



NRC NEWS

Office of Public Affairs, Headquarters

Washington, DC. 20555-0001
www.nrc.gov ■ opa.resource@nrc.gov



No: 26-048
CONTACT: [Office of Public Affairs](#), 301-415-8200

April 28, 2026

NRC Begins Fast-Track Review to Update AP1000 Reactor Design Using Real-World U.S. Experience

ROCKVILLE, Md. — The Nuclear Regulatory Commission has launched a [four-month review](#) of an [application](#) from Westinghouse Electric Company to update its AP1000 reactor design, marking the first time a certified U.S. reactor design will be revised using actual construction and operating experience.

The agency aims to complete its technical review by Aug. 31, roughly four months after accepting the application. The update would align the certified AP1000 design with the as-built configuration of Vogtle Units 3 and 4, which began operating in 2023 and 2024.

“This is the first update of a design certification based on actual construction experience, and we look forward to working with Westinghouse on this project,” said Jeremy Bowen, the director of NRC’s new Office of Advanced Reactors. “The updated certification could lead to faster licensing approvals, lower regulatory uncertainty and costs, and increased deployment of new nuclear plants to meet rising electricity demand.”

During construction of Vogtle Units 3 and 4, several design changes were reviewed and approved by the NRC. Incorporating those changes into the certified design is expected to streamline future applications by allowing developers to reference a design that reflects how the reactors are built and operated. The agency’s review timeline is also expected to give potential applicants greater certainty as they consider new projects using the AP1000 design. If approved, the updated certification could help accelerate new nuclear projects. The NRC plans to pursue rulemaking to formally update the AP1000 certification, with opportunities for public comment.

More information about design certification is available on the [NRC 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.