

118TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 6464

To amend the Atomic Energy Act of 1954 to provide for more efficient hearings on nuclear facility construction applications, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NOVEMBER 21, 2023

Mr. GRIFFITH introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce

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## A BILL

To amend the Atomic Energy Act of 1954 to provide for more efficient hearings on nuclear facility construction applications, 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 “Efficient Nuclear Li-  
5 censing Hearings Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. UPDATING HEARING PROCEDURES.**

7 (a) HEARINGS AND JUDICIAL REVIEW.—Section 189  
8 a. of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954 (42 U.S.C. 2239(a))  
9 is amended—

10 (1) in paragraph (1)(A)—

1 (A) by striking “In any proceeding under  
2 this Act” and inserting the following:

3 “(i) In any proceeding under this Act”; and

4 (B) in clause (i) (as so designated), by  
5 striking “The Commission shall hold a hearing”  
6 and all that follows through “upon a determina-  
7 tion by the Commission that the amendment in-  
8 volves no significant hazards consideration.”  
9 and inserting the following:

10 “(ii) The Commission may, in the absence of a re-  
11 quest for a hearing by any person whose interest may be  
12 affected, issue a construction permit, an operating license,  
13 a combined construction permit and operating license, an  
14 amendment to a construction permit, an amendment to  
15 an operating license, or an amendment to a combined con-  
16 struction permit and operating license under section 103,  
17 104 b., 104 c., or 185 b. for a facility or a testing facility,  
18 without a hearing, but upon thirty days notice and publi-  
19 cation once in the Federal Register of its intent to do so.  
20 The Commission may dispense with such thirty days no-  
21 tice and publication with respect to any application for an  
22 amendment to a construction permit, an amendment to  
23 an operating license, or an amendment to a combined con-  
24 struction permit and operating license upon a determina-

1 tion by the Commission that the amendment involves no  
2 significant hazards consideration.

3 “(iii) The Commission shall use informal adjudica-  
4 tory procedures for any hearing held by the Commission  
5 pursuant to this subparagraph.”;

6 (2) in paragraph (1)(B)(iv)—

7 (A) by inserting “informal” before “hear-  
8 ing procedures”; and

9 (B) by striking “, whether informal or for-  
10 mal adjudicatory,”; and

11 (3) in the second sentence of paragraph (2)(A),  
12 by striking “required hearing” and inserting “hear-  
13 ing held by the Commission under this section”.

14 (b) CONSTRUCTION PERMITS AND OPERATING LI-  
15 CENSES.—Section 185 b. of the Atomic Energy Act of  
16 1954 (42 U.S.C. 2235(b)) is amended by striking “After  
17 holding a public hearing under section 189 a. (1)(A),” and  
18 inserting “After the thirty days notice and publication pe-  
19 riod or holding a hearing, as applicable, under section 189  
20 a. (1)(A),”.

21 (c) LICENSING OF URANIUM ENRICHMENT FACILI-  
22 TIES.—Section 193(b) of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954  
23 (42 U.S.C. 2243(b)) is amended by—

24 (1) in paragraph (1)—

25 (A) by striking “on the record”; and

1           (B) by inserting “if a person whose inter-  
2           est may be affected by such construction and  
3           operation has requested a hearing regarding the  
4           licensing of the construction and operation of  
5           the facility” after “and 63”; and

6           (2) in paragraph (2), by striking “Such hear-  
7           ing” and inserting “If a hearing is held under para-  
8           graph (1), the hearing”.

9           (d) APPLICABILITY.—The amendments made by this  
10          section shall apply to all applications and proceedings  
11          pending before the Nuclear Regulatory Commission on or  
12          after the date of enactment of this section.

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