovi
Manager
Environmental, Safety, Health, and Licensing
4747 Bethesda Avenue
Suite 1001
Bethesda, MD 20814

SUBJECT: UPDATED REVIEW SCHEDULE FOR THE ORANO ENRICHMENT USA LLC SPECIAL NUCLEAR MATERIAL LICENSE APPLICATION - ENTERPRISE PROJECT IDENTIFICATION NUMBERS L-2026-NEW-0002, L-2026-LNE-0001, and L-2026-LNE-0002

Dear Peter Vescovi:

The purpose of this letter is to inform you that the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) has reviewed and approved your October 20, 2026, request for additional time to respond to the NRC staff's Requests for Additional Information (RAIs) (Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS) Accession No. ML26294A098). As a result of this approval, the NRC is revising the schedule for completing its review of Orano Enrichment USA LLC's (Orano's) license application (LA) (ML26086A378), to authorize possession and use of special nuclear material at Orano's proposed uranium enrichment facility, known as Project IKE.

BACKGROUND

By letter dated May 21, 2026 (ML26134A324), the NRC staff accepted Orano's LA for detailed technical review. In its acceptance letter, the NRC provided a schedule for completing the review by April 2027. By letters dated July 20, 2026 (ML26195A157), August 11, 2026 (ML26219A078), and August 27, 2026 (ML26230A260), the NRC staff issued RAIs necessary to support its review of Orano's application. Per the review schedule, Orano's final RAI responses were expected to be submitted by August 2026. However, as of the date of this letter, Orano has provided final responses to only a portion of the RAIs.

IMPACTS DRIVING SCHEDULE CHANGES

In the request for additional time to respond to the staff's RAIs, Orano stated that it expects to submit all RAI responses by December 14, 2026, which will allow for NRC staff review and discussion of draft responses prior to formal submittal. Below are factors that have contributed to this request for a revised review schedule:

1. Since the outset of the Project IKE review, the NRC staff identified Orano's structural design criteria as a high-impact technical issue. Although the NRC staff and Orano have held multiple technical discussions, a resolution has not yet been reached. Resolution of this issue is necessary to support closure of related structural RAIs.

2. Technical areas for which draft or final responses have not yet been provided to the NRC staff include human factors engineering, chemical safety, fire safety, hydrology, geology,

structural design, integrated safety analysis (ISA), external hazards, and geotechnical engineering.

The original accelerated review schedule was based on assumptions that Orano would provide complete and timely responses to NRC's RAIs and provide a detailed crosswalk comparing the Project IKE application to the previously approved Eagle Rock Enrichment Facility license which Orano asserted would share some similarities to Project IKE. The crosswalk was not provided, which limited the NRC review team's ability to leverage the precedent from the Eagle Rock safety evaluation. Additionally, the staff has found in its review that there are limited similarities between the Project Ike and Eagle Rock applications that could be leveraged to expedite its review.

Based on Orano's revised response schedule, the NRC staff now anticipates completing the review of the application by June 2027. To the extent practicable, the NRC staff will continue to perform review activities and concurrence processes in parallel and will maintain accelerated review schedules for individual technical areas.

The revised schedule below is based on the following assumptions: (1) RAI responses are submitted on time and adequately resolve identified issues without the need for follow-up RAIs; (2) clarification calls and audits are scheduled and completed promptly; and (3) additional supporting, non-docketed information, including any information to support the ISA horizontal and vertical slice audit, are provided in a timely manner. If the necessary RAI responses and supporting information is incomplete or is not provided in a timely manner, the staff may assign an 18-month review schedule.

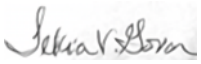
Review Milestones	**Estimated Completion**
Issuance of Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for Public Comment	November 2026
RAIs Responses and Supplements	December 14, 2026
Horizontal and Vertical Slice Audit	January 2027
Draft SER provided to the NRC Project Manager	February 2027
Final SER Package **into** Concurrence	March 2027
Final EIS Issued in *Federal Register*, Prepare Record of Decision	April 2027
Issuance of Final SER	June 2027

Because the NRC staff cannot continue its review of certain technical areas with outstanding RAIs, the delay is not expected to affect the overall resource estimate. Therefore, the fixed-fee cap for billable hours and contract costs associated with the review of Orano's license application remains as communicated in the September 21, 2026, email (ML26266A125). The NRC staff will notify Orano of any significant changes to the review schedule or costs, if needed.

In accordance with Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* Section 2.390, "Public inspections, exemptions, requests for withholding," of the NRC's "Agency Rules of Practice and Procedure," a copy of this letter will be available for public inspection in the NRC Public Document Room (PDR) or electronically from the publicly available records component of ADAMS. The PDR is currently open Monday-Friday by appointment only. To schedule an appointment, you may submit your request to the PDR via email at PDR.Resource@nrc.gov or call 1-800-397-4209 between 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. (EST), Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays. The ADAMS database is accessible from the NRC website at http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html.

If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact Mr. Osiris Siurano-Pérez at (301) 415-7827, or email at Osiris.Siurano-Perez@nrc.gov.

Sincerely,

 Signed by Tekia Govan on 10/27/26

Tekia Govan, Chief
Fuel Facility Licensing Branch 2
Division of Fuel Cycle
Office of Nuclear Material Safety
and Safeguards

Docket No. 07007038
License No.: SNM-1826

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DATED: October 27, 2026

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