

May 11, 2026

Chairman Ho K. Nieh and Fellow Commissioners
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, DC 20555-0001

Re: Request for Extension of Public Comment Period – Proposed Rule, “Licensing Requirements for Microreactors and Other Reactors With Comparable Risk Profiles”
Docket ID: NRC–2025–0379

Dear Chairman Nieh, and Commissioners Wright, Crowell, Marzano, and Weaver,

The Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) respectfully requests that the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) extend the public comment period for the proposed rule, “Licensing Requirements for Microreactors and Other Reactors With Comparable Risk Profiles,”¹ from 45 days to 90 days.

Connecticut appreciates the NRC’s efforts to modernize its regulatory framework and recognizes the important role advanced nuclear technologies may play in supporting future clean energy needs. At the same time, DEEP believes that nuclear regulatory modernization involving foundational licensing, oversight, emergency preparedness, environmental review, and security considerations warrants a deliberate and transparent review process that allows meaningful participation from states, technical experts, local governments, industry, and the public.

The proposed Part 57 framework represents a significant restructuring of the NRC’s licensing and regulatory approach for advanced reactors and introduces numerous novel concepts, including risk-informed and performance-based alternatives to long-established regulatory requirements. The proposal has substantial implications not only for future reactor applicants, but also for state emergency preparedness agencies, environmental regulators, host communities, and public confidence in nuclear oversight.

Connecticut has taken deliberate steps to explore the role of advanced nuclear energy through a community-centered framework established under Connecticut Public Act 25-173. Through this process, DEEP has found that transparency, meaningful engagement, and adequate time for technical review are essential to fostering informed decision-making and maintaining public trust. These principles are especially important where proposed regulatory changes could affect

¹ “Licensing Requirements for Microreactors and Other Reactors With Comparable Risk Profiles,” 91 FR 23628 (May 1, 2026).

emergency planning, inspection oversight, environmental review, security requirements, and implementation timelines for new reactor technologies.

DEEP is particularly concerned that the current volume and pace of concurrent NRC rulemakings—including multiple significant proposed and direct final rules underway simultaneously—limits the ability of states and other stakeholders to adequately evaluate complex technical and policy changes. The proposed Part 57 rule alone spans numerous regulatory topics with potentially far-reaching operational and policy implications and includes a request for comments on 12 discrete questions. Adequate review of these issues requires coordination across multiple state agencies and technical disciplines, as well as consultation with local governments and affected stakeholders.

An extension of the public comment period would improve the quality and usefulness of stakeholder feedback, support more comprehensive technical review, and strengthen confidence in the resulting regulatory framework. Additional time is especially important given the significance of the proposal and the NRC's stated objective of establishing a durable licensing framework for advanced nuclear technologies.

For these reasons, DEEP respectfully requests that the NRC extend the public comment period for this proposed rulemaking to 90 days, or until July 30, 2026, to allow time for the development of meaningful comments. Other stakeholders also recognize the value in additional time to provide comments.²

Thank you for your consideration of this request for extension and for the opportunity to participate in this important rulemaking process.

Sincerely,



Katie S. Dykes
Commissioner
Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection

² See Nuclear Innovation Alliance Comment, May 4, 2026, [Regulations.gov](https://www.regulations.gov).