

Congress stays engaged after the current political moment passes.”

In the year since the EOs, the topics of transparency and independence have also become major talking points. Developments like the DOE’s Reactor Pilot Program, the firing of then NRC Commissioner Christopher Hanson, and the NRC’s proposed rule on a streamlined pathway for licensing reactors already approved by the DOE and DOD have had some people pondering whether certain decisions are being influenced from beyond their respective agencies.

Dickman weighed in on this topic, telling *Nuclear News*, “Independence and transparency go hand in hand. The NRC has always had very transparent review processes; it is what makes them a recognized global leader in nuclear safety. Any process changes that limit reviews or mask comments as ‘deliberative’ are concerning and need to be avoided to maintain the NRC’s independence.”

Taking a step back and considering in broad strokes the impact these EOs have had in the past year is a difficult task. As Bader pointed out, “Considering there are approximately 30 tasks in these four EOs” with due dates ranging from one month to 25 years, “the progress made by DOE on responding to these tasks—about 20 are due within the first year—is impressive.”

Nesbit voiced a similar positivity—qualified with some remaining questions. “Taken as a whole, the four May 2025 EOs provided a welcome bias toward action in the nuclear technology field. Many initiatives are underway as a result, although it is too early for most of them to have borne substantive fruit.”

Ultimately, for him, one year in, important questions—particularly in financing and long-term disposal—still remain. “Perhaps the biggest question is, ‘Will this activity translate into real progress that is sustainable over the coming decades?’”



Leading with Science® Digital Twins

Tetra Tech is leading the adoption of digital twin technology in the nuclear industry. We are integrating digital twins, artificial intelligence (AI), and cloud-based platforms to improve efficiency, accuracy, and collaboration across the nuclear project lifecycle.

Learn more at tetrattech.com/energy.

tetrattech.com/energy

