
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission Environmental Center of Expertise



Environmental Center of Expertise

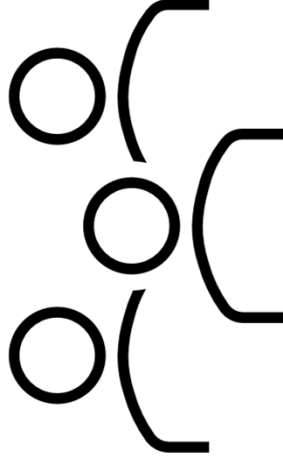
Who Are We?

Mary Richmond, Environmental Project Manager

December 2024

Purpose of Today's Meeting

- Overview of the NRC and its Mission
- Environmental Center of Expertise
- The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)
- The NRC's Environmental Review Process
- Overview of Streamlining and Efficiencies



The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC)

- The NRC is an independent federal agency with nearly 50 years of experience regulating all civilian use of nuclear materials, including power and non-power reactors, and is comprised of up to five commissioners and a team of professional staff.

OUR MISSION IS TO:

- Protect public health and safety
- Promote common defense and security
- Protect the environment

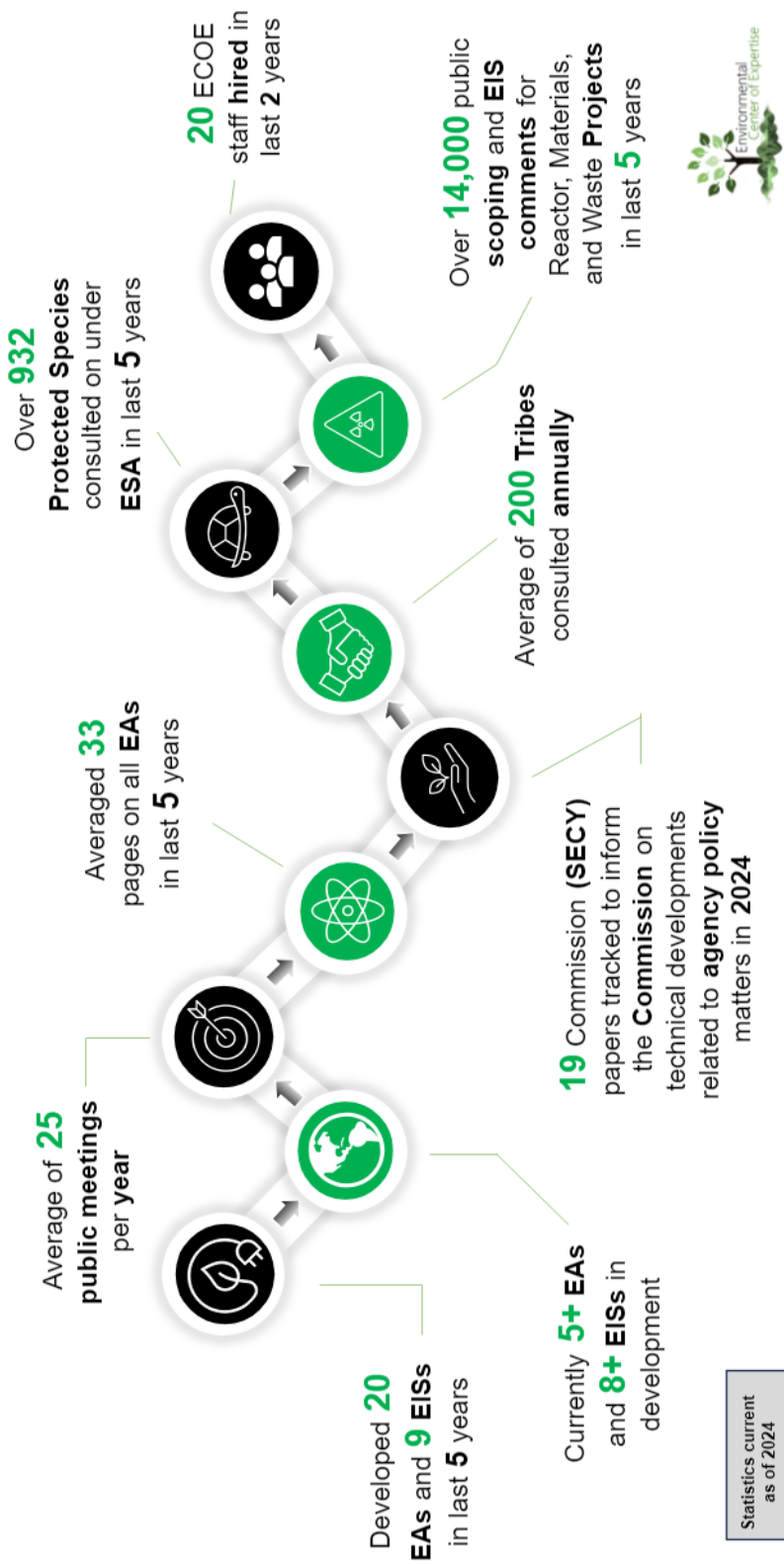
OUR WORK INCLUDES:

