

Chairman Brett Guthrie
Opening Statement—Subcommittee on Energy
“American Energy Dominance: Dawn of the New Nuclear Era”
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As prepared for delivery

This year the Committee has examined how to meet our nation’s growing energy needs. We’ve worked to remove barriers to energy expansion and to prioritize reliable power.

We’ve examined why American energy dominance is essential for a productive, healthy, and secure nation. It’s clear that nuclear energy is a key component. Today we’ll look at how to expand nuclear further.

From 1971 to 1987, America proved its nuclear energy capabilities, with utilities connecting 87 nuclear reactors producing 80 gigawatts of capacity to the grid, a pace of about 6 new reactors a year—a faster and larger deployment than any other nation to date.

China has built 58 reactors at an average rate of 3 a year. But that deployment rate may increase with more than 30 reactors currently under construction.

This direct competition with the United States in nuclear commerce has huge implications for geopolitics and energy security, underscoring the urgency of promoting American nuclear leadership.

The good news is, this Committee’s work to pass the ADVANCE Act and other policies into law has set the stage for success in the new nuclear era —removing permitting delays, cutting licensing costs, driving faster, efficient decisions, improving international engagement, and incentivizing American supply chains.

We're reaching the point that licensing should no longer be a barrier to nuclear expansion. Success now will more likely rest on construction finance and economic factors. Yet here, too, there is great new promise.

Not only are utilities and state policy makers returning to nuclear—and turning on retired plants—but new sources of capital investment are engaging.

Major technology companies pursuing power for AI datacenters have stepped up, as has the oil and gas sector, among others.

I want to thank President Trump for his, executive orders focused on growing investments in energy technologies.

Our job as policymakers is to identify what more needs to be done to accelerate America's new nuclear era, in a way that assures safety, protects taxpayers, and provides for national security.

Thank you to our witnesses, and I look forward to the discussion.

I yield back.