



NRC NEWS

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NRC Starts Licensing Review for a New Medical Isotope Facility in New Mexico

ROCKVILLE, Md. — The Nuclear Regulatory Commission has [accepted](#) for review an application from Eden Radioisotopes LLC to construct a medical isotope production facility in Lea County, New Mexico. Submitted May 5, the [application](#) proposes a facility designed to produce radioisotopes used in medical imaging and cancer treatment. The project would include a 1.8-megawatt thermal reactor to irradiate targets and a processing facility to extract and prepare the isotopes for medical use.

“The NRC’s central role with nuclear technologies is to ensure they are developed safely and responsibly,” Executive Director of Operations Mike King said. “The agency is initiating a thorough, technical evaluation and our experts will carefully review the proposed design to ensure the project meets NRC safety standards. We will conduct an efficient and timely review focusing our efforts on what matters most for safety.”

The NRC’s multilayered review includes extensive safety analyses, site characteristics, seismology, meteorology, geology and hydrology as well as opportunities for the public to engage in the process. A construction permit is granted once the facility meets these requirements.

The NRC will soon publish a notice in the Federal Register opening a 30-day period for members of the public to request a hearing on the application. Public participation is an important part of the NRC's licensing process. Even if a construction permit is approved, Eden would still need to obtain a separate NRC operating license before the facility could begin operations.

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.