



NRC NEWS

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EO14300 Rulemaking

NRC Proposes Major Modernization of Nuclear Security Requirements

ROCKVILLE, Md. — The Nuclear Regulatory Commission today [proposed](#) sweeping updates to its security and fitness-for-duty regulations that would replace decades-old prescriptive requirements with a modern, performance-based framework designed to address credible risks, support advanced reactor technologies, and reduce unnecessary regulatory burden while maintaining strong security protections. The proposal is part of the NRC’s implementation of Executive Order 14300 and represents one of the agency’s most significant efforts to modernize nuclear security requirements in recent years.

“For too long, NRC’s security regulations have reflected the threats and technologies of the past rather than the realities of today,” Chairman Ho K. Nieh said. “This rule brings our regulations into the modern era by focusing on credible risks, enabling innovation and eliminating unnecessary burden without compromising security.”

The proposal marks a significant step toward modernizing NRC’s framework for commercial nuclear power reactors, spent fuel storage facilities, and entities that handle classified and safeguards information. It would shift several prescriptive rules to performance-based, risk-informed, technology-inclusive criteria while maintaining the NRC’s unwavering commitment to protecting public health, safety, and national security.

Among other changes, the proposal would:

- **Transition from prescriptive requirements** to performance-based standards that focus on real-world risks and allow licensees to adopt the latest technologies and security strategies.
- **Reduce regulatory burden** by removing duplicative and outdated requirements, saving time and resources while maintaining NRC oversight and accountability.
- **Align NRC requirements with other federal standards and agencies** to promote clarity and reduce confusion.
- **Provide regulatory options** to accommodate new reactor designs and digital systems, ensuring that security and fitness-for-duty requirements are effective and adaptable for advanced reactors and new technologies.
- **Allow more flexible** drug and alcohol testing methods, reducing unnecessary administrative requirements and aligning with federal best practices.

The proposed rule is expected to be published in the Federal Register in the coming days, opening a 30-day public comment period. The notice will include instructions for submitting comments electronically at www.regulations.gov (Docket ID NRC-2025-1303). The NRC intends to hold a public meeting on the proposed rule soon.

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.