



■ **Physical Security Requirements**—The NRC is proposing to modernize and streamline physical security requirements for power reactors and materials by “shifting from prescriptive rules to performance-based, risk-informed criteria.”

■ **Facility Security Clearance and Safeguarding of National Security Information and Restricted Data**—The NRC aims to remove requirements relating to security clearance that are duplicative in nature.

Changes made to mandatory hearings timeline

Mandatory hearings conducted as part of a Nuclear Regulatory Commission reactor licensing review are now to be held much sooner in the process. An agency provision states that uncontested hearings must be held at some point after 30 days of an application being docketed. Historically, the NRC has conducted hearings toward the end of its review of applications for construction permits, early site permits, and combined licenses. The change announced in June would see hearings held sooner, about 30 days after an application is docketed.

NRC officials believe holding the hearings at the beginning of the licensing process will refocus them on public engagement and the exchange of information, rather than technical work that is already at or near completion.

“This approach will allow members of the public to provide views early in the process without the encumbrances of seeking a contested hearing,” the June 8 *Federal Register* notice reads. “This approach will also reallocate the significant NRC staff and Commission resources currently dedicated to mandatory hearings held at

the conclusion of the NRC staff’s review to focus those resources instead on the timely completion of comprehensive safety, security, and environmental reviews.”

The provisions regarding uncontested hearings date back to the 1950s, a time when commercial nuclear power and the Atomic

Energy Commission were in their infancy and community/stakeholder engagement was not as accessible. Over the years, the NRC has shown interest in reforming the mandatory hearing process.

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