



# **NATRÍUM**

**Applicability of Regulations** 

### Agenda

- Advanced Reactor Demonstration Program
- Natrium<sup>™</sup> Safety Features
- Plant Overview
- Regulatory Engagement
- Licensing Approach
- Risk-Informed, Performance-Based Design Approach
- Principal Design Criteria
- 10 CFR Regulations Review



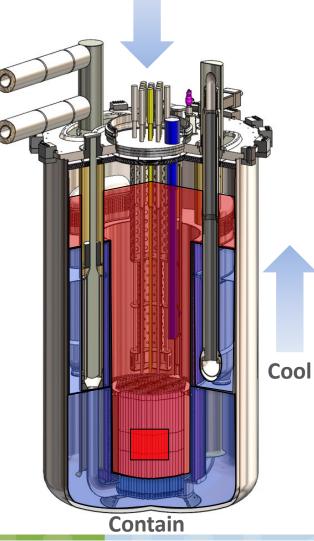
### **Advanced Reactor Demonstration Program**

- Demonstrate the ability to design, license, construct, startup and operate the Natrium reactor within the Congressionally mandated seven-year timeframe
- Include improvements in safety, security, economics, and environmental impacts
- Utilize a simple, robust, reliable, and proven safety profile
- Lower emissions by initiating the deployment of a fleet of Natrium reactors – Demonstrate that the plants can be built economically and that they will be attractive for future owner/operators



**Natrium Safety Features** 

- Pool-type Metal Fuel SFR with Molten Salt Energy Island
  - Metallic fuel and sodium have high compatibility
  - No sodium-water reaction in steam generator
  - Large thermal inertia enables simplified response to abnormal events
- Simplified Response to Abnormal Events
  - Reliable reactor shutdown
  - Transition to coolant natural circulation
  - Indefinite passive emergency decay heat removal
  - Low pressure functional containment
  - No reliance on Energy Island for safety functions
- No Safety-Related Control Systems, Operator Actions, or AC power
- Technology Based on U.S. SFR Experience
  - EBR-I, EBR-II, FFTF, TREAT
  - SFR inherent safety characteristics demonstrated through testing in EBR-II and FFTF



Control

#### Control

- Motor-driven control rod runback
- Gravity-driven control rod scram
- Inherently stable with increased power or temperature

