

agency responsible for implementing Arctic research policy, and established an Interagency Arctic Research Policy Committee (IARPC). The ARPA legislation charges the IARPC, in cooperation with the USARC, to develop and establish an integrated national Arctic research policy that will guide Federal agencies in implementing their research programs in the Arctic.

#### About the Arctic Research Plan

IARPC is required by law to prepare and execute a 5-year Arctic Research Plan, which helps to coordinate the overall Federal effort in Arctic research. To date, three five-year Arctic Research Plans have been released and implemented, the most recent covering 2022–2026, and the current Implementation Plan for 2025–2026 is available at [https://www.iarpc.collaborations.org/uploads/cms/documents/2025-2026\\_implementation\\_plan\\_high\\_res.pdf](https://www.iarpc.collaborations.org/uploads/cms/documents/2025-2026_implementation_plan_high_res.pdf). As required by the ARPA legislation, IARPC works in partnership with USARC, as well as with representatives from Arctic communities, federally recognized Tribal groups, the State of Alaska, the private sector, non-governmental organizations, research institutions, and the academic community. Accordingly, the current Plan is being implemented by nine collaboration teams and eleven communities of practice which are co-lead by Federal agency staff and non-Federal individuals with subject matter expertise.

These Arctic Research Plans reflect the goals and missions of the Federal agencies supporting research in the Arctic and focus on research which will be enhanced through collaboration among Federal agencies, as opposed to agencies working alone. The updated Arctic Research Plan will guide Federal coordination of Arctic research for the period 2027–2031, positioning the United States to remain a global leader in Arctic research and stewardship for many years to come.

#### Seeking Public Input

As called for in the ARPA, IARPC seeks input from any interested individuals and organizations to ensure that the research interests and needs of all are addressed appropriately in the updated Plan. IARPC is committed to an open engagement process throughout the development of the Plan.

In particular, IARPC is interested in feedback in response to the following questions regarding what updates should be made to the Arctic Research Plan 2027–2031:

1. What are the critical issues and needs where federally funded science,

engineering, and technology research should provide knowledge to promote sound decision-making at all levels related to the Arctic?

2. What are examples of research questions that address these issues?

#### Background

For context, the current Plan “Arctic Research Plan 2022–2026” has four policy drivers, four priority areas, and five foundational activities.

The policy drivers for the Arctic Research Plan FY2022–2026 are:

- Enhance the well-being of Arctic residents;
- Advance stewardship of the Arctic environment;
- Strengthen national and regional security; and
- Improve understanding of the Arctic as a component of planet Earth

The priority areas for the Arctic Research Plan FY2022–2026 are:

- Community Resilience and Health
- Sustainable Economies and Livelihoods
- Risk Management and Hazard Mitigation
- Arctic System Interactions

The foundational activities for the current Arctic Research Plan, which are meant to undergird the priority areas, are:

- Data management
- Education and Training
- Monitoring, Observation, Modeling and Prediction
- Technology Innovation and Application
- Tribal Consultation and Effective Processes

For the full Arctic Research Plan 2022–2026, see: <https://www.iarpc.collaborations.org/uploads/cms/documents/final-arp-2022-2026-20211214.pdf>.

For the full Arctic Research Plan 2017–2021, see: [https://www.iarpc.collaborations.org/download.axd?file=iarpc\\_arctic\\_research\\_plan\\_2017-2021.pdf](https://www.iarpc.collaborations.org/download.axd?file=iarpc_arctic_research_plan_2017-2021.pdf).

For the full Arctic Research Plan 2013–2017, see: [https://www.iarpc.collaborations.org/uploads/cms/documents/arctic\\_research\\_2013.pdf](https://www.iarpc.collaborations.org/uploads/cms/documents/arctic_research_2013.pdf).

(Authority: 42 U.S.C. 1861.)

Dated: August 5, 2025.

**Suzanne H. Plimpton**,  
Reports Clearance Officer, National Science Foundation.

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**BILLING CODE 7555–01–P**

## NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

[NRC–2024–0036]

### Draft Regulatory Guide: Preparing Probabilistic Fracture Mechanics Submittals

**AGENCY:** Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

**ACTION:** Draft guide; request for comment.

**SUMMARY:** The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) is issuing for public comment Revision 1 to draft Regulatory Guide (DG), DG–1422, “Preparing Probabilistic Fracture Mechanics Submittals.” This DG is proposed Revision 1 to Regulatory Guide (RG) 1.245, “Preparing Probabilistic Fracture Mechanics Submittals.” DG–1422, Revision 1, describes a framework to develop the contents of a licensing submittal that the staff of the NRC considers acceptable when performing probabilistic fracture mechanics (PFM) analyses in support of regulatory applications.

**DATES:** Submit comments by September 8, 2025. Comments received after this date will be considered if it is practical to do so, but the NRC is able to ensure consideration only for comments received on or before this date.

**ADDRESSES:** You may submit comments by any of the following methods; however, the NRC encourages electronic comment submission through the Federal rulemaking website.

- *Federal Rulemaking Website:* Go to <https://www.regulations.gov> and search for Docket ID NRC–2024–0036. Address questions about Docket IDs in *Regulations.gov* to Bridget Curran; telephone: 301–415–1003; email: [Bridget.Curran@nrc.gov](mailto:Bridget.Curran@nrc.gov). For technical questions, contact the individual(s) listed in the **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** section of this document.

- *Mail comments to:* Office of Administration, Mail Stop: TWFN–7–A60M, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555–0001, ATTN: Program Management, Announcements and Editing Staff.

