UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

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AFFIRMATION SESSION

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PUBLIC MEETING

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Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Commission Hearing Room
11555 Rockville Pike
Rockville, Maryland
November 12, 2026

The Commission met in open session, pursuant to notice at 4:15 P.M., Ho K. Nieh, Chairman, presiding.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

HO K. NIEH, Chairman (via teleconference)

DAVID A. WRIGHT, Member of the Commission (via teleconference)

BRADLEY R. CROWELL, Member of the Commission (via teleconference)

MATTHEW J. MARZANO, Member of the Commission (via teleconference)

DOUGLAS W. WEAVER, Member of the Commission (via teleconference)

ALSO PRESENT:

MATTHEW POCIASK, General Counsel (via teleconference)

JODY C. MARTIN, Secretary of the Commission (via teleconference)

DISCLAIMER

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[4:23 p.m.]

P R O C E E D I N G S

CHAIRMAN NIEH: Hey, thank you, everybody. I apologize for the delays, we were just getting assembled here. Today we are holding a public affirmation session by teleconference. My name is NRC Chairman Ho Nieh, and I'll be presiding over the affirmation session, and I'm going to turn it over to our Secretary, Mr. Jody Martin to guide us through the meeting. Jody.

JODY MARTIN: Thank you, Chairman. Joining us today are the other currently serving members of the Commission. May I have each Commissioner please affirm their presence when I call their name:

Commissioner Wright, Here

Commissioner Crowell, Present

Commissioner Marzano, Here

Commissioner Weaver, Here

Also participating this afternoon is:

Matt Pociask, the NRC's General Counsel. Here

This meeting is open to the public to listen in.

Before I begin, as many of you are aware, there is currently a Microsoft Outlook outage. We will try our best to distribute and post the rule being affirmed today as quickly as possible after this meeting, but the outage may result in some delays in our usual distribution, but we'll get it up as soon as we can. With that, let's turn to today's one item for affirmation, it is SECY-26-0078: Direct Final Rule: Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards Functions.

The Commission is being asked to act on a direct final rule and companion proposed rule in response to Section 4(b) of Executive Order 14300, “Ordering the Reform of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission”. That section requires the NRC to reduce the personnel and functions of the Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards to the minimum necessary to fulfill the ACRS’s statutory obligations and to focus the ACRS’s review of permitting and licensing issues on issues that are truly novel or noteworthy.

The Commission has voted to approve the publication and implementation of this final rule. The Commission has also certified, under the Regulatory Flexibility Act, that this rule will not have significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities.

Would you please affirm your votes after I call your name?

CHAIRMAN NIEH: Aye.

COMMISSIONER WRIGHT: Aye.

COMMISSIONER CROWELL: Aye.

COMMISSIONER MARZANO: Aye.

COMMISSIONER WEAVER: Aye.

JODY C. MARTIN: Would any members of the Commission like to make comments regarding the decision just reached?

COMMISSIONER MARZANO: Yes, Mr. Secretary, this is Commissioner Marzano

JODY C. MARTIN: Go ahead.

COMMISSIONER MARZANO: The Advisory Committee for Reactor Safeguards was created to provide independent technical advice on reactor safety and that mission remains vital today. As the NRC faces new reactor technologies, evolving licensing approaches, and the enduring need for rigorous safety review. The ACRS's objective expertise and independent scrutiny are more important than ever. I agree that ACRS's review should focus on safety issues that are truly novel or noteworthy, but I'll also note that the committee's own guidance is sufficient for determining the appropriate scope of their views. The committee has made tremendous strides toward this goal and is doing excellent work. Its continued role is essential to a strong, credible and technically sound regulatory process. That's all I have, Mr. Secretary. Thank you.

JODY C. MARTIN: Thank you, Commissioner Marzano. Would any other members of the Commission like to make any comments?

COMMISSIONER CROWELL: Yes, Mr. Secretary, this is Commissioner Crowell

JODY C. MARTIN: Go ahead.

COMMISSIONER CROWELL: I just would like to associate myself with Commissioner Marzano's remarks and express my support for the sentiment that he brought to us at this affirmation today. Thank you.

JODY C. MARTIN: Thank you. Any further comments? Alright, hearing none, thank you all for your participation today and I now call this affirmation session to a close.

CERTIFICATE

This is to certify that the attached description of a meeting of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission entitled:

TITLE OF MEETING: Affirmation Session
(PUBLIC MEETING)

PLACE OF MEETING: Rockville, Maryland

DATE OF MEETING: November 12, 2026

was held as herein appears, is a true and accurate record of the meeting, and that this is the original transcript thereof taken stenographically by me, thereafter reduced to typewriting by me or under the direction of the court reporting company.

Transcriber: Samantha Miklaszewski

Reporter: Via Teleconference