

TESTIMONY OF

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Commissioner
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For A Hearing

BEFORE

United States Senate
Committee On Environment And Public Works

ON

U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission's Proposed Fiscal Year 2027 Budget

May 13, 2026
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Commissioner David A. Wright's Testimony

Senate Committee on Energy and Public Works

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Chairman Capito, Ranking Member Whitehouse, and Members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to appear before you today. I appreciate the Committee's bipartisan leadership and continued engagement with the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

I want to thank Chairman Nieh for his leadership during this unprecedented time for nuclear energy and my fellow Commissioner's for their dedication to the United States and for their collegiality as we help enable nuclear technology here and abroad.

The NRC sits at the center of the nation's nuclear energy landscape. Since being confirmed to the Commission in 2018, I have worked to transform the NRC into a more agile and modern regulator. In 2019, Congress provided clear direction in NEIMA to provide a path for licensing reactors in a technology neutral manner that was efficient and streamlined while maintaining safety as our north star. The NRC took this directive and got to work.

The Part 53 rulemaking—our Risk-Informed, Technology-Inclusive regulatory framework— is the culmination of that work and I am happy to say that we accomplished this nine months ahead of schedule. This rule represents one of the most significant updates to our regulatory approach in decades, providing a flexible foundation for advanced reactor technologies.

This progress reflects the dedication and expertise of the NRC staff, whose commitment to professionalism and innovation continues to drive our success.

While this accomplishment is huge, the American people demanded more. And in July of 2024, Congress passed and the President signed the ADVANCE Act. The first thing the NRC did was to update its mission statement. The Commission led this initiative and in January 2025 published the NRC's new mission statement that provides clear direction to staff that the NRC is here to enable the safe use and deployment of nuclear technologies for the betterment of society. In the year since, we have seen a sea change in the culture of the staff, and they are leaning in on this mission and providing results all while keeping safety at the heart of every decision.

This culture change is more evident in the revisions to our regulations directed by President Trump's EO 14300. The NRC is delivering efficient, streamlined regulations that will enable the deployment of nuclear energy to the country. All while remaining firmly committed to safety.

At the heart of all these accomplishments are the dedicated people that work at the NRC. Everyday, they bring their best selves to the agency, delivering results for the country. As I have said many times before, the NRC is the best place and has the best people in the federal

government. I stand by that today, and thank the staff for all that they do for the agency and the country.

In closing, the NRC is delivering meaningful results through a modernized mission, a skilled workforce, and an unwavering focus on protecting public health and safety.

Thank you for your support. I look forward to your questions.