



SECRETARY

UNITED STATES  
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

September 21, 2020

MEMORANDUM TO: Margaret M. Doane  
Executive Director for Operations

FROM: Annette L. Vietti-Cook, Secretary

SUBJECT: STAFF REQUIREMENTS – SECY-20-0020 – RESULTS OF  
EXPLORATORY PROCESS FOR DEVELOPING A GENERIC  
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT FOR THE  
CONSTRUCTION AND OPERATION OF ADVANCED NUCLEAR  
REACTORS

The Commission has approved the development of a generic environmental impact statement (GEIS) for the construction and operation of advanced nuclear reactors (ANR) using a technology-neutral, plant parameter envelope (PPE) approach and for it to be codified in the *Code of Federal Regulations*. This approval also supplants the need for the staff to submit a voting paper seeking Commission approval of a rulemaking plan on this matter.

The staff should prioritize any site-specific National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) reviews for advanced reactors over efforts to develop an ANR GEIS. NEPA reviews should be tailored to the impacts of the given action and should be focused and timely. Any experience gained in completing site-specific reviews should inform the staff's GEIS efforts.

In establishing the scope of the ANR GEIS, to the extent possible, the staff should continue to consider a PPE that is inclusive of as many ANR technologies as possible. If the staff chooses to use power level as a bounding term, it should ensure that the power level ultimately applied is the result of a risk-informed and performance-based analysis that thoroughly incorporates input from external stakeholders.

The staff should inform the Commission of the outcome of the scoping process. In doing so, the staff should provide a discussion of the number of resource areas the staff expects to disposition generically and for which types of reactor technologies (e.g. microreactors, liquid-metal-cooled fast reactors, molten-salt reactors). The discussion should also address cost and schedule implications for the different ANR technologies and the staff should inform the Commission about the anticipated resources to both complete the ANR GEIS and codify any generic findings, given that the rulemaking process may involve more resources than the staff has allocated for this project. Alternatively, if after the scoping process the staff determines that the development of the GEIS is no longer viable or practicable, the staff should notify the Commission.

cc: Chairman Svinicki  
Commissioner Baran  
Commissioner Caputo

Commissioner Wright  
Commissioner Hanson  
OGC  
CFO  
OCA  
OPA  
ODs, RAs, ACRS, ASLBP (via E-Mail)  
PDR