U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Statement of Regulatory Priorities for Fiscal Year 2025

I. Introduction

Under the authority of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended, and the Energy Reorganization Act of 1974, as amended, the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC or the agency) regulates the possession and use of source, byproduct, and special nuclear material. The NRC's regulatory mission is to license and regulate the Nation's civilian use of byproduct, source, and special nuclear materials to ensure the adequate protection of public health and safety and promote the common defense and security. As part of this mission, the NRC regulates the operation of nuclear power plants and fuel cycle facilities; the safeguarding of nuclear materials from theft and sabotage; the safe transport, storage, and disposal of radioactive materials and wastes; the decommissioning and safe release for other uses of licensed facilities that are no longer in operation; and the medical, industrial, and research applications of nuclear material. In addition, the agency licenses the import and export of radioactive materials.

The NRC routinely conducts comprehensive regulatory analyses that examine the costs and benefits of contemplated regulations. The NRC has developed internal procedures and programs to ensure that it imposes only necessary requirements on regulated entities, and that it periodically reviews existing regulations to determine whether the requirements imposed are still necessary.

The NRC's regulatory priorities for fiscal year (FY) 2025 reflects its safety and security mission and enables us to achieve its three strategic goals described in NUREG-1614, Volume 8, "Strategic Plan: Fiscal Years 2022–2026," issued April 2022 (https://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/nuregs/staff/sr1614/v8/index.html): (1) ensure the safe and secure use of radioactive materials, (2) continue to foster a healthy organization, and (3) inspire stakeholder confidence in the NRC.

II. Regulatory Priorities

This section contains information on some of the most important and significant regulatory actions that the agency is considering issuing in proposed or final form during FY 2025. This report does not include the NRC's high-priority rulemaking "Alignment of Licensing Processes and Lessons Learned from New Reactor Licensing" (RIN 3150-AI66; NRC-2009-0196), as the timeframe for reporting is only through FY 2025; the agency expects to publish the final rule during FY 2026. The agency's portion of the Unified Agenda of Regulatory and Deregulatory Actions contains additional information on NRC rulemaking activities and a broader spectrum of its upcoming regulatory actions. The NRC also provides additional information on planned rulemakings and petition for rulemaking activities, including priority and schedule, on its website at https://www.nrc.gov/about-nrc/regulatory/rulemaking/rules-petitions.html.

A. NRC Priority Rulemakings

Proposed Rules

Integrated Low-Level Radioactive Waste Disposal (RIN 3150-AI92; NRC-2011-0012): This rulemaking would amend the NRC's regulations in Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* Part 61, "Licensing Requirements for Land Disposal of Radioactive Waste," to revise the licensing requirements for low-level radioactive waste disposal and address requirements for disposal of greater-than-Class-C and transuranic waste.

Increased Enrichment of Conventional and Accident Tolerant Fuel Designs for Light-Water Reactors (RIN 3150-AK79; NRC-2020-0034): This rulemaking would amend the NRC's regulations associated with the uranium-235 enrichment limit to increase flexibility and reduce exemption requests for the use of increased enrichment fuel greater than the current value of 5.0 weight percent uranium-235. This rulemaking would affect nuclear reactor licensees seeking to use fuel designs that make use of enrichments greater than the current limit (e.g., accident tolerant fuel).

Reporting Nuclear Medicine Injection Extravasations as Medical Events (RIN 3150-AK91; NRC-2022-0218): This rulemaking would amend the NRC's regulations to require reporting of certain nuclear medicine injection extravasations as medical events and to require medical licensees to develop, implement, and maintain written procedures for evaluating and reporting extravasations. This proposed rule would affect medical licensees that administer intravenous radiopharmaceuticals for diagnostic and therapeutic purposes.

Revision of Fee Schedules: Fee Recovery for FY 2025 (RIN 3150-AK95; NRC-2023-0069): This rule amends the NRC's fee schedules for licensing, inspection, and annual fees charged to agency applicants and licensees.

Regulatory Framework for Fusion Systems (RIN 3150-AL00; NRC-2023-0071): This rulemaking would amend the NRC's byproduct material regulations to establish regulatory framework requirements for fusion systems so that the requirements are technology inclusive and supportive of a performance-based approach to regulation. The purpose of this proposed rulemaking is to respond to Congressional mandates set forth in the Nuclear Energy Innovation and Modernization Act (NEIMA) to establish a regulatory framework for fusion systems by 2027. The scope of this rulemaking is to augment the NRC's byproduct material framework to address near-term fusion systems by providing appropriate fusion-related definitions, develop content of application requirements for a licensing application, and determine other appropriate requirements.

Final Rules

Cyber Security for Fuel Facilities (RIN 3150-AJ64; NRC-2015-0179): This rulemaking would amend the NRC's regulations to require certain fuel cycle facilities to establish, implement, and maintain a cybersecurity program that is designed to protect public health and safety and the common defense and security.

American Society of Mechanical Engineers 2021–2022 Code Editions (RIN 3150-AK21; NRC-2018-0289): This rulemaking would amend the NRC's regulations to authorize the use of recent editions of American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME) codes. The rule would incorporate by reference the 2021 ASME Boiler and Pressure Vessel Code and the 2022

Edition of the ASME Operations and Maintenance of Nuclear Power Plants Code into the NRC's regulations, with conditions. This action increases consistency across the industry and makes use of current voluntary consensus standards (as required by the National Technology Transfer and Advancement Act), while continuing to provide adequate protection to the public. This rulemaking would affect nuclear power reactor licensees.

Risk-Informed, Technology-Inclusive Regulatory Framework for Advanced Reactors (RIN 3150-AK31; NRC-2019-0062): This rulemaking would establish an optional technology-inclusive regulatory framework for use by applicants for new commercial advanced nuclear reactors. The regulatory requirements developed in this rulemaking would use methods of evaluation, including risk-informed and performance-based methods, that are flexible and practicable for application to a variety of advanced reactor technologies. This rule is being developed in accordance with NEIMA. The NRC engaged the public during the pre-rulemaking rule stage through meetings with stakeholders, preliminary proposed rule language, extension of the comment period for the draft proposed rule, specific requests for comment, and public meetings.

Advanced Nuclear Reactor Generic Environmental Impact Statement (RIN 3150-AK55; NRC-2020-0101): This rulemaking would amend the NRC's regulations that govern the agency's National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) reviews. The rulemaking would codify the findings of the Advanced Nuclear Reactor Generic Environmental Impact Statement (ANR GEIS). The ANR GEIS would use a technology-neutral regulatory framework and performance-based assumptions to determine generic environmental impacts for new commercial advanced nuclear reactors. The ANR GEIS would streamline the NEPA reviews for future advanced reactor applicants.

B. Significant Final Rules

The rulemaking activity below meets the requirements of a significant regulatory action in section 3(f)(1) of Executive Order 12866, "Regulatory Planning and Review," signed September 30, 1993 (as amended in Executive Order 14094, "Modernizing Regulatory Review," dated April 6, 2023), because it is likely to have an annual effect on the economy of $200 million or more.

Revision of Fee Schedules: Fee Recovery for FY 2025 (RIN 3150-AK95; NRC-2023-0069): This rule amends the NRC's fee schedules for licensing, inspection, and annual fees charged to agency applicants and licensees.