# Reinvigorating the Nuclear Industrial Base

**Administrative Action:**

President Trump issued an executive order (EO) titled Reinvigorating the Nuclear Industrial Base which makes it the policy of the United States to "expedite and promote to the fullest possible extent the production and operation of nuclear energy to provide affordable, reliable, safe, and secure energy for the American people."

Specifically, the EO requires the Secretary of Energy, along with the Secretaries of Defense and Transportation and the Director of the Office of Management and Budget (OMB), to submit a report to the President regarding the management of spent nuclear fuel and high level waste and the reprocessing and recycling of these materials. The report should include a review of possible legislative changes necessary to achieve the policy recommendations from the report.

The Department of Energy (DOE) is required to work with the nuclear energy industry (the industry) to maximize new nuclear capacity. The Secretary of Energy should utilize the DOE Loan Programs Office, subject to the Federal Credit Reform Act, to prioritize activities that support nuclear energy, including restarting closed nuclear power plants, increasing power output of operating power plants, and completing the construction of nuclear reactors that have been suspended and new advanced nuclear reactors.

This EO also prioritizes expanding the nuclear energy workforce and makes nuclear engineering and other careers related to the industry a priority area pursuant to EO 14278. Within 120 days, the Secretaries of Labor and Education are directed to increase participation in nuclear energy-related Registered Apprenticeships and Career and Technical Education programs.

**Background:**

- As of 2023, according to the U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA), there were 54 commercial nuclear power plants operating in the United States with a total of 94 reactors.
    - The most nuclear reactors operating at one time in the U.S. was 112 in 1990, but the nuclear net summer electricity generation capacity peaked in 2012 at 102,000 megawatts (MW).
        - Prior to this EO, the U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA) Annual Energy Outlook projected the nuclear net summer electricity generation capacity to continue to decline and reach 76,000 MW by 2040.
- A fact sheet from the White House can be found here.