

118TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 6268

To enable timely licensing reviews for nuclear reactor facilities at brownfield sites and retired fossil fuel sites, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NOVEMBER 7, 2023

Mr. GUTHRIE (for himself and Mr. TONKO) introduced the following bill;
which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce

A BILL

To enable timely licensing reviews for nuclear reactor facilities at brownfield sites and retired fossil fuel sites, 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 “Nuclear for Brownfield
5 Site Preparation Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. REGULATORY ISSUES FOR NUCLEAR FACILITIES AT**
7 **BROWNFIELD SITES AND RETIRED FOSSIL**
8 **FUEL SITES.**

9 (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

1 (1) BROWNFIELD SITE.—The term “brownfield
2 site” has the meaning given the term in section 101
3 of the Comprehensive Environmental Response,
4 Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 (42 U.S.C.
5 9601).

6 (2) COMMISSION.—The term “Commission”
7 means the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

8 (3) COVERED SITE.—The term “covered site”
9 means a brownfield site, a retired fossil fuel site, or
10 a site that is both a retired fossil fuel site and a
11 brownfield site.

12 (4) PRODUCTION FACILITY.—The term “pro-
13 duction facility” has the meaning given the term in
14 section 11 of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954 (42
15 U.S.C. 2014).

16 (5) RETIRED FOSSIL FUEL SITE.—The term
17 “retired fossil fuel site” means the site of 1 or more
18 fossil fuel electric generation facilities that are re-
19 tired or scheduled to retire, including multiunit fa-
20 cilities that are partially shut down.

21 (6) UTILIZATION FACILITY.—The term “utiliza-
22 tion facility” has the meaning given the term in sec-
23 tion 11 of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954 (42
24 U.S.C. 2014).

25 (b) IDENTIFICATION OF REGULATORY ISSUES.—

1 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after
2 the date of enactment of this Act, the Commission
3 shall evaluate the extent to which modification of
4 regulations, guidance, or policy is needed to enable
5 timely licensing reviews for, and to support the over-
6 sight of, production facilities or utilization facilities
7 at covered sites.

8 (2) REQUIREMENT.—In carrying out paragraph
9 (1), the Commission shall consider how licensing re-
10 views for production facilities or utilization facilities
11 at covered sites may be expedited by—

12 (A) siting and operating a production facil-
13 ity or a utilization facility at or near existing
14 site infrastructure to support the reuse of such
15 infrastructure, including—

16 (i) electric switchyard components and
17 transmission infrastructure;

18 (ii) heat-sink components;

19 (iii) steam cycle components;

20 (iv) roads;

21 (v) railroad access; and

22 (vi) water availability;

23 (B) using early site permits;

1 (C) using plant parameter envelopes or
2 similar standardized site parameters on a por-
3 tion of a larger site; and

4 (D) using a standardized application for
5 similar sites.

6 (3) REPORT.—Not later than 14 months after
7 the date of enactment of this Act, the Commission
8 shall submit to the appropriate committees of Con-
9 gress a report describing any regulations, guidance,
10 and policies evaluated under paragraph (1).

11 (c) LICENSING.—

12 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 2 years after
13 the date of enactment of this Act, the Commission
14 shall, based on the evaluation under subsection (b)—

15 (A) develop and implement strategies to
16 enable timely licensing reviews for, and to sup-
17 port the oversight of, production facilities or
18 utilization facilities at covered sites; and

19 (B) initiate a rulemaking to enable timely
20 licensing reviews for, and to support the over-
21 sight of, production facilities or utilization fa-
22 cilities at covered sites.

23 (2) REQUIREMENTS.—In carrying out para-
24 graph (1), consistent with the mission of the Com-

1 mission, the Commission shall consider matters re-
2 lating to—

3 (A) the use of existing site infrastructure;

4 (B) existing emergency preparedness orga-
5 nizations and planning;

6 (C) the availability of historical site-spe-
7 cific environmental data;

8 (D) previously completed environmental re-
9 views required by the National Environmental
10 Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.);

11 (E) activities associated with the potential
12 decommissioning of facilities or decontamina-
13 tion and remediation at covered sites; and

14 (F) community engagement and historical
15 experience with energy production.

16 (d) REPORT.—Not later than 3 years after the date
17 of enactment of this Act, the Commission shall submit to
18 the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House
19 of Representatives and the Committee on Environment
20 and Public Works of the Senate a report describing the
21 actions taken by the Commission under subsection (c)(1).

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