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[7590-01-P]

NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

[Docket No. 70-7038; CEQ ID EISX-429-00-000-1770360643; NRC-2026-2906]

Orano Enrichment USA, LLC; Uranium Enrichment Facility; Draft Environmental Impact Statement

AGENCY: Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

ACTION: Notice; request for comment.

SUMMARY: The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) is issuing for public comment a draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) regarding a license application from Orano Enrichment USA, LLC (Orano) to construct and operate a gaseous centrifuge uranium enrichment facility in Roane County, Tennessee. The draft EIS evaluates the environmental impacts of the proposed action of issuing a license that would authorize Orano to construct and operate a uranium enrichment facility on a 624-acre site, 6.7 miles southwest of Oak Ridge, Tennessee. The environmental impacts of the no-action alternative (i.e., denying the license application) are also evaluated.

DATES: Members of the public are invited to submit comments by **[INSERT DATE 45 DAYS AFTER DATE OF PUBLICATION IN THE *FEDERAL REGISTER*]**. Comments received after that 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 that 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-2026-2906. Address questions about Docket IDs in Regulations.gov to Bridget Curran; telephone: 301-415-1003; email: 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 Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards, Mail Stop: TWFN-5-A85, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555-0001, ATTN: Guidance and Publication Branch.

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: Ashley Waldron, telephone: 301-415-7317; email: Ashley.Waldron@nrc.gov, or Patrick Donohue, telephone: 301-415-5237; email: Patrick.Donohue@nrc.gov. Both are staff of the Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards at 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-2026-2906 when contacting the NRC about the availability of information regarding this document. You may obtain publicly available information related to this action using any of the following methods:

- **Federal Rulemaking Website:** Go to https://www.regulations.gov and search for Docket ID NRC-2026-2906.

- **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. The draft EIS is available in ADAMS under Accession No. ML26317A254.

- **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 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.

- **Public Library:** A copy of the draft EIS will be available for public review at the Oak Ridge Public Library, 1401 Oak Ridge Turnpike, Oak Ridge, TN 37830.

B. Submitting Comments

The NRC encourages electronic comment submission through the **Federal Rulemaking website** (https://www.regulations.gov). Please include Docket ID NRC-2026-2906 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 available to the public or entering the comment into ADAMS.

II. Discussion

The NRC has prepared a draft EIS as part of its environmental review of Orano's application for a license to construct and operate a uranium enrichment facility on a 188-acre portion of 624 acres of undeveloped land on a former U.S. Department of Energy site in Roane County, Tennessee. This draft EIS assesses the potential environmental impacts of the Orano license application and the associated proposal to construct, operate, and decommission the enrichment facility, as well as the no-action alternative to the proposed action (i.e., denying the license application).

The proposed Federal action is the issuance of a license that would authorize Orano to receive title to, own, acquire, receive, possess, use, transfer, and/or deliver source material, special nuclear material, and byproduct material as specified in the license for the purposes of constructing, and then operating for up to 40 years, a facility that uses gaseous centrifuge technology to enrich uranium. The facility would be authorized to produce uranium enriched up to 10 percent by weight in the isotope uranium-235 for use in nuclear fuel applications.

The draft EIS contains the NRC staff's preliminary analysis of the environmental impacts of the proposed action and the no-action alternative to the proposed action. The draft EIS also contains the NRC staff's preliminary recommendation on the proposed action, which is based on the following factors: The NRC staff's review of Orano's environmental report (included as part of the Orano license application) and associated responses from Orano to request from the NRC staff for clarifying information; NRC staff's review of comments received as part of the scoping process; NRC staff's communications with Federal, State, and local agencies, as well as Tribal officials; and the NRC staff's independent environmental review.

The NRC staff's preliminary recommendation, unless safety issues mandate otherwise, is that the NRC issue the license to construct and operate the proposed enrichment facility to Orano.

Authority: 42 U.S.C. 2011 *et seq*.

Dated: November 23, 2026.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

Joseph O'Hara,
Acting Chief,
Environmental Review Materials, Branch,
Division of Storage of Fuel, Transportation, and Environmental,
Office of Nuclear Material Safety, and Safeguards.
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