

NRC Environmental Review Continuing Effectiveness and Efficiency Opportunities

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Continuing NRC Effectiveness and Efficiency Opportunities

- The NRC has made progress to enhance and streamline incoming environmental reviews for new reactor, license renewal, fuel facility and decommissioning projects.
- Increased efficiencies include implementation of regulatory changes to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).
- Goal/result is to complete reviews with reduced resources (fewer staff hours) with:
 - no compromise to the veracity and defensibility of the environmental analyses and findings,
 - no negative impact on consultation with Tribes, State, Federal, and local governmental entities.

Continuing NRC Effectiveness and Efficiency Opportunities

Focus areas for NRC efficiencies include:

- Development and re-evaluation of Generic Environmental Impact Statements (GEIS)
 - License Renewal GEIS
 - Advanced Nuclear Reactor (ANR) GEIS and proposed rulemaking
 - Decommissioning GEIS
- Updated staff guidance – NUREG 1748, “Environmental Review Guidance for Licensing Actions Associated with NMSS Programs”
- Development of EIS templates
- Incorporation by reference (IBR)
- Increased pre-application engagement opportunities
- Proposed Rule: Categorical Exclusions from Environmental Review

Continuing NRC Effectiveness and Efficiency Opportunities

Implementation of Fiscal Responsibility Act (FRA), 2023 NEPA amendments:

- Page limits
 - Environmental assessments (EA) be limited to 75 pages
 - Environmental impact statements (EIS) be limited to 150 pages (or 300 pages if complex)
- Completion timeframes
 - EAs within 12 months
 - EISs within 24 months
- Coordination between Federal Agencies on NEPA reviews

Questions?