



NRC NEWS

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NRC Announces Opportunity to Request Hearing for Duane Arnold Energy Center Restart License Amendments

Public Engagement Invited as NRC Reviews Critical Energy Facility Restart Proposal

ROCKVILLE, Md. — The Nuclear Regulatory Commission is inviting [public participation](#) in a significant decision affecting regional energy infrastructure and safety. The NRC has posted an opportunity in the Federal Register for stakeholders to request a hearing regarding NextEra Energy’s proposals to amend the license for restarting the Duane Arnold Energy Center. These amendment requests—submitted between November 2025 and January 2026—would reinstate portions of the Duane Arnold license to meet operating reactor requirements, a key step toward returning the facility to service.

“Restarting the Duane Arnold Energy Center would potentially strengthen energy security, support the local community, and contribute to clean energy generation,” Executive Director for Operations Mike King said. “Engaging the public in this process ensures that safety, environmental, and community concerns are addressed before any decision is made on restart.”

The Duane Arnold reactor, which ceased operations in August 2020, was a major contributor to the region’s energy supply and played a vital role in supporting grid reliability and economic activity. In early 2025, NextEra notified the NRC of its intentions to return the plant to operational status, prompting the agency to establish the DAEC Restart Panel. This panel was created to ensure a thorough, transparent review process—focused on rigorous inspection and oversight—to determine if the reactor can be safely restarted.

Hearing requests must be filed by June 22, and details on accessing protected information and participating in the hearing process are available in the Federal Register notice.

For additional information about the proposed restart and its implications, please visit the NRC’s [website](#) or contact the [Office of Public Affairs](#).

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.