- Determining whether it is safe to build and operate a proposed nuclear plant at a site
- Evaluating the environmental impacts of building and operating a nuclear power plant at the proposed site



NRC's Environmental Center of Expertise

ECOE By-The-Numbers



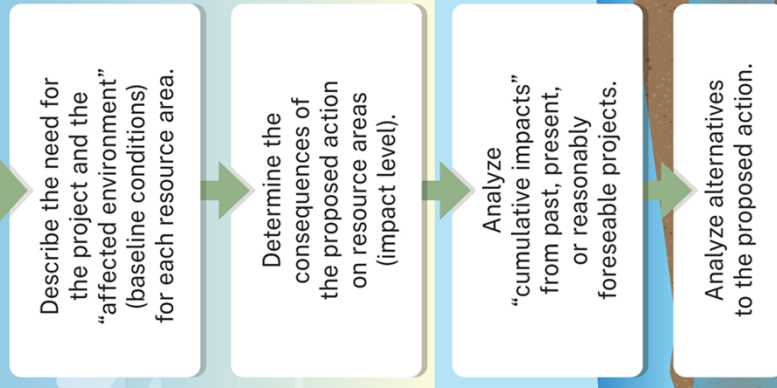
What is NEPA

- Signed into law on January 1, 1970.
- Requires federal agencies to assess the environmental effects of their proposed actions prior to making decisions.
- Types of NEPA Environmental Review Documents
- Public Participation



Typical Resource Areas Analyzed in NRC NEPA Reviews

NRC NEPA REVIEW PROCESS



Air Quality/
Meteorology

Greenhouse Gases/
Climate Change

Visual/Noise
Impacts

Alternative Sites/
Energy Sources

Fuel Cycle/Decommissioning/
Transportation of Fuel and Waste

Land Use

Radiation Protection/
Postulated Accidents

Radioactive
Waste

Human Health/
Waste

Socioeconomics/
Environmental Justice

Terrestrial
Ecology

Surface Water
Use/Quality

Aquatic
Ecology

Historic/Cultural Resources

Groundwater Use/Quality

Streamlining the Environmental Review Process

Fiscal Responsibility Act/ADVANCE Act

Streamlining and Efficiencies



Fiscal Responsibility Act (FRA):

Signed into law on June 3, 2023.

