



August 2026 Regulatory Implementation Summary: NRC Progress Under the ADVANCE Act

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) has made steady progress implementing the requirements of the Accelerating Deployment of Versatile, Advanced Nuclear for Clean Energy (ADVANCE) Act, enacted on July 9, 2024. This statute directs NRC to increase the efficiency of reactor licensing, modernize environmental reviews, reduce advanced reactor licensing fees, enhance workforce capacity, update agency oversight processes, and revise its mission statement. The NRC is actively responding to Congress' directions. NRC is tracking its ADVANCE Act deliverables for 36 milestones on a public dashboard. As of August 2026, the NRC has completed 33 of the 36 identified ADVANCE Act actions and 2025 deliverables.

A categorized summary of the milestones is provided below, with detailed deliverables shown in Table 1. (Section numbers refer to sections of the ADVANCE Act.)

Fees and Budget

The NRC has established a reduced hourly rate for advanced nuclear reactor applicants mandated by Section 201, effective FY 2026, and incorporated relevant exclusions in the FY 2026 fee rule per Section 204. The new hourly rate went into effect in October 2025 with implementation guidance added to the NRC website. Additionally, under Section 601, the agency replaced the rulemaking plan for cost recovery for non-power utilization facilities in March 2025.

Advanced Fuel and Nuclear Waste

On the front-end of the fuel cycle, the NRC finalized a memorandum of understanding with the DOE on advanced nuclear fuel coordination on December 12, 2024 (Section 404) and submitted a related report to Congress on June 29, 2026. Furthermore, on the back end of the fuel cycle, a report on collaboration with Canada regarding nuclear waste in the Great Lakes Basin (Section 602) was completed on June 30, 2025.

Workforce Development and Organizational Modernization

The NRC has advanced several initiatives under Workforce Development and Organizational Modernization. It established a nuclear energy traineeship subprogram (Section 402). Under Section 501, the NRC issued revisions to mission guidance and updated the mission statement. In compliance with Section 502, the NRC incorporated hiring and compensation data into the FY 2026 budget. Additionally, the agency completed the solicitation of annual applications for the

Nuclear Regulator Apprenticeship Network (NRAN) and submitted the required report to Congress and the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) on the implementation of special compensation authority. Section 503’s corporate support cap adjustments have been implemented, though a final report to Congress on Nuclear Energy Innovation and Modernization Act (NEIMA) compliance is not due until July 2027. Lastly, under Section 504, NRC has completed its review and update of performance metrics and updated internal procedures to reflect a 90-day Commission reporting window.

Licensing Frameworks and Reactor Oversight

The NRC completed reports required under Sections 203, 205, and 206 on non-electric uses of nuclear energy (05/01/2025), fusion machine licensing (07/10/2025), and regulatory approaches for brownfield and retired fossil fuel sites (08/25/2025). Additional Section 206 tasks, including strategy development and full implementation of licensing processes at these sites, are ongoing with staggered deadlines through 2027. The NRC also completed expedited procedures for combined license applications (Section 207). They are continuing to work on development and implementation of risk-informed strategies for micro-reactor licensing (Section 208), with completion dates ranging from 2026 to 2027. Reports related to Section 301 (impacts of new provisions), Section 401 (advanced construction methods), Section 506 (environmental review facilitation), and Section 507 (oversight and inspection improvements) have all been submitted within their respective deadlines. The task under Section 505 to establish techniques for improving reactor license application reviews was completed on August 18, 2025.

Nuclear Export Governance and Congressional Engagement

The NRC has fulfilled its obligations under Section 101 and 102 of the ADVANCE Act to identify international nuclear export and innovation activities for inclusion in the FY 2026 budget (completed by April 30, 2025) and establish procedures to consult with the Department of Energy (DOE) and the State Department regarding licenses to possess or own “covered fuel” (completed by June 30, 2025). The NRC staff completed Section 103, which involved notifying Congress and the Commission when certain export licenses are issued to specific countries.

Table 1. ADVANCE Act Milestones by Category

Tasks	Complete/ In Progress	Start Date/ End Date	ADVANCE ACT Deadline
Fees and Budget			
Sec. 201 Reduced hourly rate for license applications (effective FY 2026).	Complete	07/09/2024 10/01/2025	10/01/2025

