



NRC NEWS

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NRC Launches Faster, Smarter Environmental Review Program Saving Time and Resources

ROCKVILLE, Md.—The Nuclear Regulatory Commission is seeking public input on Amarillo-based Fermi America’s Project Matador, marking the first use of a transformative new pilot program that modernizes how the agency conducts environmental reviews.

This new approach—enabled by recent amendments to the National Environmental Policy Act—allows applicants, under NRC oversight, to develop a draft environmental impact statement. By rethinking the traditional review process, the program is expected to reduce in-house NRC review time by approximately 50 percent and deliver resource savings of about 30 percent, all while maintaining compliance with environmental requirements.

Fermi America is the first private company to participate in this pilot, setting a precedent for a more efficient, collaborative, and transparent environmental review process. Its Project Matador application seeks a combined license to build and operate four AP1000 reactors at the site.

Public input at this early stage plays a critical role in shaping the environmental review. Comments help identify the most relevant environmental issues and ensure the EIS is comprehensive, focused, and responsive to community concerns. The NRC is accepting comments through multiple channels until the April 20 deadline, as outlined in the [Federal Register notice](#).

Fermi America submitted the initial portion of its application on June 17, 2025, with additional information provided on August 20, 2025. More details about the Project Matador environmental review and opportunities for public engagement are available on the [NRC’s website](#).

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.