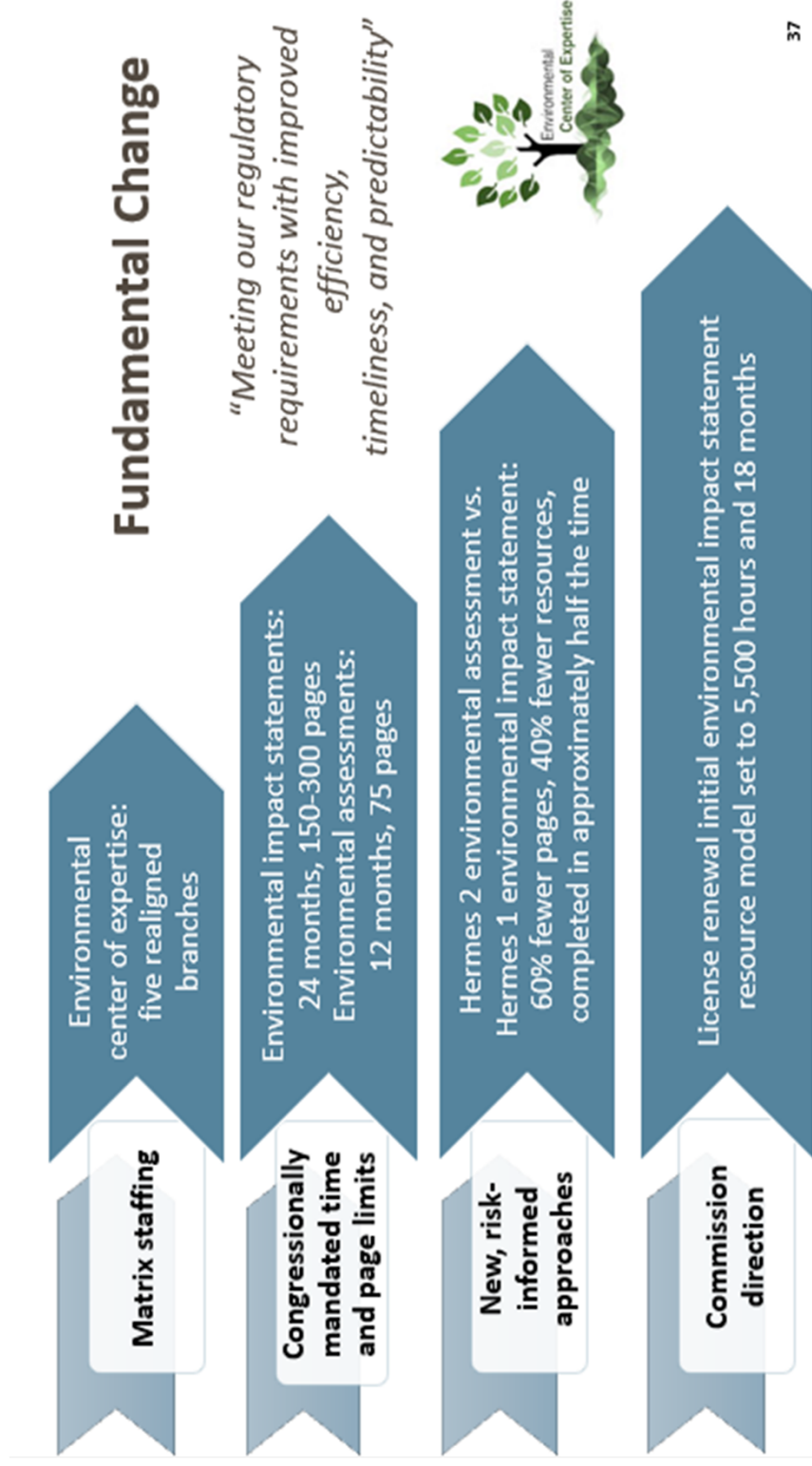
- Mandatory deadlines and page limits for publication of EAs and EISs.
- Roles of lead, participating, and cooperating agencies.