Tasks	Complete/ In Progress	Start Date/ End Date	ADVANCE ACT Deadline
Sec. 201 Process for implementing reduced hourly fees	Complete	01/31/2025 08/31/2025	N/A
Sec. 204 Exclude activities from fee recovery (FY2026 rule)	Complete	07/09/2024 10/01/2025	10/01/2025
Sec. 601 Revise cost criteria plan for non-power facilities	Complete	07/09/2024 03/24/2025	N/A
Sec. 601 Withdraw original cost criteria plan for non-power facilities	Complete	07/09/2024 10/10/2024	N/A
Advanced Fuel and Nuclear Waste			
Sec. 404 MOU with DOE on advanced nuclear fuel	Complete	07/09/2024 12/12/2024	01/05/2025
Sec. 404 Report to Congress on advanced fuel licensing initiative	Complete	07/09/2024 06/29/2026	07/09/2026
Sec. 602 Report to Congress on engagement with Canada on nuclear waste in Great Lakes Basin	Complete	07/09/2024 06/30/2025	07/09/2025
Workforce Development and Organization			
Sec. 402 Establish traineeship under University Nuclear Leadership Program	Complete	07/09/2024 07/31/2025	N/A
Sec. 501 Provide recommendations for implementing guidance	Complete	07/09/2024 05/02/2025	N/A
Sec. 501 Provide recommendations for mission statement update	Complete	07/09/2024 10/08/2024	N/A
Sec. 501 Update NRC mission statement in one year; then report annually to Congress.	Complete	07/09/2024 11/18/2025	07/09/2025

Tasks	Complete/ In Progress	Start Date/ End Date	ADVANCE ACT Deadline
Sec. 502 Include hiring, vacancies, and pay information to budget justification from FY 2026.	Complete	07/09/2024 04/30/2025	02/07/2025
Sec. 502 Solicit NRAN applications annually.	Complete	07/09/2024 01/31/2025	N/A
Sec. 502 Report to Congress and OPM on special compensation plan.	Complete	07/09/2024 12/17/2024	01/05/2025
Sec. 503 Implement other corporate support cap changes	Complete	07/09/2024 04/30/2025	N/A
Sec. 503 Report to Congress on NEIMA corporate support cap	In Progress	07/09/2024	07/09/2027
Sec. 504 Review and update metrics and milestones every 3 years.	First Review Complete	07/09/2024 04/25/2025	N/A
Sec. 504 Update procedures for NEIMA 90-day Commission activity reporting	Complete	07/09/2024 09/23/2024	N/A
Licensing Frameworks and Reactor Oversight			
Sec. 203 Report to Congress on non-electric uses of nuclear energy	Complete	07/09/2024 05/1/2025	4/25/2025
Sec. 205 Report to Congress on licensing frameworks for mass-manufactured fusion machines.	Complete	07/09/2024 07/10/2025	07/09/2025
Sec. 206 Assess regulatory changes for efficient licensing of nuclear facilities at brownfield and retired fossil sites.	Complete	07/09/2024 07/09/2025	07/09/2025
Sec. 206 Report to Congress on regulatory changes for nuclear facilities at brownfield and retired fossil sites.	Complete	07/09/2024 08/25/2025	09/09/2025

Tasks	Complete/ In Progress	Start Date/ End Date	ADVANCE ACT Deadline
Sec. 206 Develop strategies for efficient licensing and oversight for nuclear facilities at brownfield and retired fossil sites.	Complete	07/09/2024 07/09/2026	07/09/2026
Sec. 206 Report to Congress on implementing strategies for nuclear facilities at brownfield and retired fossil sites.	In Progress	07/09/2024	07/09/2027
Sec. 207 Establish an expedited procedure for the review of qualifying combined license applications	Complete	07/09/2024 09/09/2025	N/A
Sec. 208 Develop risk-informed, performance-based licensing strategies and guidance for micro-reactors.	Complete	07/09/2024 01/07/2026	01/09/2026
Sec. 208 Implement risk-informed, performance-based licensing for micro-reactors.	In Progress	07/09/2024	07/09/2027
Sec. 301 Address any identified impacts of section 301	Complete	07/09/2024 03/31/2025	N/A
Sec. 401 Report to Congress on advanced nuclear manufacturing and construction methods.	Complete	07/09/2024 01/06/2025	01/05/2025
Sec. 505 Establish and periodically review guidance for efficient reactor license application reviews.	Complete	07/09/2024 08/18/2025	N/A
Sec. 506 Report to Congress on advancing efficient and timely environmental reviews for reactor license applications.	Complete	07/09/2024 01/06/2025	01/05/2025
Sec. 507 Report to Congress on improvements to oversight and inspection programs	Complete	07/09/2024 07/10/2025	07/09/2025
Nuclear Export Governance and Congressional Engagement			
Sec. 101 Include international nuclear export and innovation activities in budget justification (starting FY2026)	Complete	07/09/2024 04/30/2025	N/A

Tasks	Complete/ In Progress	Start Date/ End Date	ADVANCE ACT Deadline
Sec. 102 Inform stakeholders on section 102; consult DOE and State Dept. before issuing “covered fuel” licenses and notify Congress.	Complete	07/09/2024 06/30/2025	N/A
Sec. 103 Develop procedures to notify the Commission and Congress on export licenses to countries that meet specified criteria.	Complete	07/09/2024 10/01/2025	N/A