

# 2026 Current Fiscal Year Report: Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards

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<b>1. Department or Agency</b>	<b>2. Fiscal Year</b>
Nuclear Regulatory Commission	2026
<b>3. Committee or Subcommittee</b>	<b>3b. GSA Committee No.</b>
Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards	207

<b>4. Is this New During Fiscal Year?</b>	<b>5. Current Charter</b>	<b>6. Expected Renewal Date</b>	<b>7. Expected Term Date</b>
No	12/02/2024	12/02/2026	

<b>8a. Was Terminated During Fiscal Year?</b>	<b>8b. Specific Termination Authority</b>	<b>8c. Actual Term Date</b>
No		

<b>9. Agency Recommendation for Next Fiscal Year</b>	<b>10a. Legislation Req to Terminate?</b>	<b>10b. Legislation Pending?</b>
Continue		Not Applicable

**11. Establishment Authority** Statutory (Congress Created)

<b>12. Specific Establishment Authority</b>	<b>13. Effective Date</b>	<b>14. Committee Type</b>	<b>14c. Presidential?</b>
42 U.S.C. Sect. 2039 & 2232	01/01/1957	Continuing	No

**15. Description of Committee** Scientific Technical Program  
Advisory Board

**16a. Total Number of Reports** No Reports for this Fiscal Year

**17a. Open** 0 **17b. Closed** 0 **17c. Partially Closed** 12 **Other Activities** 0 **17d. Total** 12

## Meetings and Dates

Purpose	Start	End
730th ACRS MEETING	11/05/2025	- 11/05/2025
730th ACRS MEETING	11/06/2025	- 11/06/2025
730th ACRS MEETING	11/07/2025	- 11/07/2025

731st ACRS Meeting	12/03/2025	- 12/03/2025
731st ACRS Meeting	12/04/2025	- 12/04/2025
731st ACRS Meeting	12/05/2025	- 12/05/2025
732nd ACRS Meeting	02/05/2026	- 02/05/2026
732nd ACRS Meeting	02/06/2026	- 02/06/2026
733rd ACRS Meeting	03/05/2026	- 03/05/2026
734th ACRS Meeting	04/08/2026	- 04/08/2026
734th ACRS Meeting	04/09/2026	- 04/09/2026
734th ACRS Meeting	04/10/2026	- 04/10/2026

**Number of Committee Meetings Listed: 12**

	<b>Current</b>	<b>Next</b>
	<b>FY</b>	<b>FY</b>
<b>18a(1). Personnel Pmts to Non-Federal Members</b>	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>18a(2). Personnel Pmts to Federal Members</b>	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>18a(3). Personnel Pmts to Federal Staff</b>	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>18a(4). Personnel Pmts to Non-Member Consultants</b>	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>18b(1). Travel and Per Diem to Non-Federal Members</b>	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>18b(2). Travel and Per Diem to Federal Members</b>	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>18b(3). Travel and Per Diem to Federal Staff</b>	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>18b(4). Travel and Per Diem to Non-member Consultants</b>	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>18c. Administrative Costs (FRNs, contractor support, In-person/hybrid/virtual meetings)</b>	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>18d. Other (all other funds not captured by any other cost category)</b>	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>18e. Total Costs</b>	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>19. Federal Staff Support Years (FTE)</b>	0.00	0.00

