

**SIGNIFICANT ISSUES RAISED DURING THE PUBLIC SCOPING PERIOD FOR
THE REVIEW AND POTENTIAL UPDATE OF THE “GENERIC ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT
STATEMENT FOR LICENSE RENEWAL OF NUCLEAR PLANTS” (NUREG-1437)**

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff conducted a thorough environmental scoping process in 2020. The scoping process was conducted in accordance with Commission direction and the NRC’s regulations in Appendix B, “Environmental Effect of Renewing the Operating License of a Nuclear Power Plant,” to Subpart A, “National Environmental Policy Act—Regulations Implementing Section 102(2),” of Part 51 of Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* (10 CFR), “Environmental Protection Regulations for Domestic Licensing and Related Regulatory Functions.” The introduction to Appendix B to Subpart A of 10 CFR Part 51 states that, on a 10-year cycle, the Commission intends to review the material in Appendix B, including Table B–1, and update it, if necessary (61 FR 28467; June 5, 1996). Thus, the NRC began the latest review in April 2020, approximately 7 years after the completion of the previous revision cycle in June 2013. The NRC published a notice in the *Federal Register* on August 4, 2020 ([85 FR 47252](#)), initiating the scoping process to solicit public input on the review of NUREG-1437, Revision 1, “Generic Environmental Impact Statement for License Renewal of Nuclear Plants,” issued June 2013 (LR GEIS). The NRC staff directly contacted other Federal agencies and Tribes to invite their participation.

The staff received five comment submissions, in addition to comments received during the public scoping meetings, for a total of 26 comments. Most of the comments received were from the Nuclear Energy Institute (NEI). Other commenters included the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and three American Indian Tribes. The staff developed a scoping summary report (Agency Documents Access and Management System Accession No. ML21039A574) to document the results of the scoping process. The report summarizes all stakeholder comments received and the NRC staff’s responses to those comments. The comments received were considered by the staff in developing the rulemaking plan submitted to the Commission in July 2021 (SECY-21-0066). Based on the scoping work already performed, the staff is proposing in its rulemaking plan to not perform an additional scoping process for this rulemaking. The staff does not propose to conduct an additional scoping process because all LR GEIS and associated Table B–1 NEPA issues discussed within this rulemaking plan were included in the completed environmental scoping effort. In the interim, the NRC staff has also considered comments from stakeholders as part of environmental scoping and during the public comment periods conducted for SLR environmental reviews conducted since 2013. The following is a high-level summary of the comments and proposals received during public scoping completed in 2021.

Comments included support for the NRC’s proposal to update the LR GEIS and Table B–1, in Appendix B to Subpart A of 10 CFR Part 51 to apply to subsequent license renewal environmental reviews. Comments also suggested that the applicability should be reflected in both the LR GEIS and 10 CFR Part 51.

A commenter questioned whether it is the appropriate time to incorporate changes the NRC had listed in the public scoping notice related to advanced reactors and small modular reactors; large light water reactors permitted for construction after June 30, 1996; and a proposal no longer under consideration related to expanding the period of extended operation to 40 years in 10 CFR Part 54.

Other commenters encouraged the NRC to consider the Council on Environmental Quality's rule changes ([85 FR 43304](#)) in the context of the agency's broader efforts to enhance and streamline its environmental reviews. Commenters also recommended that the NRC evaluate changes to aquatic systems over time (e.g., changes in water volume, seasonal flow, and water temperatures). Commenters also recommended reevaluating the potential environmental impacts on water quality and water levels related to thermal discharges and rising temperatures so that hydrologic alteration can be evaluated generically. Several commenters supported revisions to interagency consultations on threatened, endangered, and protected species and essential fish habitat if interagency consultations do not include State-listed species.

One commenter supported updating the LR GEIS to incorporate the U.S. Department of Energy's Standard 1153-2019, "A Graded Approach to Evaluating Radiation Doses to Aquatic and Terrestrial Biota." The commenter also supported incorporating NEI guidance, NEI 17-04, Revision 1, "Model SLR New and Significant Assessment Approach for SAMA" (November 12, 2019), in Regulatory Guide 4.2, Supplement 1, Revision 1, "Preparation of Environmental Reports for Nuclear Power Plant License Renewal Applications," issued June 2013. One commenter opposed the use of generic analyses to evaluate environmental impacts to sacred land, air, and water quality, all of which the commenter considered components of the cultural environment.