



TESTIMONY OF

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U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission

For a Hearing

BEFORE

United States House of Representatives
Committee on Energy and Commerce
Subcommittee on Energy

ON

Nuclear Regulatory Commission: Oversight of Activities,
Priorities, and Fiscal Year 2027 Budget

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WRITTEN STATEMENT
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TO THE
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE
SUBCOMMITTEE ON ENERGY
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Chairman Latta, Ranking Member Castor, and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to appear before you with my colleagues to discuss the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission's efforts to enable the safe and secure use of nuclear technologies for the benefit of our nation.

Today marks the completion of my fourth month on the Commission. In that short time, I've had the privilege of acting on many policy issues and rulemaking activities that are the culmination of the NRC staff's work for many months, and in some cases, years, prior to my arrival. It is an exciting time to be at the NRC.

I have approached my role with a safety-focused, independent mindset and a regulatory philosophy grounded in three principles:

1. Modernization of our regulatory framework,
2. Risk informed and performance based decision making, and
3. Accountability and transparency to the American public.

These principles guide my support for reforms to the NRC's licensing, oversight, and organizational processes. They reflect both the long-standing NRC Principles of Good Regulation and are responsive to the clear direction Congress has provided through mandates in the ADVANCE Act.

NRC is delivering in a big way and will continue to do so as we implement our new organizational model, new regulations, and more risk-informed programs. While the work continues to modernize our structure and regulatory framework to set up the country for future success, we are also delivering on today's needs. I'd like to highlight a few of those accomplishments.

NRC staff developed a safe pathway for the restart of formerly shutdown reactors to add more power to the grid. The staff completed thorough licensing reviews enabling Palisades to become the first permanently shutdown reactor in U.S. history to move back toward operational status. Staff oversight continues with rigorous inspections to ensure that Palisades will meet all safety and regulatory requirements before its restart.

Likewise, at the Crane Clean Energy Center in Pennsylvania, NRC staff is conducting licensing and inspections activities to support a licensee-projected restart next year. I recently traveled to both Palisades and Crane and was impressed with the NRC teams that are overseeing our inspection activities. We are fortunate to have such highly trained and dedicated public servants.

NRC approved the Construction Permit Application for TerraPower's Sodium reactor in Wyoming, the first non-light water reactor approval in 40-years. The staff's review was completed ahead of schedule and in less than 18 months.

A robust fuel cycle will be needed to support our country's nuclear energy ambitions, so I'd also like to mention the recently issued license to TRISO-X, LLC, for the first-of-a-kind high-assay low-enriched uranium fuel fabrication facility located in Oak Ridge, Tennessee.

NRC stands ready to meet the country's needs today, and we'll be even better positioned to do so in the near future. I would describe the work we are doing as transformational. The full scope of the changes will become apparent as the Commission deliberates on, and issues, the full suite of proposed rules in the coming months. These regulatory changes in conjunction with the cultural and organizational alignment in progress will result in an NRC that is both safety-focused and a true enabler of nuclear technology. That's the vision.

I am committed to advancing that vision through my votes, my engagement with staff and stakeholders, and my work with my colleagues on the Commission. I appreciate the Committee's oversight and look forward to your questions.