

NRC Public Meeting

Executive Order 14300: Modernizing Materials Licensing

July 15, 2026



Agenda

- ☐ Meeting Logistics
- ☐ Introductions
- ☐ NRC Overview of Rule Changes
- ☐ 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



Meeting Purpose

The purpose of this meeting is to inform the public about Executive Order (EO) 14300 proposed rule Modernizing Materials Licensing, which proposes changes to:

- **10 CFR Part 70**, “Domestic Licensing of Special Nuclear Material”
- **10 CFR Part 72**, “Independent Storage of Spent Nuclear Fuel, High-Level Radioactive Waste, and Reactor-Related Greater-than-Class-C Waste
- **10 CFR Part 37**, “Physical Protection of Category 1 And Category 2 Quantities of Radioactive Material



Modernizing Materials Licensing

Shana Helton

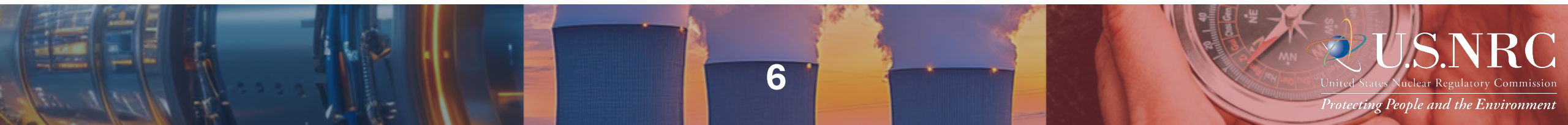
*Deputy Director for Fuel Facilities, Spent Fuel Storage and
Transportation, and Environmental Programs*

*Office of Nuclear Material Safety
and Safeguards*



Overview of Proposed Changes 10 CFR Part 70

- Rule Objectives
 - Offer significant flexibility to applicants and licensees, allowing for tailored approaches based on risk
 - Establish clearer, streamlined licensing pathways
 - Align reporting requirements with risk significance
 - Focus NRC and licensee/applicant resources on safety-significant issues
- The NRC is proposing changes related to 5 key topic areas:
 - Clarify “at-risk” construction and remove delays, consistent with Atomic Energy Act requirements
 - DOE Pilot Fuel Lines: create a streamlined NRC licensing process for facilities authorized by DOE
 - Explicitly include a technology-neutral, one-step licensing pathway for spent fuel reprocessing facilities
 - Establish a flexible, risk-informed method for applying Atomic Energy Act requirements
 - Clarify application expectations with new definitions and a requirement to address known regulatory gaps
 - Add flexibility to the hazards analysis (Integrated Safety Analysis) process
 - Risk inform reporting requirements
 - Additional changes to reporting requirements will be addressed in the [Regulatory Enhancements for Reactor Licensing, Decommissioning, and Operational Oversight rule](#) (Regulations.gov Docket ID NRC-2025-1138)



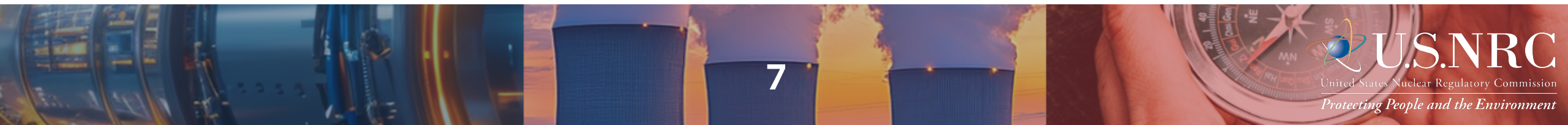
Clarifying At-Risk Construction and Removing Delays

NRC Proposed Rule Changes:

- Clarifies that construction of most materials and fuel cycle facilities may begin at the applicant's own risk before license issuance
- Removes the outdated 9-month waiting period after submittal
- Clarifies that this flexibility does not apply to uranium enrichment or production facilities, consistent with AEA requirements

Key Benefits:

