

Re: Generic Environmental Impact Statement for Licensing of New Nuclear Reactors, Docket ID NRC-2020-0101, RIN 3150-AK55

To whom it may concern:

I applaud the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's plan to rely on generic environmental impact statements to resolve consideration of environmental matters that remain the same across licensing decisions. As the Commission is well aware, the process for evaluating environmental impacts under the National Environmental Policy Act, while laudable in intention, is broken. Too often the NEPA process results in years of needless administrative delay and litigation. Reforming the NEPA process is critical to enable the United States to invest in the infrastructure necessary to compete and thrive in the twenty-first century. While such reforms will require important work on the part of Congress and the White House, there is much that agencies can do on their own, as the Commission's important proposal makes clear. I encourage the Commission to explain to its sister agencies the benefits of using generic environmental impact statements; I hope that other agencies follow the Commission's good example.

Cordially,

Paul J. Ray¹

¹ Director of the Thomas A. Roe Institute for Economic Policy Studies at the Heritage Foundation. I file this comment in my individual capacity rather than as an employee of the Heritage Foundation; information regarding my institutional affiliation is provided for informational purposes only.