

Regulatory Pathways and Licensing Readiness

for

**Near Term Large Light-Water
Reactor Deployment**

April 9, 2026

Why We're Here

- Discuss SECY-26-0034 and NRC readiness for large Light Water Reactors (LWR) deployment ([ML26051A093](#))
 - AP1000 Revision 20
 - Outline future Combined License Application categories

Background on AP1000

- Certified Design under 10 CFR Part 52, Appendix D
 - **2006:** Initial AP1000 design certification (DC), Revision 15
 - **2011:** Amendment to the AP1000 DC, Revision 19
 - **2021:** AP1000 DC updated and duration extended by 5 years
 - **2023:** First AP1000 reactor entered service in the United States (Vogtle Unit 3)
 - **2024:** Second AP1000 reactor entered service in the United States (Vogtle Unit 4)
 - **2025:** Direct final rule published, extending all nuclear power plant design certifications, including AP1000, from 15 years to 40 years
 - **2026:** Westinghouse requested renewal and amendment to incorporate Revision 20 of the AP1000 design control document (DCD)

AP1000 Design Certification Amendment

- Revision 20 of the AP1000 DCD
- Incorporates as-built changes and prior approved departures
 - Vogtle Units 3 & 4 used for as-built reference
- Updated DCD supports streamlined Nth-of-a-kind licensing

COL Licensing Pathways

- Category 1: Issued combined licenses (COLs) without construction
- Category 2: COLs with partial construction (e.g., V.C. Summer)
- Category 3: Suspended or withdrawn combined license applications (COLAs)
- Category 4: New COLAs at sites without prior history

Reinstatement of Terminated COLs

- NRC may consider reinstatement under certain conditions
- Confirmation of licensing basis and implementation of quality assurance (QA) program
- Identification of new and significant environmental information

Efficient Licensing

- Target: ≤ 18 -month NRC review timeline
- Structured, risk-informed, parallel reviews
- Pre-application engagement encouraged

Expedited Construction Pathways

- Activities without safety nexus may begin earlier
- Limited Work Authorization pathways
- Advanced Reactor Construction Oversight Program (ARCOP) for new LWR construction

Procurement & Long Lead Items

- Fabrication of ASME code stamped components prior to identification of an owner/licensee
 - NRC is developing interim staff guidance (expected in 2026)
 - NRC staff is reviewing NEI-25-05 proposed guidance (ML25192A124)
- Supports schedule efficiency while maintaining safety

Summary & Next Steps

- AP1000 amendment provides updated design baseline
- Four clear COLA categories support predictable licensing, regardless of the selected reactor design
- ADVANCE Act and EOs afford opportunities for expedited licensing timeframes
- Continue utilizing pre-application engagement as tool for more efficient licensing reviews