- Reduces unnecessary delays in facility development
- Improves clarity for applicants on when construction can begin
- Supports efficient project planning and NRC inspection coordination
- Aligns with stakeholder feedback on outdated and unclear construction rules



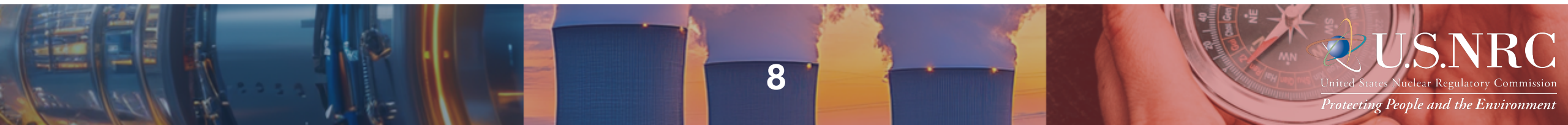
DOE Pilot Fuel Lines

NRC Proposed Rule Changes

- Establishes a clear, expedited pathway for NRC licensing if the facility transitions to commercial operations
- Clarifies content of applications required when leveraging the DOE authorization
- Clarifies that DOE-authorized pilot fuel lines (for non-commercial use) are exempt from NRC licensing under Part 70

Key Benefits:

- Clarifies expectations for future NRC licensing, improving predictability and reducing uncertainty for applicants
- Reduces duplication by leveraging DOE's authorization where it meets NRC requirements
- Improves efficiency by focusing NRC review on areas not already addressed by DOE



Spent Nuclear Fuel Reprocessing

What is Reprocessing?

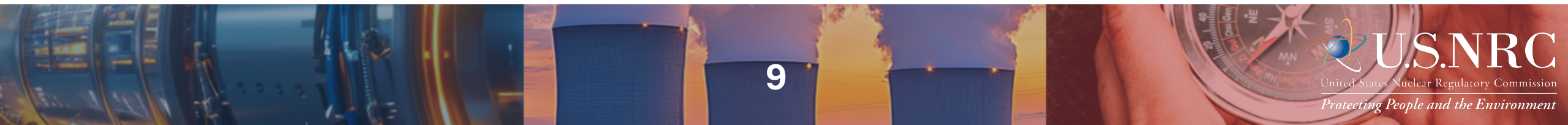
- Chemically separating the highly radioactive fission products from used nuclear fuel to recover uranium and plutonium that can be manufactured into new fuel for nuclear reactors.

NRC Proposed Rule Changes:

- Explicitly include a technology-neutral, one-step licensing pathway for reprocessing facilities in Part 70
- Establish a flexible, risk-informed method for applying Atomic Energy Act requirements
- Clarify application expectations with new definitions and a requirement to address known regulatory gaps

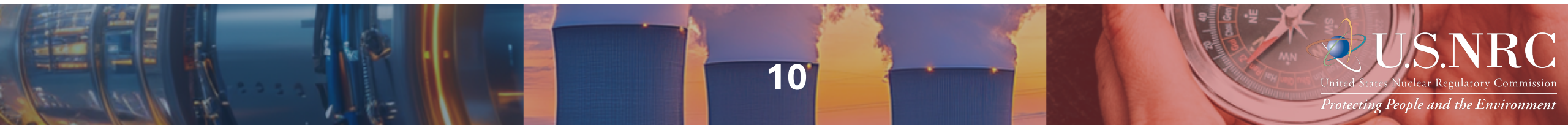
Key Benefits:

- Supports innovation by enabling licensing of diverse, advanced, and novel reprocessing technologies
- Allows applicants to tailor safety approaches to their specific technology and business model
- Reduces unnecessary burden by eliminating duplicative exemptions and prescriptive design rules
- Improves clarity and predictability for applicants navigating AEA requirements
- Streamlines licensing and is responsive to industry feedback and applicant questions



