

April 2025

In our latest edition of NENSC News, the <u>Nuclear Energy and National Security Coalition</u> (<u>NENSC</u>) brings you the latest industry news, events you don't want to miss, and policies we are watching. Be sure to keep scrolling to learn how you can follow us and stay up to date with the latest information you need.

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TOP STORIES

Daniel Poneman Joins Podcast to Discuss a "New Age" for Nuclear Energy

NENSC Co-Chair Dan Poneman was a recent guest on the <u>Resources Radio podcast</u> to discuss the role of nuclear energy in meeting increasing demands for electricity. Poneman discusses whether nuclear energy is a viable option, how the safety and performance of nuclear technology have evolved, and why some retired nuclear power plants are being revived. Poneman also describes what challenges the nuclear energy industry is facing, barriers to wider adoption of nuclear energy, and how public perception of nuclear energy has shifted over time.

Restoring U.S. Nuclear Energy Leadership

In <u>this op-ed</u> by Dan Poneman and NENSC Expert Council Member Sherri Goodman, the authors argue that once a global leader in nuclear energy, the U.S. has fallen behind as other nations, like Russia and China, dominate the market. The authors argue that to regain its leadership, the U.S. must invest in advanced reactors, secure uranium enrichment capabilities, and compete globally through strategic partnerships. The piece points to how bipartisan support is growing, and how with decisive action, the U.S. can reclaim its role in nuclear energy, ensuring energy security, economic competitiveness, and global influence for the future.

UCAN Power's Advanced Nuclear Podcast Series

The non-profit <u>United Coalition for Advanced Nuclear Power</u> sponsors the weekly <u>Advanced Nuclear podcast</u>, where experts from industry, government, and academia discuss the latest developments in nuclear power for both the civilian power sector and for national security applications. Recent episodes have highlighted several innovative new technologies being brought to market, workforce issues, the national and energy security imperative for nuclear deployment, communications, and much more.

U.S. LEGISLATIVE AND REGULATORY DEVELOPMENTS

Executive Branch

Executive Order Seeks to Sunset Key Energy Regulations. President Trump signed on April 9, 2025 an executive order titled Zero-Based Regulatory Budgeting to Unleash American Energy that seeks to deregulate the energy industry by directing various governmental agencies, including the Nuclear Regulatory Commission and the Department of Energy, to incorporate sunset provisions into their regulations governing energy production. For existing regulations, agencies must issue a sunset rule by September 30, 2025 that makes the covered regulations expire after one year if not extended before the expiration date (e.g., September 30, 2026). For new regulations, agencies to revisit regulations every five years and offer a public opportunity to comment on the costs and benefits of each regulation.

DOE to Distribute First Amounts of HALEU to U.S. Advanced Reactor Developers. The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) <u>announced</u> conditional commitments to provide high-assay low-enriched uranium (HALEU) to five U.S. nuclear developers to meet their near-term fuel needs. This marks the first distribution under the HALEU Availability Program, aimed at catalyzing the domestic HALEU fuel supply chain and reducing dependence on Russian enrichment. The selected companies—TerraPower, TRISO-X (X-energy), Kairos Power, Radiant Industries, Westinghouse Electric—were chosen from 15 applicants, with some set to receive HALEU as early as fall 2025.

DoD Selects Companies for Advanced Nuclear Power Program to Boost U.S. Energy Security: The Department of Defense has launched the <u>Advanced Nuclear Power for</u> <u>Installations (ANPI) program</u> to ensure energy resilience across military installations. The program, which aims to deploy microreactors to power critical military assets, selected eight companies to demonstrate safe and reliable nuclear technology. The initiative supports national security goals by reducing dependence on external energy sources and improving energy security. The selected companies will help develop and operate microreactors, contributing to mission readiness and bolstering U.S. defense capabilities.

Legislative Branch

House OGR Subcommittee Holds Hearing on "America's Al Moonshot": The House Oversight and Government Reform Subcommittee on Economic Growth, Energy Policy, and Regulatory Affairs <u>held a hearing</u> regarding the Economics of Al, Data Centers, and Power Consumption. The hearing highlighted that the investment in America's AI infrastructure and strategic partnerships in the private sector will propel innovation and progress in critical U.S. industries, and that Congress must now act on the Trump Administration's desire to unlock next-generation AI capabilities and ensure the nation's leadership in the field on the global stage.