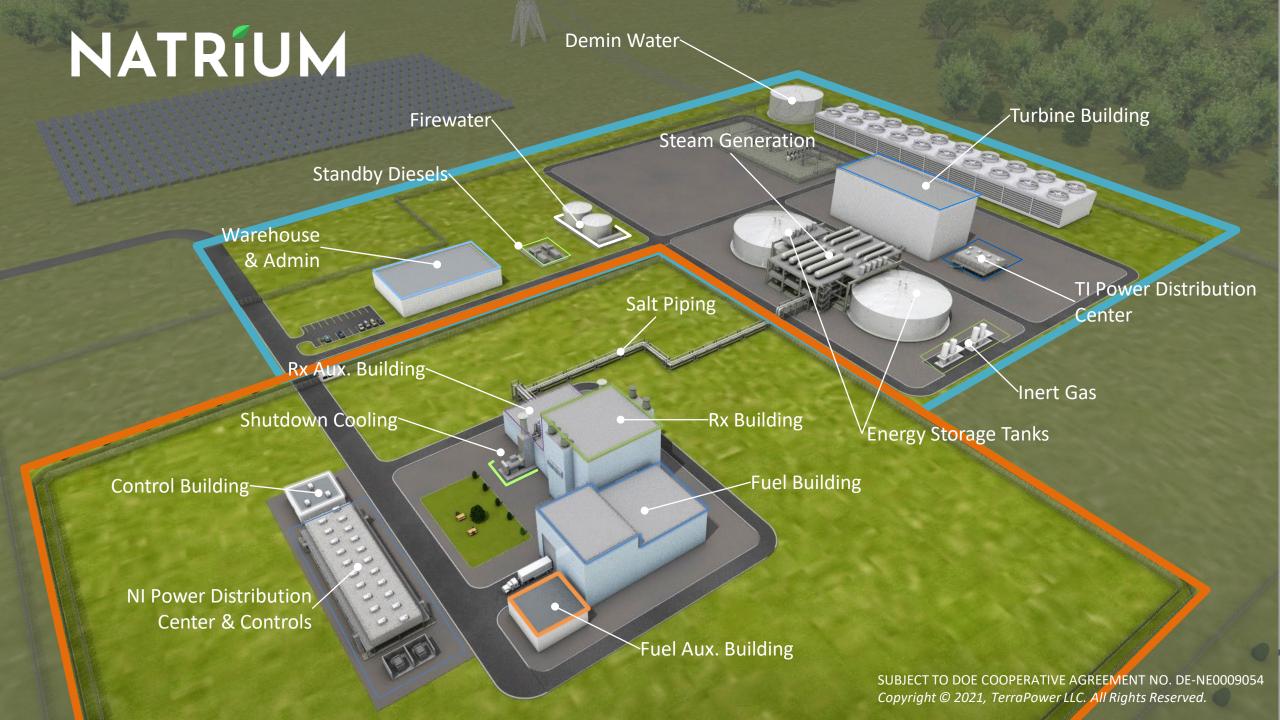
#### Cool

- In-vessel primary sodium heat transport (limited penetrations)
- Intermediate air cooling natural draft flow
- Reactor air cooling natural draft flow always on

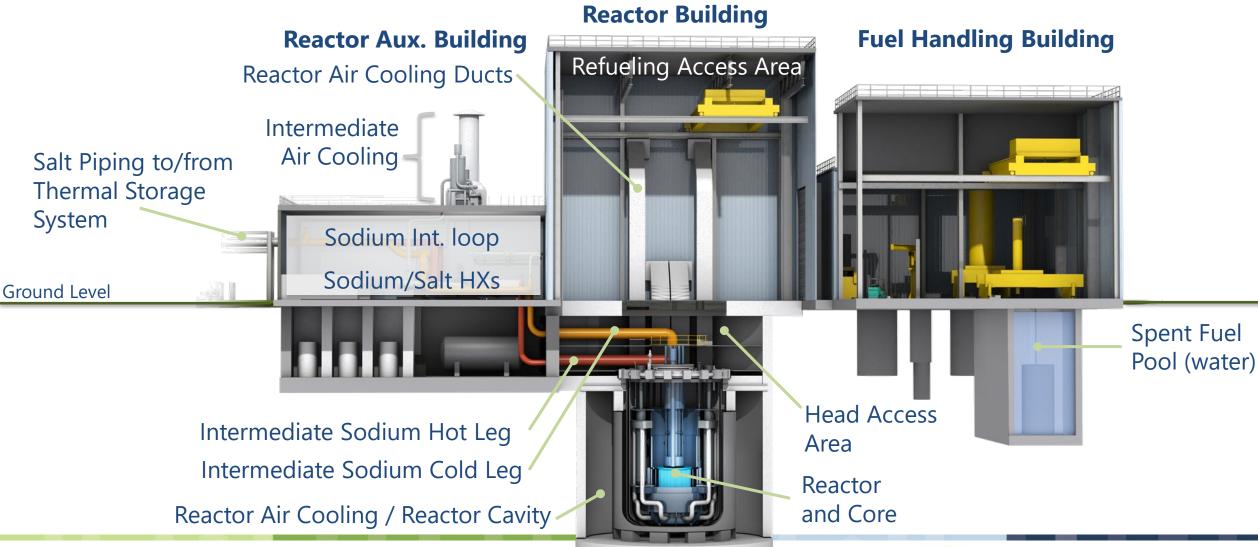
#### Contain

- Low primary and secondary pressure
- Sodium affinity for radionuclides
- Multiple radionuclides retention boundaries





#### **Plant Overview**



# **Regulatory Engagement**

- Regulatory Engagement Plan submitted 6/8/2021
  - Numerous pre-application interactions are planned to reduce regulatory uncertainty and facilitate the NRC's understanding of Natrium technology and its safety case
  - Topical Reports, Technical Reports, and White Papers will be submitted to the NRC as part of Pre-Application activities
- Construction Permit Application Submittal
  – August 2023
- Operating License Application Submittal March 2026



