

Chairman Brett Guthrie
Opening Statement as Prepared for Delivery
Subcommittee on Energy Hearing
“Nuclear Permitting Reform: Legislation to Advance
Efficient Licensing”
Tuesday, June 9, 2026

This past Friday, the Energy Information Administration reported that China’s nuclear capacity nearly doubled over ten years—adding 30 gigawatts of power since 2016.¹

While impressive, as recently as thirty years ago, the United States built 80 gigawatts of nuclear power in 14 years, double the pace of China’s. That pace has not yet been surpassed.

Given our urgent energy security and power needs, we should work to return to that pace—six new reactors a year or more.

As with other federal permitting processes, the nuclear licensing process itself should not be the major impediment to building worthy projects. It should not unnecessarily delay the benefits of the projects for the public.

¹ <https://www.eia.gov/todayinenergy/detail.php?id=67746>

Today, the Subcommittee will examine legislation that adds to the bipartisan permitting reforms of the ADVANCE Act we passed two years ago. Those reforms aimed to improve nuclear permitting, so the public can safely enjoy the benefits of nuclear faster, and sooner.

The goal is to make sure NRC licensing is efficient, predictable, and timely and that its overall culture is aligned to maximize the benefits of nuclear for society—for our energy, our security, our health.

By all accounts we are on the right track. The NRC is updating its regulations and environmental reviews to cut months and even years off its licensing process. It is working to focus on the most safety-significant matters and to discard procedures and requirements that take time and resources, but do not have a meaningful impact on safety.

And the Trump Administration has helped accelerate the ADVANCE Act reforms, updating NRC regulations across the board, with a central focus on what is necessary for NRC to efficiently perform its core safety mission.

The bills before us today clarify pay authority, provide transparency, and eliminate unnecessary Atomic Energy Act

requirements to ensure licensing runs more smoothly. The result is a single-step process for operating permits, the ability to rely on updated environmental reviews, and the ability to move fast on well understood technologies.

Let me welcome the witnesses, all of whom have brought their experience and expertise on these topics to this panel in the past.

I look forward to the discussion and yield back.

###