Baird Introduces Bill to Boost U.S. Leadership in SMRs: Representative Jim Baird (R-IN) <u>introduced</u> the *Small Modular Reactor Commercialization Act of 2025* to strengthen U.S. global leadership in SMR technology. The legislation builds on the ADVANCE Act by focusing on industrial-scale commercialization of SMRs. It proposes forming a dedicated working group to enhance U.S. competitiveness in SMR manufacturing and updates the SMR definition by increasing the electrical output threshold from 300MWe to 500MWe. This change aligns with current technological advancements and supports scaling domestic production. Representatives Pat Harrigan(R-NC) and Claudia Tenney (R-NY) co-sponsored the legislation.

INTERNATIONAL NUCLEAR DEVELOPMENTS

Poland Secures Funding for First Nuclear Power Plant: Polish President Andrzej Duda has signed a bill allocating PLN60.2 billion (USD15.5 billion) in public funds for the construction of Poland's first nuclear power plant. The project, set to be located at the Lubiatowo-Kopalino site in Pomerania, will use Westinghouse's AP1000 reactor technology. Poland aims to have the first reactor operational by 2033.

Canada Issues First SMR Construction Licence: On April 4, 2025, the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC) granted Ontario Power Generation (OPG) <u>a license</u> to build a BWRX-300 SMR at the Darlington New Nuclear Project site in Clarington, Ontario. The license is valid until March 2035 and includes conditions for worker safety, environmental protection, and national security.

EU Kicks Off Review of Nuclear Energy Investment Needs: The European Commission has <u>launched a review</u> of nuclear energy investment needs, marking the first update to the Nuclear Illustrative Programme (PNIC) in eight years. The initiative follows the energy crisis caused by Russia's invasion of Ukraine, which disrupted natural gas supplies. Many EU nations now see nuclear as a key part of their clean energy transition. The updated PNIC will focus on investments needed for new reactors, life extension for existing plants, nuclear waste management, and technologies like small modular reactors and fusion. It will also address workforce shortages, supply chain vulnerabilities, and reducing reliance on suppliers like Russia. The Commission's call for evidence is open for four weeks, with the final document expected by Q2 2025.

IN THE NEWS

ANL: Argonne Innovations Squeeze More out of Used Nuclear Fuel and Rare Earth Materials

ANS: The Advantages and Challenges of Nuclear-Powered Data Centers

Breakthrough Journal: Will Laser Enrichment Be the Future of Nuclear Fuel?

CalMatters: It's the first U.S. nuclear plant to use AI. Where does Diablo Canyon go from <u>here?</u>

Cipher News: The U.S. Imports Virtually All its Uranium for Nuclear Power

Cipher News: With Trump's Support, Nuclear Energy Eyes a Revival

Daily Caller: <u>'Just Getting Started': Energy Experts Say Trump Admin Could Fuel</u> <u>'Nuclear Renaissance'</u>

DOE: <u>National Lab and Nuclear Weapons Directors Voice Support for Commonsense</u> <u>Permitting Reforms</u>

Fox News: Energy Chief Envisions U.S. Nuclear Renaissance

ICF: <u>5 Factors that will Shape Nuclear Energy's Future</u>

NSI: Nuclear Scaling Initiative Releases Global Strategy

PBS/Energy Switch: Exploring the Potential of Small Nuclear Reactors [Video]

Reuters: Microreactor Builders Eye Share of Growing Nuclear Market

The Hill: Fusion Must be a National Priority for the Future of U.S. Energy Security[Op-Ed]

The National Interest: U.S.–ROK Cooperation Can Shape the Nuclear Energy Market and Strengthen Nonproliferation

Security Affairs: Cyber Threats Against Energy Sector Surge as Global Tensions Mount

Washington Post: Everyone Wants Europe's Largest Nuclear Plant. Ukraine Wants it Back. [Paywall]

Washington Times: Next-gen Nuclear Reactors Poised for Surge in U.S. Power Grid

UPCOMING EVENTS



Nuclear Energy Policy Forum

May 20-21, 2025 Washington, DC

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