Overview of Proposed Changes to 10 CFR Part 72

- Rule Objectives
 - Offer flexibility to new applicants and existing Certificate of Compliance holders
 - Enhance clarity and reduce burden while maintaining safety
 - Resolve long-standing areas of regulatory uncertainty
- The NRC is proposing changes related to 4 key topic areas:
 - Update definitions of ‘spent nuclear fuel’ and ‘damaged fuel’ to recognize advanced reactor technologies
 - Streamline the certification process of spent fuel cask designs
 - Add greater flexibility for licensees and vendors to implement changes to spent fuel storage systems
 - Risk inform reporting requirements
 - Additional changes to reporting requirements will be addressed in the [Regulatory Enhancements for Reactor Licensing, Decommissioning, and Operational Oversight rule](#) (Regulations.gov Docket ID NRC-2025-1138)



Updating Definitions of Spent Fuel and Damaged Fuel

NRC Proposed Rule Changes:

- Update the definition of “spent nuclear fuel”
 - Remove the outdated requirement that fuel must be “aged for at least one year” before being considered spent fuel
 - The new definition would focus on whether the fuel has been withdrawn from a reactor and is not intended for reuse or reprocessing
- Damaged fuel definition revised to be technology-neutral, accommodating advanced reactor designs

Key Benefits:

- Supports advanced reactor technologies (e.g., microreactors) by allowing flexibility in how and when fuel is classified as spent
- Removes arbitrary aging criteria not based on risk
- Improves consistency across NRC regulations



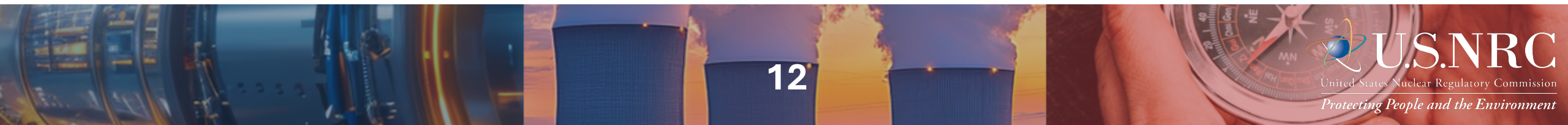
Streamlining the Certification Process of Spent Fuel Cask Designs

NRC Proposed Rule Changes:

- The NRC proposes to eliminate the need for rulemaking as part of the process for approving spent fuel storage cask designs
- The NRC continues to issue Certificates of Compliance and safety evaluations
- For ease of use, all NRC-approved cask designs would continue to be listed on the NRC's website

Key Benefits:

- Reduces regulatory burden and delays—removes 4–6 months of rulemaking time per approval
- Maintains safety—the technical review process remains unchanged
- Improves efficiency without reducing public transparency as NRC approvals will still be publicly available



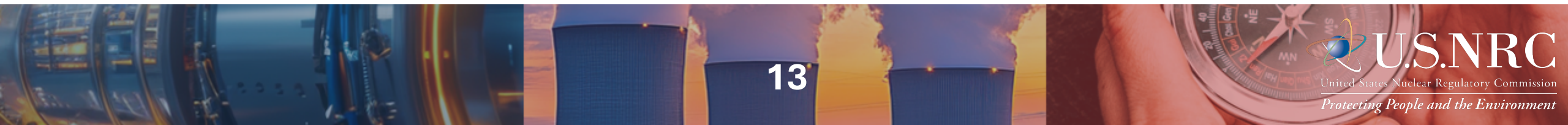
Adding Flexibility to Implement Design Changes

NRC Proposed Rule Changes:

- Increase flexibility in how licensees implement changes to spent fuel storage systems:
 - Streamline the process for licensees who seek to adopt design changes made by spent fuel storage cask vendors
 - Allow licensees and cask vendors to make more changes without prior NRC approval if they result in no more than a minimal increase in safety margins, taking a graded approach based on the safety significance

Key Benefits:

- Reduces duplicative evaluations and administrative burden for licensees implementing changes, resolving a 20-year legacy issue
- Streamlines change implementation while maintaining safety oversight
- Focuses NRC review on safety-significant changes, improving regulatory efficiency
- Supports innovation in spent fuel storage system design and operation