## **20a. How does the Committee accomplish its purpose?**

Originally established on July 7, 1953, under the Atomic Energy Commission, the Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards (ACRS) reports to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) and provides the Commission with independent reviews of, and advice on, the safety of proposed or existing NRC-licensed reactor facilities and the adequacy of applicable safety standards. The ACRS became a statutory committee by a 1957 amendment to the Atomic Energy Act of 1954. With the enactment of the Energy Reorganization Act of 1974, the licensing functions of the Atomic Energy Commission (AEC) were transferred intact from the AEC to the NRC. The ACRS has continued in the same advisory role as the NRC with its responsibilities changing with the needs of the Commission. Some ACRS tasks are mandated by statute or regulation; some are in response to direction by the Commission, or requests from the NRC staff, or other stakeholders; and some are committee-initiated in response to ACRS concerns on important regulatory and safety-related matters. The ACRS, upon request from the Department of Energy (DOE), provides advice on the safety of U.S. naval reactor designs. Also, upon request, the ACRS also provides technical advice to the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board. The ACRS and its Subcommittees meet regularly in public, Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA)-regulated meetings to review matters within the scope of its responsibilities. ACRS meeting agendas, meeting transcripts, and letter reports are available for downloading or viewing on the Internet at <https://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/acrs/agenda/2024/index> and <https://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/acrs/agenda/2025/index>

. The ACRS and its Subcommittees held 33 meetings during FY 2025, including 10 Full Committee meetings that were attended by a majority of ACRS members of which there were 9 closed and 21 partially closed meetings. The ACRS members are chosen for their technical expertise relevant to the safety issues important to the Commission. Consultants are used on occasion to augment the expertise of the ACRS members. The Committee has a full-time staff that provides technical support and administrative services in compliance with FACA requirements. ACRS Subcommittees normally consist of three to six ACRS members with the expertise needed to review in detail the regulatory and safety issues and to formulate proposed positions and actions, as appropriate, for deliberation by the Full Committee. Stakeholders' participation in ACRS meetings is encouraged and routinely occurs. The Committee's advice, in the form of written reports, is only produced by the Full Committee, and reports on significant regulatory matters are discussed with the Commission in public meetings. The ACRS conducts an ongoing review of its priorities and schedules to ensure that regulatory matters within its scope of responsibilities are being properly addressed and within its resources, and timely advice is provided to the Commission. Input from the Commission, the NRC staff, and affected stakeholders is used in this process. A Memorandum of Understanding with the NRC Executive Director for Operations (EDO) provides a framework for NRC staff interaction with the ACRS. The ACRS conducts self-assessments to improve its effectiveness and efficiency. In FY2025, the ACRS completed licensing reviews associated with license applications and license renewals for advanced and new reactors; the NRC safety research

program; digital instrumentation and control matters; metallurgy and reactor fuels issues; thermal-hydraulic phenomena; regulatory policies and practices; reliability and probabilistic risk assessments; rulemaking; cyber security, research activities, international outreach, and engagement with DOE on requested activities.

**20b. How does the Committee balance its membership?**

The Commission appoints ACRS members with the scientific and engineering expertise needed to address the safety issues of importance to the Commission. Members are sought who can provide an independent perspective on nuclear safety issues, outstanding scientific and technical ability, balanced and mature judgment, and a willingness to devote the time required to the demanding work involved. The members of the Committee are appointed by the Commission. In accordance with Section 29 of the Atomic Energy Act, the term of an appointment to the Committee is four years. The Act does not specify a maximum number of terms. While members do not have a fixed number of terms, an attempt is made to maintain a mixture of new and experienced members. Absent unusual circumstances, they serve four-year terms and are eligible for reappointment. Vacancies in the ACRS membership are filled from the pool of applicants which exists after solicitations of interest are published in the Federal Register, trade and professional society publications, and in the press. Recommendations to the Commission as to the selection of qualified candidates from this pool are made by the ACRS Member Candidate Screening Panel. The ACRS provides input to this Panel. During FY 2025, the membership was comprised of individuals with diverse employment

backgrounds and included those with expertise in the areas of nuclear power plant operations; probabilistic risk assessment; analysis of severe reactor accident phenomena; design of nuclear power plant structures, systems, and components; chemical engineering; digital instrumentation and control; materials and metallurgy; and thermal-hydraulics and computational fluid dynamics. The diversity of viewpoints represented by current members is based on special fields of interest, employment experience, and technical expertise. These member attributes provide the Committee with a balance of highly qualified technical expertise and diverse safety perspectives necessary to carry out the Committee's statutory responsibilities effectively.

