



NRC NEWS

Office of Public Affairs, Headquarters

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



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CONTACT: [Office of Public Affairs](#), 301-415-8200

NRC Accepts University of Illinois Application to Build Advanced Microreactor, Kicking Off Formal Review

Rockville, Md. — The Nuclear Regulatory Commission has formally [accepted](#) the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign's application to build an advanced microreactor on its campus, launching a detailed safety and environmental review of a project that would mark a significant milestone in university nuclear research.

The [application](#), submitted March 31, proposes a reactor based on NANO Nuclear Energy's KRONOS Micro Modular Reactor design, a next-generation system using helium cooling and a molten-salt heat transfer process engineered for enhanced safety and efficiency.

What Happens Next

NRC technical staff have begun a rigorous evaluation of the proposed reactor's safety and environmental impacts. Within days, the agency will also publish a Federal Register notice opening a 30-day window for members of the public and nearby communities to request a formal legal hearing on the application.

If a construction permit is granted, the university would still need to apply for and receive a separate NRC operating license before the reactor could start up.

Why It Matters

If approved, the project would give University of Illinois students and researchers hands-on access to cutting-edge reactor technology, training the next generation of nuclear engineers while providing a real-world demonstration platform for microreactor designs that could one day power remote communities, military bases and industrial facilities across the country.

More information on the NRC's review is available at [nrc.gov](#).

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 global gold standard for nuclear regulation, 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.