Accelerating Deployment of Versatile, Advanced Nuclear for Clean Energy Act of 2024 (ADVANCE Act):

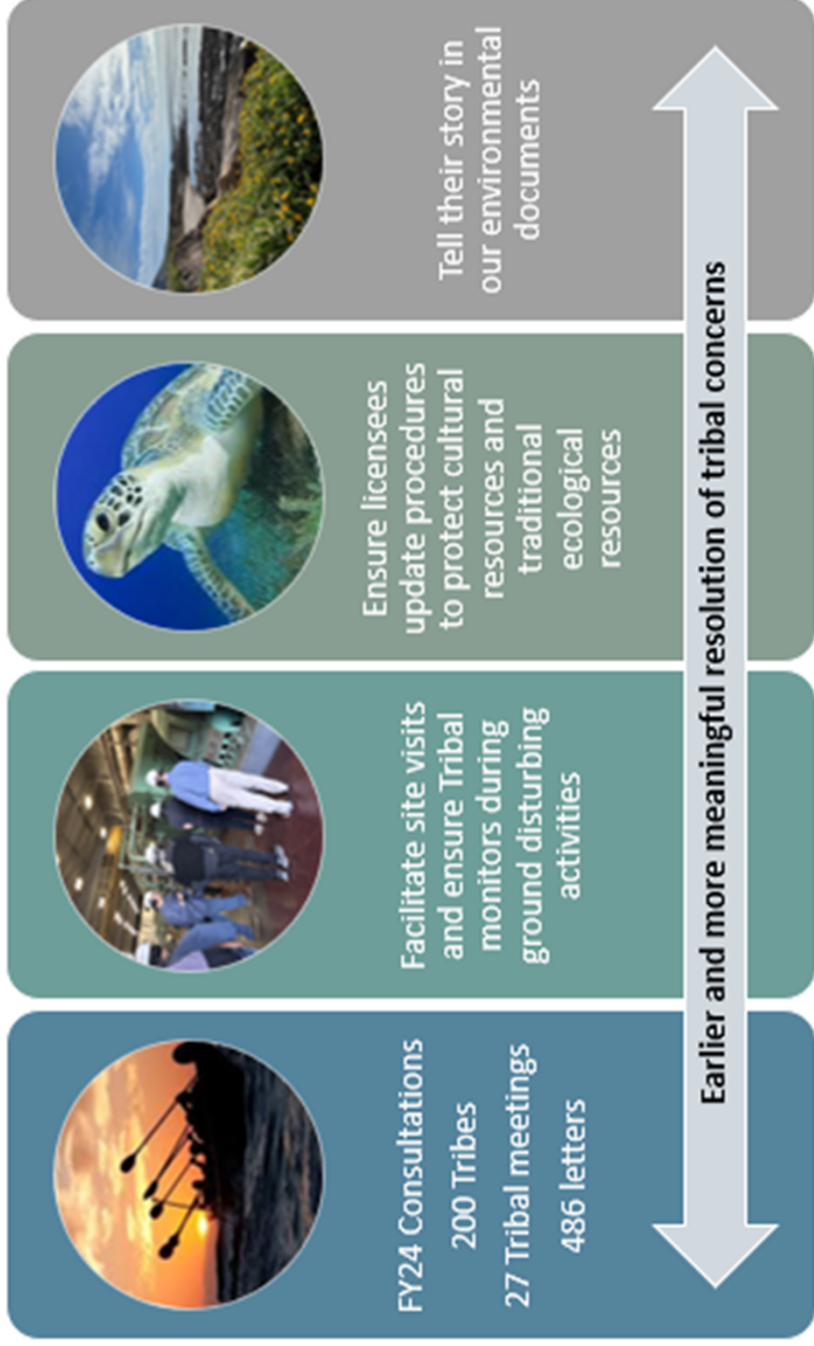
Signed into law in July 2024.

- Report to Congress on efforts to facilitate efficient, timely, and predictable environmental reviews.
- Assess licensing review process for new nuclear facilities at former fossil-fuel power plant sites and brownfield sites.
- Develop strategies and guidance for microreactors.

Streamlining the Environmental Review Process- Ongoing Efforts



Risk-informed Approach to Streamline Consultations and Strengthening Tribal Engagement



Using Technology to Prioritize and Expand Stakeholder Engagement