**20c. How frequent and relevant are the Committee Meetings?**

The ACRS and its Subcommittees held 33 meetings during FY 2025, along with 10 Full Committee meetings. The number of meetings held in a reporting period is directly related to the number of nuclear safety matters to be reviewed as required by statute; the number of rules and regulatory guidance referred to the Committee for review and comment; the number of special reviews requested by the Commission, EDO, or other Federal Government organizations; and other safety issues of particular concern to the Committee and its stakeholders. The Full Committee normally meets ten (10) times a year for three (3) days to consider important safety-related nuclear issues, license applications, generic issues, significant regulatory matters, rules, and regulatory guidance. The ACRS Subcommittees, which are normally comprised of three to six members with the relevant expertise, meet as necessary with stakeholders to conduct

in-depth reviews of particular matters for later consideration by the full membership during Full Committee meetings. Although not required by the revised FACA, Subcommittee meetings are conducted under the same FACA procedures as the Full Committee meetings to facilitate public participation and to provide a forum for stakeholders to express their views on regulatory matters being considered by the ACRS. Reviews are conducted during each Full Committee meeting to assess the relevance of proposed review topics, resource needs, and the priority of each activity. These assessments have the benefit of input from the Commission, EDO, and other stakeholders. All ACRS meetings for this reporting period addressed either matters for which ACRS review was required by statute or regulation, specific requests from either the Commission or the EDO, or other important regulatory and safety-related matters committee-initiated in response to ACRS concerns.

**20d. Why can't the advice or information this committee provides be obtained elsewhere?**

The ACRS is an independent body of recognized experts in the field of nuclear reactor safety whose Congressional mandate is to provide the Commission with independent advice. Particular duties of the ACRS (e.g., review of operating reactor license renewal applications, extended power uprate amendments, new reactor designs, and rules and regulatory guidance) are dictated by statute or regulation. In addition, functional arrangements exist wherein, upon request, the ACRS provides advice to the Department of Energy and the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board. The Commission has its own expert staff on whom it relies on the day-to-day regulation of nuclear power facilities. The ACRS provides the

Commission and the NRC staff with an independent, critical review of high-level regulatory issues under consideration by the NRC and independent technical insights as to important matters needing Commission attention. The ACRS members are part-time special government employees with other full-time interests and activities in related fields, and provide a breadth of experience, an independent perspective on issues, and technical knowledge that is not duplicated by the NRC's full-time government employees. A standing Committee such as the ACRS remains current with respect to nuclear safety issues of importance to the NRC, including those related to reactor operating experience, regulatory reform, and NRC's needs for safety research, and provides an independent, collegial judgment regarding these issues that other part-time consultants could not provide. The ACRS meetings provide an important forum for stakeholders to express freely their concerns on safety issues and the regulatory process. A number of important safety initiatives have had their origins in ACRS deliberations. Through the ACRS, the public and the Congress are ensured of an independent technical review and evaluation of the safety of NRC-licensed facilities, proposed reactor designs, significant regulatory and safety issues, and of providing an opportunity for stakeholder input.

**20e. Why is it necessary to close and/or partially closed committee meetings?**

According to 5 U.S.C. 552b (c), ACRS meetings can only be closed for the following reasons:

- Protect information classified as national security information
- Discuss information relating solely to internal personnel rules and/or practices
- Protect unclassified safeguards information
- Protect

proprietary information• Protect information provided in confidence by a foreign source• Prevent invasion of personal privacy• Prevent disclosure of information the premature disclosure of which would be likely to significantly frustrate implementation of a proposed Agency action