#### **Licensing Approach**

- 10 CFR 50 will be utilized for the Natrium Reactor
- The PSAR will follow the draft PSAR outline and guidance provided by "Updated Draft Outline for Licensing Modernization Project Advanced Reactor License Applications," (NRC letter dated April 15, 2020)
- The LMP (NEI 18-04), as endorsed by RG 1.233, will inform the content of applications
- Ongoing ARCAP and TICAP activities will be monitored and incorporated as appropriate into the content of applications



# Risk-Informed, Performance-Based Design Approach

- Use of LMP for the Natrium design
  - Risk-informed approach for LBE selection, SSC classification and DID evaluation
  - Highly iterative between PRA, deterministic analyses, design
  - Final, PRA-informed confirmation of classification and DID adequacy comes later in project
- Iteration management
  - An Events List database (common to PRA, deterministic analyses, design) being used to maintain alignment and consistency
  - Each discipline 'owns' certain attributes of each event in the Events List
- Managing risk associated with timing of PRA-informed classification and DID adequacy
  - Defense Lines explicitly used in the design basis
  - Good alignment between Defense Lines and LMP safety classifications



# **Principal Design Criteria**

- Design Criteria will be reviewed, based on ARDCs (Regulatory Guide 1.232) and informed by LMP (NEI 18-04)
  - Initial PDCs are in development
  - The Natrium design will utilize a Risk-Informed, Performance-Based process
  - Final PDCs will reflect the final Natrium design
- Comparison between the PDCs developed using the RIPB approach and ARDCs will be discussed through engagement with the staff



### 10 CFR Regulations Review

- A thorough review of all 10 CFR Regulations is being performed
- The review is informed by "Updated NRC Staff Draft White Paper Analysis of Applicability of NRC Regulations of Non-Light Water Reactors," dated July 2021
- A graded approach will be applied across all 10 CFR Parts



### 10 CFR Regulations Review

#### **Categories**:

- 1. Applicable to SFR Design compliance to be confirmed
  - a) Design compliance with compliance documented
  - b) Exemption requested
- 2. Applicable to SFR Entry condition and compliance to be confirmed
  - a) Entry condition met with compliance documented
  - b) Entry condition met with exemption requested
  - c) Entry condition not met and documented
- 3. Applicable to SFR No design requirement imposed
- 4. Not-Applicable No further action
- 5. Not-Applicable to SFR Underlying regulatory basis to be addressed and documented



# 10 CFR 50 Review Examples

- Category 1a:
  - 10 CFR 50.43(e) requirements for demonstrating performance of safety features
    - Enclosure 2 of SECY-91-074, "Prototype Decisions for Advanced Reactor Designs," reprinted as Appendix A of "A Regulatory Review Roadmap for Non-Light Water Reactors" will be utilized to understand the NRC needs and expectations for testing requirements



# 10 CFR 50 Review Examples

- Category 2, Applicable to SFR Entry condition and compliance to be confirmed:
  - 10 CFR 50.34(f)(2)(xiv), Containment Isolation
    - Entry condition for designs using a traditional containment
- Category 3, Applicable to SFR No design requirement imposed:
  - 10 CFR 50.2, Definitions
  - 10 CFR 50.74, Notification of change in operator or senior operator status



