

early-stage experimentation and demonstration projects, but the NRC remains the gold standard for commercial licensing. The DOE lacks the legal authority to license commercial reactors, and that boundary remains firmly in place.

In the end, the challenge is not whether nuclear energy should move faster. It must. The demands of decarbonization, energy security, and global competition leave little room for complacency. But speed alone is not a strategy, and disruption is not a virtue in itself.

The nuclear enterprise has earned public trust over decades by pairing innovation with discipline, urgency with rigor, and ambition with humility. That tradition is not an obstacle—it is our foundation. Our industry’s strength has always been its ability to adapt while refusing to compromise on safety, transparency, and technical excellence.

We must embrace the spirit of innovation without importing the excesses of Silicon Valley. We can move with purpose without breaking what matters. And we can accelerate deployment while preserving the regulatory credibility and professional culture that distinguish nuclear from every other energy technology.

The real path forward is not “move fast and break things.” It is move deliberately, learn continuously, and protect the trust that allows nuclear energy to serve the public good. ☒

*Big Al Rig* 

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