

# The REAL ID Act: *Implementation and Considerations for NRC Nuclear Power Plant Licensees*



October 30, 2024

Office of Nuclear Security and Incident Response

# Agenda

- **Introductions**
  - NRC & DHS staff
- **NRC Presentation**
- **Question & Answer Session**
  - NRC & DHS staff available to provide information to meeting participants
- **Concluding Remarks**

# What is the Real ID Act?

The REAL ID Act, passed by Congress in 2005, enacted the 9-11 Commission's recommendation that the Federal Government "set standards for the issuance of sources of identification, such as drivers licenses and identification cards."

These standards are designed to improve the reliability of certain **State-issued documents** and to determine with greater accuracy whether individuals presenting a drivers license or identification card **for official purposes** are who they say they are.

*Note: "State-issued" documents covered by the Act include those issued by Washington, D.C. and other U.S. Territories*

# “Official Purposes” covered under the REAL ID Act

Beginning **May 7, 2025**, State-issued drivers licenses and ID cards that do not meet REAL ID Act standards cannot be accepted for official purposes.



## “Official Purposes” include...

- Entering nuclear power plants
  - Unescorted, Escorted (Visitors)
- Boarding Federally regulated commercial aircraft
  - Age 18 and older
- Accessing certain Federal facilities
  - Applicable to those facilities that require photo identification to enter

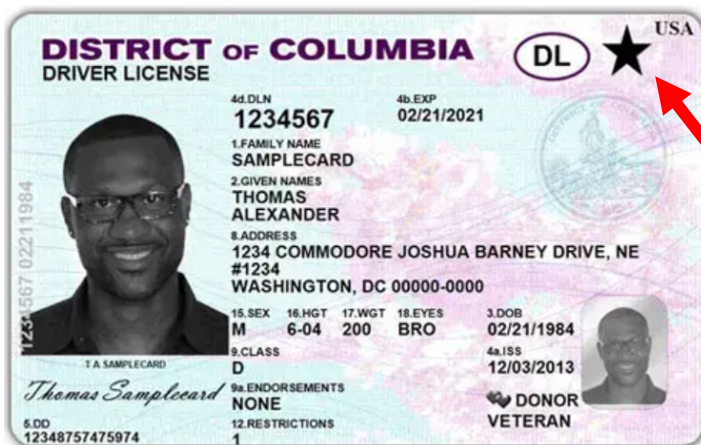
# Entering Nuclear Power Plants

- NRC access authorization requirements are set forth in 10 CFR 73.55 and 10 CFR 73.56.
  - Additional guidance in NEI-03-01, Revision 3, Section 7.3, “Verification of True Identity”
- **The NRC does not mandate the use of State-issued drivers licenses or ID cards** to verify the identity of an individual accessing a nuclear power plant.
  - However, the NRC expects that licensees (and their contractors or vendors) relying on State-issued drivers licenses or ID cards for access authorization will ensure that they are REAL ID compliant, in accordance with DHS requirements.

# What licensees can expect to see...

A Real ID must feature a **star** on the upper top portion of the card

**LOOK FOR  
A STAR**



A driver's license or ID card without a star is not REAL ID-compliant

Source: <https://www.dhs.gov/real-id>



# What licensees can expect to see... (cont.)

Enhanced driver's licenses (EDLs) are also acceptable.

- More information available on the DHS public website:  
<https://www.dhs.gov/enhanced-drivers-licenses-what-are-they>



Non-acceptable IDs issued after the REAL ID Act was implemented will include text indicating that they are not to be used for official/Federal purposes.



# Other acceptable forms of ID

The Real ID Act requirements only apply to State-issued driver's licenses and identification cards.

- When the REAL ID Act goes into effect, **other forms of identification will still be considered acceptable by the NRC.**

## Examples of alternative photo IDs still considered acceptable:

- ☐ U.S. passport or passport card
- ☐ Foreign government-issued passports
- ☐ HSPD-12 PIV cards
- ☐ Permanent resident cards
- ☐ Border crossing cards
- ☐ Canadian provincial driver's license or Indian status card
- ☐ Transportation worker identification credential (TWIC)
- ☐ U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services Employment Authorization Card (I-766)
- ☐ U.S. Merchant Mariner Credential
- ☐ Veteran Health ID Card (VHIC)
- ☐ Photo ID issued by a Federally recognized Tribal Nation/Indian Tribe



# NRC Next Steps

- In a letter dated July 12, 2024, the Nuclear Energy Institute (NEI) requested that the NRC develop a generic communication to establish the agency's expectations of licensees regarding compliance with the REAL ID Act.
- The NRC is working to develop an Information Notice, addressed to its nuclear plant licensees and applicants.
- The NRC is working collaboratively with DHS to ensure alignment and that licensees have access to information resources.

# DHS Proposed Rule on phased enforcement options

- On September 12, 2024, DHS published a Proposed Rule that, if finalized, would allow Federal Agencies to implement REAL ID Act requirements through phased enforcement.
  - Agencies using a phased enforcement plan would be required to achieve full enforcement no later than May 5, 2027.
- The NRC is currently considering potential options for a phased enforcement plan, if a Final Rule is issued by DHS.
- Any potential NRC phased enforcement plan would need to be coordinated with DHS, and details on the phased enforcement plan would be made publicly available on the NRC's website.

# Questions?



BE YOUR

**REAL ID**

SELF

**BY MAY 7, 2025**

FIND OUT HOW TO GET  
YOUR REAL ID TODAY AT  
**TSA.GOV/REAL-ID**

