

Chairman Weber, Ranking Member Ross, and Members of the Subcommittee, thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Less than three years ago, Aalo Atomix was two people. Today, we are around 200.

And on July 4, at 12:20 a.m. near Idaho National Laboratory, we brought our first reactor to initial criticality.

We moved from groundbreaking to a sustained nuclear chain reaction in less than eight months. The reactor used a full-scale core and a fuel loading representative of our 10-megawatt-electric commercial design.

Our experience demonstrates something important: rigorous nuclear safety oversight and speed are compatible.

The Department of Energy established a clear authorization pathway, set real expectations, and made accountable decisions on real deadlines. Aalo brought the design, the team, the capital, and the execution. Together, we demonstrated that America can build and test new reactors quickly again.

That matters because our need for dependable electricity is growing rapidly, particularly from artificial intelligence and data centers. Nuclear power offers something uniquely valuable: reliable, around-the-clock generation without combustion emissions or dependence on weather.

Aalo is initially focused on supplying that market. We intend to manufacture reactors at scale, drive costs down through repetition, and then expand into other applications.

We made two important technology choices to help us move quickly.

First, we use standard uranium dioxide fuel and the existing low-enriched uranium supply chain. While many advanced reactors will benefit from HALEU and other advanced fuels, we deliberately chose a fuel form supported by an established industrial base.

Second, our sodium expertise and architecture create a credible pathway toward a future fast-spectrum product line that can extract substantially more energy from uranium resources. With recycling, fast reactors can use material recovered from spent nuclear fuel — material that today is treated largely as waste — as well as depleted uranium. DOE estimates that more than 90 percent of the potential energy remains in used nuclear fuel, and it has been estimated that fast reactors can extract roughly 100 times more energy from the same uranium resource. Over time, with recycling, breeder cycles, and potentially uranium recovered from seawater, the available nuclear energy resource could be extended for an extraordinarily long time. Today, we are using only a small fraction of the energy available in the uranium.

We have already begun work on our next reactor, designed to produce approximately 10 megawatts of electricity and ultimately power an onsite AI data center. We are also expanding into a one-million-square-foot manufacturing facility in Texas.

Based on our experience, I would offer Congress three priorities.

First, make DOE's Reactor Pilot Program a durable pathway from initial criticality through full-power testing, endurance, burnup, and refueling.

Criticality is an important milestone, but it is only the beginning of demonstrating a reactor's full capabilities.

Second, ensure that high-quality demonstration data generated under DOE oversight can be credited or adopted in subsequent NRC licensing.

We should not unnecessarily recreate credible safety data that has already been generated under rigorous federal oversight.

Third, continue rebuilding the domestic nuclear fuel cycle, including conversion, enrichment, fuel fabrication, advanced fuels such as HALEU, and ultimately recycling.

America pioneered much of advanced nuclear technology. We now have an opportunity to lead again.

We are grateful to Congress, the Administration, Secretary Wright, Bob Boston and the Department of Energy, Idaho National Laboratory, and the career public servants who helped make our demonstration possible.

Aalo intends to repay that trust by building reactors, factories, and American jobs, and by helping restore U.S. leadership in nuclear energy.

Thank you.