

Proposed Rules

Federal Register

Vol. 91, No. 63

Thursday, April 2, 2026

This section of the FEDERAL REGISTER contains notices to the public of the proposed issuance of rules and regulations. The purpose of these notices is to give interested persons an opportunity to participate in the rule making prior to the adoption of the final rules.

OFFICE OF PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT

5 CFR Parts 212, 213, 302, and 930

[Docket ID: OPM–2025–0274]

RIN 3206–AN72

Administrative Law Judges; Withdrawal

AGENCY: Office of Personnel Management.

ACTION: Withdrawal of proposed rule.

SUMMARY: The Office of Personnel Management is clarifying its withdrawal of a proposed rule published on September 21, 2020. The notice of proposed rulemaking, among other things, proposed revising OPM's regulations governing the appointment and employment of administrative law judges (ALJs). OPM is withdrawing the proposed rule.

DATES: OPM withdraws the proposed rule as of April 2, 2026.

ADDRESSES: The docket for this withdrawn rule is available at <https://www.regulations.gov/docket/OPM-2025-0274>.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Michael J. Mahoney (202) 936–3265 or email: employ@opm.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On September 21, 2020, the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) published a notice of proposed rulemaking (NPRM or proposed rule) titled “Administrative Law Judges” in the *Federal Register*. See 85 FR 59207. The NPRM proposed to revise OPM's regulations governing the appointment and employment of administrative law judges (ALJs). The proposed rule would have implemented Executive Order (E.O.) 13843 titled “Excepting Administrative Law Judges from the Competitive Service.” It would have updated the rules for ALJ hiring in light of the 2018 creation of schedule E of the excepted service for ALJs and updated the existing ALJ employment

regulations to reflect other changes in the law.

In response to the NPRM, OPM received approximately 41 comments during the 60-day comment period which ended on November 20, 2020.

OPM is withdrawing this proposal as the comments are over five years old, and agencies have implemented E.O. 13843. OPM plans to propose regulatory changes to implement Schedule E as part of another rulemaking later this year that will overhaul the excepted service regulations to reflect a variety of legal changes. See RIN 3206–AO92.

OPM hereby withdraws the NPRM.

Signing Statement

The Director of OPM, Scott Kupor, reviewed and approved this document and has authorized the undersigned to electronically sign and submit this document to the Office of the Federal Register for publication.

Office of Personnel Management.

Jerson Matias,
Federal Register Liaison.

[FR Doc. 2026–06445 Filed 4–1–26; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6325–39–P

NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

10 CFR Parts 50 and 53

[NRC–2025–1503]

RIN 3150–AL60

NRC Reviews of Reactor Designs Previously Authorized by U.S. Department of Energy or Department of War

AGENCY: Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

ACTION: Proposed rule; public meeting; and request for comment.

SUMMARY: The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) is proposing to revise its regulations to facilitate direct leveraging of prior U.S. Department of Energy or Department of War authorizations of demonstration reactors into the NRC's licensing reviews of commercial reactor facility applications that reference those designs. This rulemaking would improve NRC licensing review efficiency, where applicable, by explicitly establishing by regulation an additional means for

reactor applicants to demonstrate the safety functions of their reactor designs, and thus, would contribute to the safe and secure use and deployment of civilian nuclear energy technologies.

DATES: Submit comments by May 4, 2026.

ADDRESSES: Submit your comments, identified by Docket ID NRC–2025–1503, at <https://www.regulations.gov>. If your material cannot be submitted using <https://www.regulations.gov>, call or email the individuals listed in the **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** section of this document for alternate instructions.

Do not include any personally identifiable information (such as name, address, or other contact information) or confidential business information that you do not want publicly disclosed. All comments are public records; they are publicly displayed exactly as received and will not be deleted, modified, or redacted. Comments may be submitted anonymously.

Follow the search instructions on <https://www.regulations.gov> to view public comments.

You can read a plain language description of this proposed rule at <https://www.regulations.gov/docket/NRC-2025-1503>. 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: Aaron Kwok, Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards, telephone: 301–415–1371, email: Aaron.Kwok@nrc.gov and James Kinsey, Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation, telephone: 301–415–0754, email: James.Kinsey@nrc.gov. Both are staff of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555–0001.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Table of Contents

- I. Obtaining Information and Submitting Comments
 - A. Obtaining Information
 - B. Submitting Comments
- II. Executive Order 14300: Ordering the Reform of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission
- III. Discussion
- IV. Regulatory Flexibility Certification
- V. Regulatory Analysis
- VI. Backfitting and Issue Finality
- VII. Cumulative Effects of Regulation
- VIII. Plain Writing