



# NRC NEWS

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No: 26-076

September 1, 2026

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## EO14300 Rulemaking

### **NRC Proposes Rule That Will Protect Drinking Water Near Uranium In-Situ Recovery Sites**

**ROCKVILLE, Md.** — The Nuclear Regulatory Commission today [proposed a rule](#) that would set clearer groundwater protection standards for communities near uranium in-situ recovery sites, while also easing administrative timelines for decommissioning radioactive materials facilities and nuclear reactors and ensuring safety.

The rule addresses two distinct areas of NRC oversight. First, it would establish risk-informed criteria for protecting drinking water from radiological and non-radiological contamination near ISR facilities, where uranium is extracted from underground deposits by injecting fluids into ore-bearing rock. Second, it would streamline the process for extending decommissioning timelines, cutting redundant administrative steps that facility owners currently face when winding down operations.

NRC officials said the changes are intended to reduce costs for applicants while avoiding premature license terminations that can result from rigid timeline requirements.

“This proposed rule reflects the NRC’s commitment to protecting public health by putting a framework into place establishing clear, enforceable standards for groundwater safety near uranium recovery sites,” said NRC Executive Director for Operations Mike King. “At the same time, we are closing the gap in our regulations, improving regulatory efficiency, and providing greater certainty for both communities and facility operators.”

ISR is currently being used at approximately 16 uranium recovery facilities in the U.S. and is considered a lower-impact alternative to conventional mining.

The public has 30 days after the rule’s publication in the Federal Register to submit comments at [regulations.gov](#) under Docket ID NRC-2025-1204.

*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.*