

Topic Area 10 Office Hours Q&A

Q: With respect to frameworks, could you discuss the variation between current frameworks and the new frameworks that you're expecting.

A: The current regulatory framework is set up to license the current fleet of reactors. With the Advanced Reactor Regulatory Development Program, we're working to modify and modernize that regulatory framework to make it more applicable to advanced reactors. As an example, the current EPZ, emergency planning zone, for light water reactors is 10 miles, but for some of the advanced reactors, they're a lot smaller so we are working to make that emergency planning zone smaller. There are a number of these types of activities where we're working to make the regulatory framework more applicable to these reactors that use non light water reactor as the coolant.

Q: Is anybody researching the variation in what is required for current reactors and new SMRs with regards to insurance.

A: There may be industry programs that are looking at that activity, but in terms of our regulatory development program, no, that is not something that we are specifically looking at.

Q: On the GAIN page it talks about interactions between DOE and NRC. Could you elaborate a little bit about how DOE NE interacts with NRC.

A: We have a great relationship with the NRC. We have extensive coordination with them and in fact we have something that's called a memorandum of understanding with them, and through that agreement with the NRC we're able to share our technical expertise. For example, the research that we do at national labs we are able to give the NRC access to that data. The NRC is able to learn from some of the activities that we're doing. In fact, we even have some NRC staff members that will come on detail to the DOE to gain access to that information.

Q: Is this topic looking for proposals just for the current fleet or for advanced reactors?

A: This supports both the existing fleet as well as advanced reactors.