



# NRC NEWS

Office of Public Affairs, Headquarters

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



No: 26-057  
CONTACT: [Office of Public Affairs](#), 301-415-8200

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## NRC Launches Accelerated Review of New U.S. Uranium Enrichment Facility to Strengthen Nuclear Fuel Supply

**Rockville, Md.** — The Nuclear Regulatory Commission has [accepted](#) for review an application for a major new uranium enrichment facility in Tennessee, a project aimed at expanding domestic nuclear fuel production and reducing U.S. reliance on foreign enrichment sources. Orano Enrichment USA LLC has requested a license to build and operate a new uranium enrichment facility, named Project IKE, near Oak Ridge, Tennessee. This project is part of a broader national effort to rebuild America’s domestic nuclear fuel supply chain amid growing concerns over reliance on foreign enrichment services. The NRC intends to complete its technical review within 12 months, assuming high-quality and timely inputs. The accelerated timeline reflects the agency’s broader push to modernize its licensing processes under Executive Order 14300.

“NRC is safely enabling America’s efforts to reduce U.S. dependency on foreign enrichment,” Chairman Ho K. Nieh said. “Credible, predictable and timely safety reviews—this is how NRC supports American leadership in nuclear energy.”

Orano’s facility will use gas centrifuge technology to produce low-enriched uranium for commercial nuclear power plants, reducing U.S. dependence on foreign uranium enrichment, a critical vulnerability that policymakers and industry leaders have flagged as a national energy security concern.

### What the Review Involves

The NRC’s evaluation will include a detailed safety and security assessment and environmental review to ensure the proposed facility meets NRC requirements for protecting public health and the environment. Orano submitted its [environmental report](#) in January 2026 and its [application](#) in March. A formal hearing process will follow the technical review, with specific dates to be established.

### Why it Matters

Domestic uranium enrichment capacity is a linchpin of U.S. energy security. Commercial nuclear power plants generate up to 20 percent of America’s electricity annually, and virtually all of them depend on enriched uranium fuel. Project IKE would add a significant new source of that fuel, produced on American soil. More information about Orano’s application is 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.*