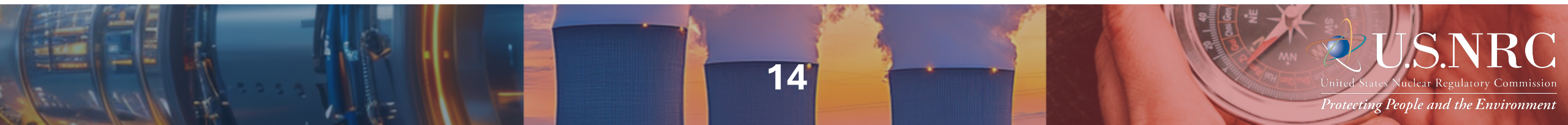
10 CFR Part 37 – “Physical Protection of Category 1 and Category 2 Quantities of Radioactive Material”

NRC Proposed Rule Changes:

- Provides an exemption in § 37.11 for large components and robust structures containing category 1 or category 2 quantities of radioactive material at power reactor facilities
- Defines the terms "large component" and "robust structure," since these terms are currently not defined in § 37.5
- Clarifies language in § 37.11(c) regarding exemption for low-level radioactive waste. Existing language is not clear as to which types of low-level radioactive waste are exempt from Part 37 requirements

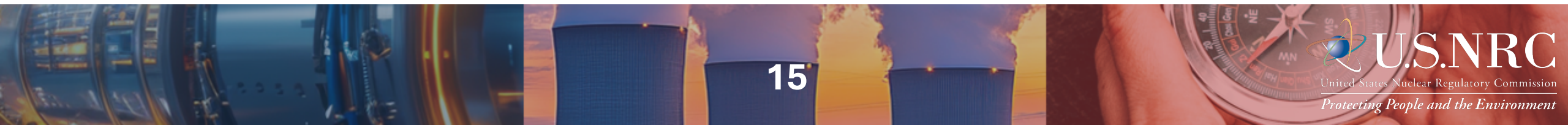
Key Benefits:

- Reduces regulatory burden on licensees while maintaining safety
- Codifies enforcement discretion previously granted through an Interim Enforcement Policy
- Provides licensees with greater regulatory certainty on which types of low-level radioactive waste are exempt from Part 37 requirements



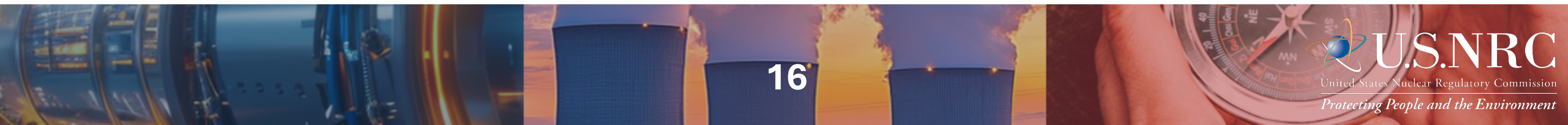
Conforming Changes to Other Related Regulations

- Part 30 and Part 40
 - Simplify the requirements for environmental reports and clarify applicant ability to undertake at-risk construction (Part 70 conforming change).
- Part 51
 - Clarify continued applicability of the categorical exclusion from NEPA for storage cask certification reviews even after proposed process change (Part 72 conforming change).
- Part 140
 - Codify Atomic Energy Act indemnity agreement and liability insurance requirements for spent fuel reprocessing facilities (Part 70 conforming change).