### 10 CFR 50 Review Examples

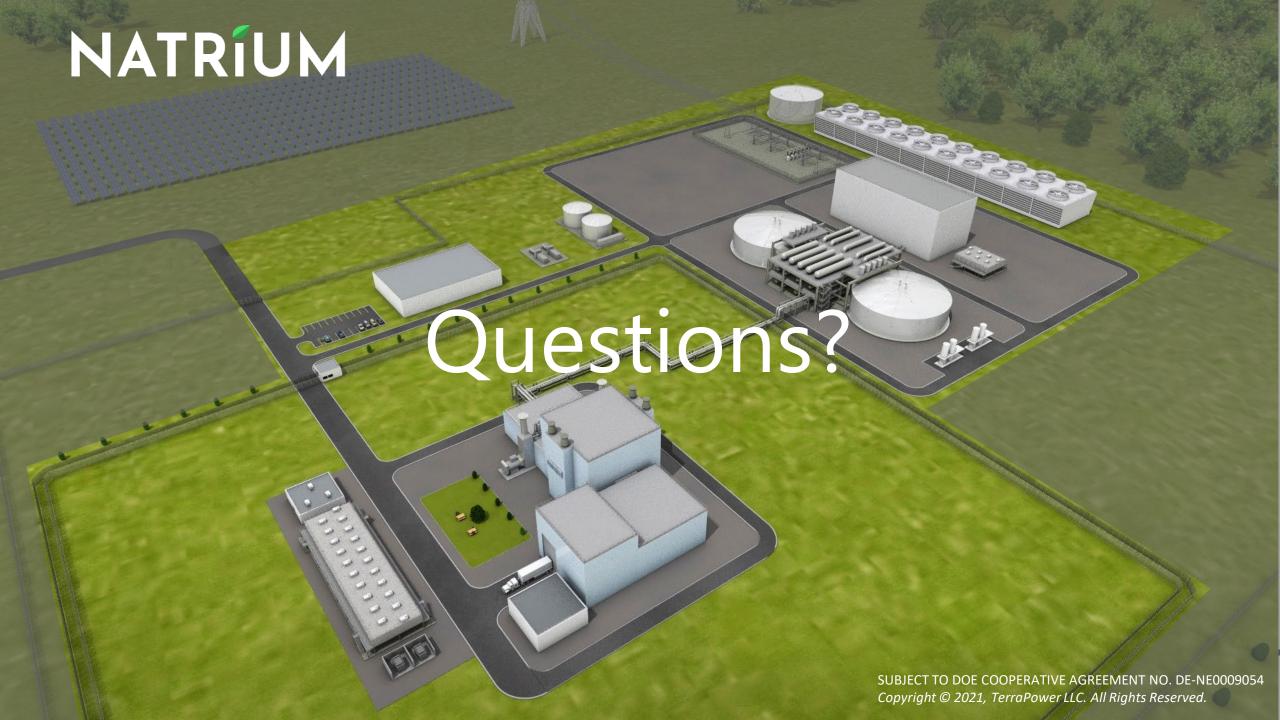
- Category 4, Not-Applicable No further action:
  - 10 CFR 50.64, Limitations on the use of highly enriched uranium (HEU) in domestic non-power reactors
  - 10 CFR 50.49(g), Sub-part of Environmental qualification of electric equipment important to safety for nuclear power plants
- Category 5, Not-Applicable to SFR Underlying regulatory basis to be addressed and documented:
  - 10 CFR 50.62, Requirements for reduction of risk from anticipated transients without scram (ATWS) events for light-water-cooled nuclear power plants
  - 10 CFR 50.46, Acceptance criteria for emergency core cooling systems for light-water nuclear power reactors



#### **Conclusion**

- Lessons learned are being reviewed and incorporated
- Related Planned Pre-Application interactions include:
  - PDCs and SSC Classifications
  - Potential Exemptions
- An additional proposed Pre-Application interaction:
  - Results of the 10 CFR Regulations Review





#### **Acronym List**

ARCAP – Advanced Reactor Content of Application Project

ARDC - Advanced Reactor Design Criteria

ARDP – Advanced Reactor Demonstration Program

CFR – Code of Federal Regulations

DID – Defense-in-Depth

EBR – Experimental Breeder Reactor

FFTF – Fast Flux Test Facility

GDC – General Design Criteria

LBE – Licensing Basis Event

LMP – Licensing Modernization Project

PDC – Principal Design Criteria

PSAR – Preliminary Safety Analysis Report

RIPB – Risk-Informed, Performance-Based

SFR – Sodium Fast Reactor

SSC – Structures, systems, and components

TICAP – Technology Inclusive Content of Application Project

TREAT – Transient Reactor Test