## 21. Remarks

None

## Designated Federal Officer

Andrea Torres DFO

Committee Members	Start	End	Occupation	Member Designation
Bier, Vicki	04/12/2025	04/11/2029	Professor Emerita	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Dimitrijevic, Vesna	11/12/2021	11/11/2025	Retired Technical Consultant	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Halnon, Greg	04/12/2025	04/11/2029	Independent Consultant	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Harrington, Craig	06/17/2024	06/16/2028	Nuclear Engineer and Thermal Science	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Kammerer, Ann	09/15/2025	09/14/2029	Engineer	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Kirchner, Walt	06/12/2024	06/11/2028	Retired Nuclear Reactor Technologist and Nuclear Engineer	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Martin, Robert	06/07/2023	06/06/2027	Professional Engineer	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member

Palmtag, Scott	07/03/2024	07/02/2028	Research Professor and Nuclear Industry	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Petti, Dave	05/20/2023	05/19/2027	Chief Scientist	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Roberts, Thomas	07/03/2023	07/02/2027	Professional Engineer	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Sunseri, Matthew	06/12/2024	06/11/2028	Independent Consultant	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member

**Number of Committee Members Listed: 11**

**Narrative Description**

The ACRS develops an Operating Plan each year which describes the accomplishments of the Committee for the past fiscal year and planned activities for the current fiscal year and beyond. The ACRS staff provides feedback on the Agency’s draft Strategic Plan and its goals. The mission of the ACRS is to support the NRC’s mission in the area of reactor safety.

**What are the most significant program outcomes associated with this committee?**

Checked if Applies

- Improvements to health or safety
- Trust in government
- Major policy changes
- Advance in scientific research
- Effective grant making
- Improved service delivery
- Increased customer satisfaction
- Implementation of laws or regulatory requirements
- Other

**Outcome Comments**

NA

**What are the cost savings associated with this committee?**

Checked if Applies

- None
- Unable to Determine
- Under \$100,000
- \$100,000 - \$500,000
- \$500,001 - \$1,000,000
- \$1,000,001 - \$5,000,000
- \$5,000,001 - \$10,000,000
- Over \$10,000,000
- Cost Savings Other

**Cost Savings Comments**

Unable to Determine

**What is the approximate Number of recommendations produced by this committee for the life of the committee?**

16

**Number of Recommendations Comments**

The Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards pre-exists FACA and a cumulative number of recommendations over the lifetime is not possible. During the current fiscal year, Committee issued 12 reports with 27 conclusions and approximately 16 recommendations.

**What is the approximate Percentage of these recommendations that have been or will be Fully implemented by the agency?**

%

**% of Recommendations Fully Implemented Comments**

NA

**What is the approximate Percentage of these recommendations that have been or will be Partially implemented by the agency?**

%

**% of Recommendations Partially Implemented Comments**

NA

**Does the agency provide the committee with feedback regarding actions taken to implement recommendations or advice offered?**

Yes  No  Not Applicable

**Agency Feedback Comments**

The Memorandum of Understanding between ACRS Executive Director and the NRC Executive Director for Operations states that NRC Office Directors should ensure “consideration of ACRS comments by the NRC staff.” The Executive Director for Operations typically responds to each ACRS report by describing how each of the committee’s recommendations were addressed.

**What other actions has the agency taken as a result of the committee's advice or recommendation?**

Checked if Applies

- Reorganized Priorities
- Reallocated resources
- Issued new regulation
- Proposed legislation
- Approved grants or other payments
- Other

**Action Comments**

Issuance of guidelines, procedures, regulations for operation of the Licensing Support Network (LSN) and electronic submittal of documents to the NRC.

**Is the Committee engaged in the review of applications for grants?**

No

**Grant Review Comments**

NA

**How is access provided to the information for the Committee's documentation?**

Checked if Applies

- Contact DFO
- Online Agency Web Site

- Online Committee Web Site
- Online GSA FACA Web Site
- Publications
- Other

**Access Comments**

All Committee documents are in the NRC Public Documents Collection at <https://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/acrs/agenda/2024/index.html> and <https://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/acrs/agenda/2025/index.html>