Specific Requests for Comments

- Issue 1: Definition of Construction
- Issue 2: Spent Fuel Reprocessing Facility Regulations
 - Regulatory Gap Identification
 - Decommissioning Funding
 - Handling and Onsite Storage of Waste
 - Quality Assurance Program
 - Operator Licensing Program
 - Operator General Licenses
 - As Production Facilities
 - Technical Specifications
- Issue 3: Change Process for 10 CFR Part 70 License Application Documents
- Issue 4: Baseline Design Criteria in 10 CFR Part 70



Submitting Comments

- NRC will consider information and perspectives discussed today, but comments must be submitted in writing through the methods described in the Federal Register notice to receive formal consideration in the rulemaking.
- Federal Rulemaking Website: Go to <https://www.regulations.gov> and search for Docket ID NRC-2025-1370



Timeline/Dates

- Proposed rule published in the *Federal Register* on June 24, 2026 (91 FR 38124)
 - 45-day public comment period ends on August 10, 2026.
- NRC will consider public comments submitted under Docket ID [NRC-2025-1370]
- Estimated date to publish final rule in the *Federal Register*: December 18, 2026 ([Planned Rulemaking Activities - Rule | Nuclear Regulatory Commission](#))



E.O. 14300 Rules and Timelines

21 Total Rules

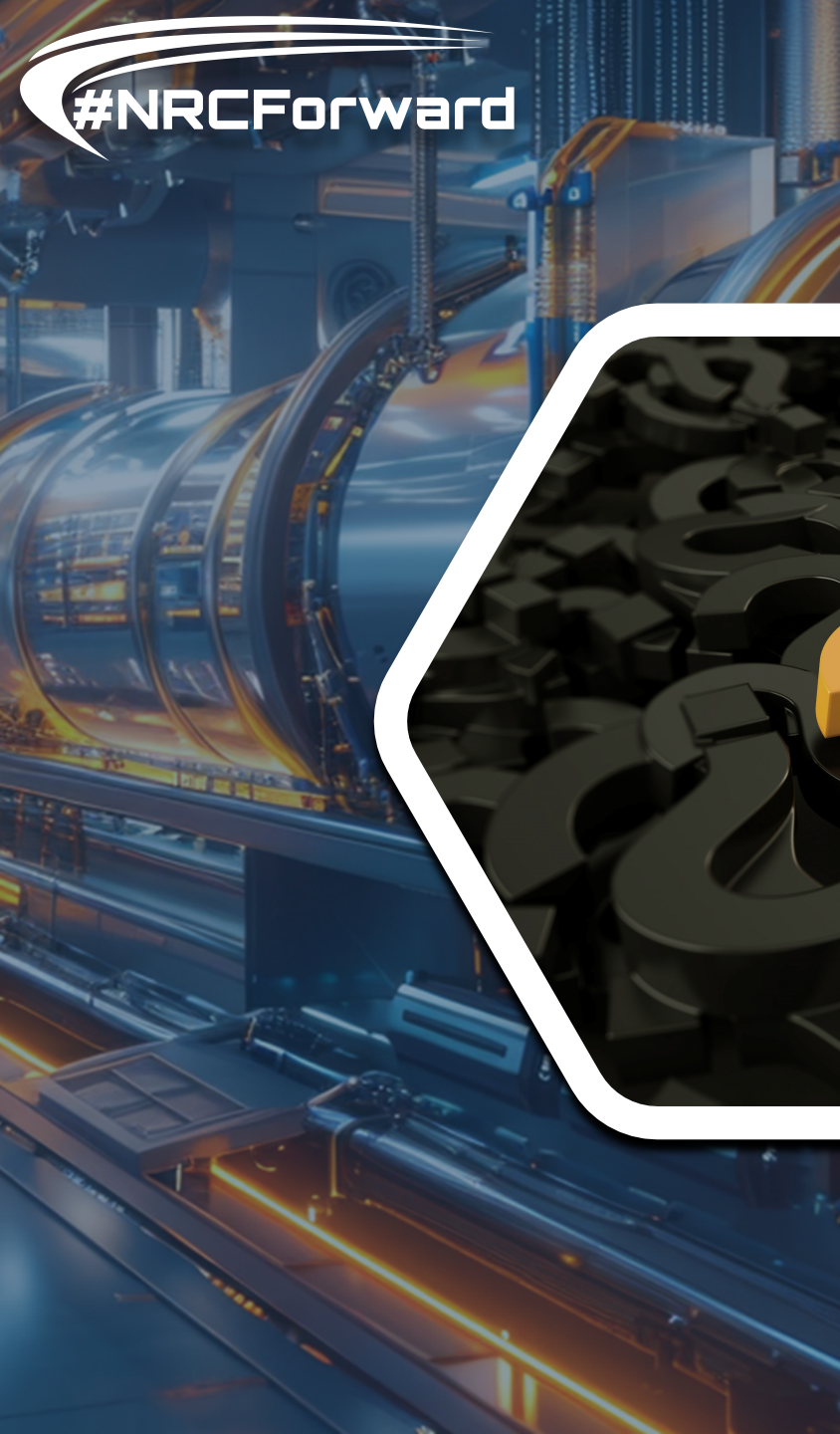
16 Proposed Rules

5 Direct Final Rules

Public Information

Planned rulemaking activities, including priority and schedule, are available at <https://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/rulemaking-ruleforum/active/ruleindex.html>





#NRCForward

Questions



Participation Guidelines



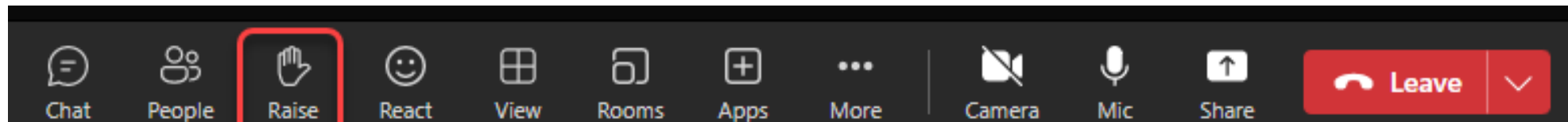
- ☐ Hoping to hear from as many participants as possible
- ☐ Listen-only mode unless acknowledged to speak
- ☐ Maintain a cordial and professional environment
