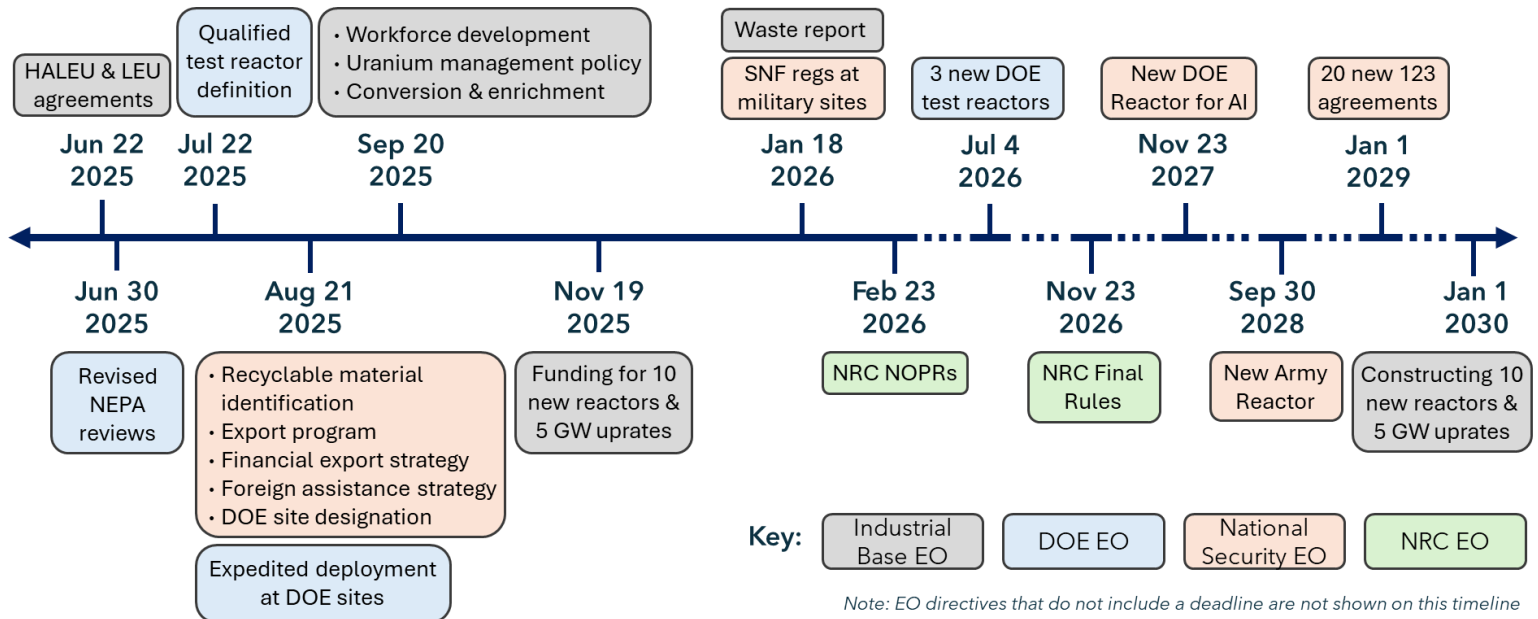


Fact Sheet: President Trump's Nuclear Energy Executive Orders

by Erik Cothron

On May 23, 2025, President Trump signed four Executive Orders (EOs) intended to strengthen U.S. nuclear energy leadership and facilitate increased deployment of new nuclear reactor technologies. These executive orders direct multiple federal agencies to implement a wide range of initiatives spanning nuclear fuel supply, waste management, workforce development, reactor exports, and more. This fact sheet presents a comprehensive summary of the many directives found within these EOs.

Figure 1: Timeline of Executive Order Directives



Ordering the reform of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission

This EO directs the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) to reform its structure, personnel, regulations, and operations with the goal of reestablishing the United States as the global leader in nuclear energy, facilitating increased deployment of new nuclear reactor technologies, and quadrupling U.S. nuclear energy by 2050. Specifically, this EO directs the NRC to:

- **Undertake a review and wholesale revision of its regulations** and guidance documents, in consultation with the White House Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE) and Office of Management and Budget (OMB). NRC must propose new rules within 9 months (by Feb 23, 2026) and publish final rules within 18 months (by Nov 23, 2026). In doing so, NRC must establish fixed deadlines for license evaluations, reconsider its radiation exposure model, and more. *Sec 5(a)-(j)*
- **Reorganize NRC structure and staffing** in consultation with DOGE to not unduly restrict the benefits of nuclear power. This includes reducing the number of NRC staff and also creating a new NRC team of at least 20 officials to draft new regulations. *Sec 4(a)*
- **Reduce the personnel and functions of the Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards (ACRS)** to the minimum necessary, and limit ACRS review to licensing activities that are novel or noteworthy. *Sec 4(b)*
- **Consider the economic and national security benefits** of nuclear power when licensing nuclear reactors, in addition to safety, health, and environmental considerations. *Sec 3*

Reforming nuclear reactor testing at the Department of Energy

This EO establishes a new Department of Energy (DOE) test reactor pilot program and streamlines DOE regulations to enable rapid deployment at DOE sites and national lab sites. Specifically, it directs DOE to work with DOGE and OMB to:

- **Construct at least three new nuclear reactors** and achieve criticality by July 4, 2026, and establish a new pilot program for this initiative. *Sec 5(a)*
- **Take action to expedite the deployment of advanced reactors at DOE and national lab sites** within 90 days (by Aug 21, 2025) by revising DOE regulations and procedures and ensuring “qualified test reactors” can be operational within 2 years. *Sec 4(b)*
- **Issue guidance regarding what counts as a “qualified test reactor”** within 60 days (by Jul 22, 2025). *Sec 4(a)*
- **Assemble support teams** dedicated to assisting applicants seeking to deploy advanced reactors at DOE or national lab sites once applications are received. *Sec 4(c)*
- **Streamline environmental reviews** by: (a) taking action to reform DOE rules governing compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) by June 30, 2025, and (b) using all available authorities to eliminate or expedite DOE’s environmental reviews. *Sec 6*

Reinvigorating the nuclear industrial base

This EO directs DOE, the Department of Labor (DOL), and Department of Education (ED), to conduct various initiatives. Specifically, it directs these agencies to do the following. Note that the agency responsible for each activity is indicated in parenthesis.

