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No: 26-015-A June 15, 2026
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NRC Kicks Off Environmental Review of Pioneer Construction Permit Application

ROCKVILLE, MD. – The Nuclear Regulatory Commission is inviting public participation in the environmental review of an application from Palisades SMR, LLC, for the Pioneer small modular reactor project in Michigan.

What: Palisades SMR is seeking a limited work authorization for the Pioneer project, which could provide about 600 megawatts of electricity to support the nation's energy needs.

How: The notice in today's Federal Register includes instructions for the public to comment by July 15 on the environmental issues the NRC and the Army Corps of Engineers (a cooperating agency) should consider in the review.

Note: The company submitted Part 1 of a phased construction permit application on Dec. 31, 2025, including a request to authorize certain construction activities for two potential SMR-300 units. More information on the NRC's Pioneer review is on the agency website. Copies of the Pioneer application, including the environmental report, are available at the South Haven Memorial Library, 314 Broadway St. in South Haven, Michigan; and at the St. Joseph/Maud Preston Palenske Memorial Library, 500 Market St. in St. Joseph, Michigan.

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission was created as an expert, technical agency to protect public health, safety, and security, and regulate the civilian use of nuclear materials, including enabling the deployment of nuclear power for the benefit of society. Among other responsibilities, the agency issues licenses, conducts inspections, initiates and enforces regulations, and plans for incident response. The NRC is collaborating with interagency partners to implement reforms outlined in new Executive Orders and the ADVANCE Act to streamline agency activities and enhance efficiency.