



NRC NEWS

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NRC Receives Application for Advanced Microreactor at University of Illinois

ROCKVILLE, Md. — The Nuclear Regulatory Commission has received an [application](#) from the University of Illinois to build a next-generation research reactor on its Urbana-Champaign campus, marking a step forward in the development of advanced microreactor technology in the United States.

The application, submitted March 31, proposes a reactor based on NANO Nuclear Energy's KRONOS Micro Modular Reactor design. The system would use helium cooling and a molten-salt heat transfer process, an advanced approach intended to enhance safety and efficiency.

The NRC is reviewing the application to determine whether it is complete. If accepted, the agency will begin a detailed technical evaluation of the reactor's safety and security and publish a notice of opportunity to request an adjudicatory hearing on the application before the NRC's Atomic Safety and Licensing Board.

If the construction permit is granted, the university would need to submit a separate operating license application and receive NRC approval before the reactor could begin operation.

If approved, the project would support research, education, and workforce development while helping demonstrate emerging microreactor technology.

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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.