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(Original Signature of Member)

118TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R.

To update oversight and inspection practices of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mrs. LESKO introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on _____

A BILL

To update oversight and inspection practices of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Advancing Nuclear
5 Regulatory Oversight Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. IMPLEMENTING LESSONS LEARNED FROM THE**
7 **COVID-19 HEALTH EMERGENCY.**

8 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the
9 date of enactment of this Act, the Commission shall sub-

1 mit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report
2 on actions taken by the Commission during the public
3 health emergency declared by the Secretary of Health and
4 Human Services under section 319 of the Public Health
5 Service Act (42 U.S.C. 247d) on January 31, 2020, with
6 respect to COVID–19.

7 (b) CONTENTS.—The report submitted under sub-
8 section (a) shall—

9 (1) identify any processes, procedures, and
10 other regulatory policies that the Commission re-
11 vised or temporarily suspended during the public
12 health emergency described in subsection (a);

13 (2) examine how any revision or temporary sus-
14 pension of a process, procedure, or other regulatory
15 policy identified under paragraph (1) affected the
16 ability of the Commission to license and regulate the
17 civilian use of radioactive materials in the United
18 States to protect public health and safety, promote
19 the common defense and security, and protect the
20 environment;

21 (3) discuss lessons learned from the matters de-
22 scribed in paragraph (2);

23 (4) list actions that the Commission has taken
24 or will take to incorporate into the licensing and
25 oversight activities of the Commission, without com-

1 (c) CONTENTS.—The report submitted under sub-
2 section (a) shall—

3 (1) assess specific elements of oversight and in-
4 spections that may be modified by the use of tech-
5 nology, improved planning, and continually updated
6 risk-informed, performance-based assessment, in-
7 cluding—

8 (A) use of travel resources;

9 (B) planning and preparation for inspec-
10 tions, including entrance and exit meetings with
11 licensees and consideration of whether inspec-
12 tion teams need to be onsite;

13 (C) document collection and preparation,
14 including consideration of whether nuclear reac-
15 tor data are accessible without onsite visits or
16 requests to the licensee and that document re-
17 quests are timely and within the scope of in-
18 spections;

19 (D) the cross-cutting issues program; and

20 (E) the scope of event reporting required
21 by licensees to ensure decisions are risk-in-
22 formed;

23 (2) identify and assess measures to improve
24 oversight and inspections, including—

1 (A) elimination of areas of duplicative or
2 otherwise unnecessary activities;

3 (B) increased use of templates in docu-
4 menting inspection results; and

5 (C) periodic training of Commission staff
6 and leadership on the application of risk-in-
7 formed criteria for—

8 (i) inspection planning and assess-
9 ments;

10 (ii) agency decision making processes
11 on the application of regulations and guid-
12 ance; and

13 (iii) the application of the Commis-
14 sion's standard of reasonable assurance of
15 adequate protection;

16 (3) assess measures to advance risk-informed
17 procedures, including—

18 (A) increased use of inspection approaches
19 that balance the level of resources commensu-
20 rate with safety significance;

21 (B) increased review of the use of inspec-
22 tion program resources based on licensee per-
23 formance;

24 (C) expansion of modern information tech-
25 nology, including artificial intelligence and ma-

1 chine learning to risk inform oversight and in-
2 spection decisions; and

3 (D) updating the Differing Professional
4 Views or Opinions process to include—

5 (i) safety significance as a threshold
6 for entering such process; and

7 (ii) guidance for issue resolution to
8 minimize the impact of such process on
9 project schedules;

10 (4) assess the ability of the Commission, con-
11 sistent with its obligations to provide reasonable as-
12 surance of adequate protection of health and safety
13 pursuant to the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, to en-
14 able licensee innovations that may advance nuclear
15 reactor operational efficiency and safety, including
16 the criteria of the Commission for timely acceptance
17 of licensee adoption of advanced technologies, includ-
18 ing digital technologies;

19 (5) identify recommendations resulting from the
20 assessments described in paragraphs (1) through
21 (4);

22 (6) identify specific actions that the Commis-
23 sion will take to incorporate into the training, in-
24 spection, oversight, and licensing activities, and reg-
25 ulations of the Commission, without compromising

1 the mission of the Commission, the recommenda-
2 tions identified under paragraph (5); and

3 (7) describe when the actions identified under
4 paragraph (6) may be implemented.

5 **SEC. 4. OFFICE AND FACILITY SPACE REVIEW.**

6 (a) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date
7 of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the
8 United States shall—

9 (1) review office and other facility space re-
10 quirements of the Commission; and

11 (2) submit to the appropriate committees of
12 Congress a report, with recommendations, on the re-
13 sults of such review.

14 (b) CONTENTS.—The report described in subsection
15 (a) shall include—

16 (1) an examination of—

17 (A) the costs associated with the head-
18 quarters, regional offices, and technical training
19 center of the Commission, including examina-
20 tion of—

21 (i) costs that do not support the Com-
22 mission's mission, including rent subsidies
23 for other Federal agencies; and

24 (ii) opportunities to reduce future
25 costs through reduction in unnecessary of-

1 fice space, consolidation of offices, use of
2 advanced information technology, or any
3 other appropriate means; and

4 (B) current and anticipated office and fa-
5 cility requirements to efficiently accomplish the
6 mission of the Commission; and

7 (2) recommendations to Congress, the Commis-
8 sion, and the General Services Administration for
9 actions that may assist in reducing office and facility
10 costs to licensees and taxpayers.

11 **SEC. 5. DEFINITIONS.**

12 In this Act:

13 (1) APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CON-
14 GRESS.—The term “appropriate committees of Con-
15 gress” means the Committee on Energy and Com-
16 merce of the House of Representatives and the Com-
17 mittee on Environment and Public Works of the
18 Senate.

19 (2) COMMISSION.—The term “Commission”
20 means the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

21 (3) LICENSEE.—The term “licensee” means a
22 person that holds a license issued under section 103
23 or section 104 of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954
24 (42 U.S.C. 2133; 2134).