1. New Reactors & Upgrades:

- **(DOE) Start construction of 10 new large reactors and 5 GW of power upgrades** to existing nuclear reactors by 2030. DOE shall prioritize funding this initiative within 180 days (by Nov 19, 2025). DOE must also leverage their Loan Programs Office for this initiative. *Sec 4(a)-(c)*

2. Fuel Supply:

- **(DOE) Develop a plan to increase domestic uranium conversion and enrichment capacity**, in consultation with the NRC and OMB, within 120 days (by Sep 20, 2025). *Sec 3(b)*
- **(DOE) Establish a program to process** excess plutonium held by the National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) into a form that can be used in advanced nuclear reactors. *Sec 3(c)*
- **(DOE) Update its excess uranium management policy** within 90 days (by Sep 20, 2025). *Sec 3(d)*
- **(DOE) Pursue agreements with private companies** to supply low-enriched uranium (LEU) and high-assay low-enriched uranium (HALEU) within 30 days (by Jun 22, 2025). *Sec 3(e)-(h)*

3. Waste & Recycling:

- **(DOE) Submit a report to the President**, in coordination with DoD, DOT, and OMB, within 240 days (by Jan 18, 2026) that includes analysis and recommendations on U.S. spent nuclear fuel (SNF) management and SNF recycling. *Sec 3(a)*

4. Workforce Development (Multiple Agencies):

- **(DOL & ED) Seek increased participation in nuclear energy-related apprenticeships and education programs** within 120 days (by Sep 20, 2025). *Sec 5(b)*
- **(All executive departments) Make nuclear energy-related careers a priority** area for investment within 120 days (by Sep 20, 2025). *Sec 5(c)*
- **(DOE) Take steps to increase university access to National Labs** for R&D within 120 days (by Sep 20, 2025). *Sec 5(d)*

Deploying advanced nuclear reactor technologies for national security

This EO directs multiple federal agencies to carry out a wide range of activities. Specifically, it directs these agencies to do the following. Note that the agency responsible for each activity is indicated in parenthesis.

1. Nuclear Energy for Military Use

- (U.S. Army) **Establish a program to operate a nuclear reactor at a domestic military base** or installation no later than September 30, 2028. Sec 3(a)-(c)
- (DoD) **Submit recommendations for legislative and regulatory changes** regarding the management of advanced nuclear reactors and SNF on military installations to the White House National Security Advisor within 240 days of the date of this order (by Jan 18, 2026) and consult with OMB. Sec 3(d)
- (DOE) **Start designating DOE-related AI data centers as critical defense facilities**, along with the electrical infrastructure needed to operate these facilities. Sec 4(a)
- (DOE) **Designate one or more sites for the deployment of advanced reactors** provided they are owned or controlled by the DOE within 90 days of the date of this order (by Aug 21, 2025) for the purpose of powering AI infrastructure, and with the goal of operating an advanced reactor no later than 30 months (by Nov 23, 2027). Sec 4(b)&(c)

2. Exports

- (State Department) **Pursue 20 new 123 Agreements** (agreements to facilitate peaceful nuclear cooperation) by the end of the 120th Congress (by Jan 2029) and renegotiate 123 Agreements set to expire within the next decade. Sec 8(a)
- (DOE) Review and approve or deny all technology transfer export authorization requests within 30 days. Sec 8(b)
- (White House) **Determine a U.S. financial export strategy** that better leverages the U.S. International Development Finance Corporation, U.S. Export-Import Bank, U.S. Trade and Development Agency to strengthen global U.S. nuclear energy leadership and encourage U.S. nuclear energy exports within 90 days (by Aug 21, 2025). Sec 8(c)
- (Treasury Department) **Determine a strategy that supports foreign access to U.S. financial and technical assistance**, in consultation with the White House, for the purpose of U.S. nuclear exports within 90 days (by Aug 21, 2025). Sec 8(d)
- (State Department), **Implement a program to compete for global nuclear energy projects** within 90 days (by Aug 21, 2025). Sec 8(e)
- (DoD) **Prioritize expediting the issuance of security clearances** to support the rapid distribution and use of U.S. nuclear energy and fuel cycle technologies abroad. Sec 9

3. Environmental Reviews

- (DoD and DOE) Consult with the White House Council on Environmental Quality regarding **streamlining compliance with NEPA**, including the use of categorical exclusions. Sec 7

4. Fuel Supply

- (DOE) **Provide at least 20 metric tons of HALEU** to any project that will be sited at a DOE-owned or controlled site that will power AI and other infrastructure. Sec 5(b)

5. Recycling SNF

- (DOE) **Identify all U.S. uranium and plutonium stockpiles that may be recycled** into new fuel within 90 days (by Aug 21, 2025). Sec 5(a)
- (DoD and DOE) **Authorize construction of a fuel recycling facility** at a DoD or DOE site using all legal means. Sec 5(c)