- ☐ No regulatory decisions will be made



Virtual Participation



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

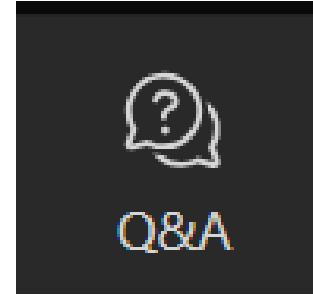


- 2) Wait for the facilitator to acknowledge your turn to speak
- 3) Unmute yourself
 - Teams: Use the “unmute/mic” button
 - Phone: Press “*6”



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.

Meeting Feedback

[FAQ](#) | [GLOSSARY](#) | [FACILITY LOCATOR](#) | [WHAT'S NEW](#) | [SITE HELP](#) | [INDEX A-Z](#) | [CONTACT US](#) | [EMAIL UPDATES](#)

[REPORT A SAFETY CONCERN](#)

SEARCH



Home ▶ [Public Involvement](#) ▶ [About Meetings Open to the Public](#) ▶ [Public Meeting Schedule](#)

PRINT

Public Meeting Schedule: Search Results

- [Guidance for Visitors to NRC Facilities or NRC-Sponsored Events](#)
- [NRC Self-Health Assessment](#)

NOTE: The time listed is local to the jurisdiction where the meeting is being held. When a meeting offers video conferencing at multiple locations, the details will be provided.

Detailed information for each meeting is available by selecting [\[more...\]](#)

Search Criteria

Start Date: 01/26/26
End Date: 03/12/26

Records 1 - 10 of 78 Matching Records
[\[First \]](#) [Previous](#) | [Next](#) | [Last](#) | [Display All Matches](#) | [New Search](#)]

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

SECTION NAVIGATION +

Navigation

[Search Public Meetings](#)

[Recent Public Meetings](#)

[Webinars](#)

[Attendee Information](#)

[System Notices](#)

[Hours of Operation](#)

[Contact Us About Public Meetings](#)





Closing Remarks

- Submit comments on <https://www.regulations.gov> and search for Docket ID NRC-2025-1370
- Proposed Rule published on June 24, 2026 (91 FR 38124)
- 45-day public comment period ends on August 10, 2026





Thank you for joining us today