For additional direction on obtaining information and submitting comments, see “Obtaining Information and Submitting Comments” in the **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** section of this document.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Christopher Nellis, Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research, telephone: 301–415–5973; email: [Christopher.Nellis@nrc.gov](mailto:Christopher.Nellis@nrc.gov), and Vance Petrella, Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research, telephone:

301-415-1048; email: [Vance.Petrella@nrc.gov](mailto:Vance.Petrella@nrc.gov). Both are staff of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555-0001.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

### I. Obtaining Information and Submitting Comments

#### A. Obtaining Information

Please refer to Docket ID NRC-2024-0036 when contacting the NRC about the availability of information for this action. You may obtain publicly available information related to this action by any of the following methods:

- *Federal Rulemaking Website*: Go to <https://www.regulations.gov> and search for Docket ID NRC-2024-0036.

- *NRC's Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS)*: You may obtain publicly available documents online in the ADAMS Public Documents collection at <https://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html>. To begin the search, select "Begin ADAMS Public Search." For problems with ADAMS, please contact the NRC's Public Document Room (PDR) reference staff at 1-800-397-4209, at 301-415-4737, or by email to [PDR.Resource@nrc.gov](mailto:PDR.Resource@nrc.gov). The ADAMS accession number for each document referenced (if it is available in ADAMS) is provided the first time that it is mentioned in this document.

- *NRC's PDR*: The PDR, where you may examine and order copies of publicly available documents, is open by appointment. To make an appointment to visit the PDR, please send an email to [PDR.Resource@nrc.gov](mailto:PDR.Resource@nrc.gov) or call 1-800-397-4209 or 301-415-4737, between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. eastern time (ET), Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays.

#### B. Submitting Comments

The NRC encourages electronic comment submission through the Federal rulemaking website (<https://www.regulations.gov>). Please include Docket ID NRC-2024-0036 in your comment submission.

The NRC cautions you not to include identifying or contact information that you do not want to be publicly disclosed in your comment submission. The NRC will post all comment submissions at <https://www.regulations.gov> as well as enter the comment submissions into ADAMS. The NRC does not routinely edit comment submissions to remove identifying or contact information.

If you are requesting or aggregating comments from other persons for submission to the NRC, then you should inform those persons not to include

identifying or contact information that they do not want to be publicly disclosed in their comment submission. Your request should state that the NRC does not routinely edit comment submissions to remove such information before making the comment submissions.

### II. Additional Information

The NRC is issuing for public comment a DG in the NRC's "Regulatory Guide" series. This series was developed to describe methods that are acceptable to the NRC staff for implementing specific parts of the agency's regulations, to explain techniques that the staff uses in evaluating specific issues or postulated events, and to describe information that the staff needs in its review of applications for permits and licenses.

The DG, entitled "Preparing Probabilistic Fracture Mechanics Submittals," is temporarily identified by its task number, DG-1422, Revision 1 (ADAMS Accession No. ML24312A308).

The NRC previously published a notice of the availability of DG-1422 in the **Federal Register** on February 29, 2024, (89 FR 14782) for a 30-day public comment period. The public comment period closed on April 1, 2024. Public comments and the staff responses to the public comments on DG-1422 are available in ADAMS under Accession No. ML24312A318. Based on significant changes to DG-1422 and a revised regulatory analysis, the staff is issuing DG-1422, Revision 1, for an additional round of public comments.

DG-1422, Revision 1, contains guidance on the contents of PFM information in regulatory applications and constitutes proposed Revision 1 to RG 1.245. The use of this proposed RG should increase the efficiency of NRC reviews of regulatory applications that use PFM as a supporting technical basis by providing a set of common guidelines for reviewers and licensees. This proposed RG presents guidance on justifying the acceptability of the methods used to generate and report PFM results. This proposed RG does not describe how the results of PFM may be used to support a regulatory application. Regulatory applications typically contain information other than fracture mechanics analyses; this proposed RG does not address the review of that other information. The revisions made to RG 1.245, Revision 0, clarify guidance for applications that leverage risk insights, such as PFM. These changes are reflected in Regulatory Positions 2.1, "Regulatory Context," and 2.2, "Information Made Available to the

NRC Staff with a Probabilistic Fracture Mechanics Submittal."

The staff is also issuing for public comment a revised draft regulatory analysis (ADAMS Accession No. ML24312A310). The staff developed the regulatory analysis to assess the value of revising RG 1.245, Revision 0.

### III. Backfitting, Forward Fitting, and Issue Finality

Issuance of DG-1422, Revision 1, would not constitute backfitting as defined in section 50.109 of title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* (10 CFR), "Backfitting," and as described in NRC Management Directive (MD) 8.4, "Management of Backfitting, Forward Fitting, Issue Finality, and Information Requests"; affect issue finality of any approval issued under 10 CFR part 52, "Licenses, Certificates, and Approvals for Nuclear Power Plants"; or constitute forward fitting as defined in MD 8.4, because, as explained in the RGs, licensees would not be required to comply with the positions set forth in these RGs.

### IV. Submitting Suggestions for Improvement of Regulatory Guides

A member of the public may, at any time, submit suggestions to the NRC for improvement of existing RGs or for the development of new RGs. Suggestions can be submitted on the NRC's public website at <https://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/reg-guides/contactus.html>. Suggestions will be considered in future updates and enhancements to the "Regulatory Guide" series.

### V. Executive Order (E.O.) 12866

The Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs determined that this DG is not a significant regulatory action under E.O. 12866.

Dated: August 5, 2025.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

**Meraj Rahimi,**

*Chief, Regulatory Guide and Programs Management Branch, Division of Engineering, Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research.*

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## NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

[Docket Nos. 50-277-SLR-2 and 50-278-SLR-2; ASLBP No. 25-989-01-SLR-BD01]

### Constellation Energy Generation, LLC; Establishment of Atomic Safety and Licensing Board

Pursuant to the Commission's regulations, *see, e.g.*, 10 CFR 2.104,