

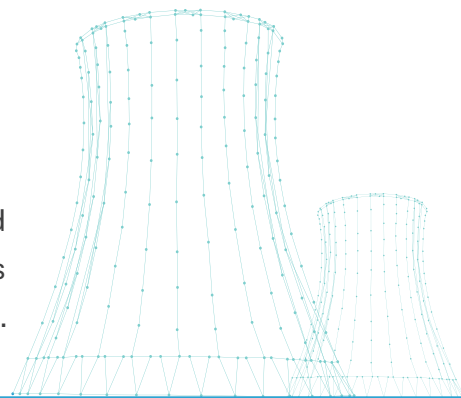
Civil Nuclear Credit Program

Preserving U.S. jobs and the continued operation of nuclear reactors to provide reliable clean power

The Civil Nuclear Credit Program is a \$6 billion strategic investment through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) to support the continued operation of U.S. nuclear reactors in order to meet the nation's ambitious climate goals and preserve thousands of good-paying clean energy jobs.

The BIL directs the U.S. Department of Energy to establish a program that would competitively award credits to qualifying U.S. reactors to help prevent early closures due to economic factors.

Awarded credits last for four years and begin on the date of the selection. Applicants can apply or reapply for credits through September 2031 if funds remain available.



What are Civil Nuclear Credits?

A civil nuclear credit is **not a tax credit**. It is credit or federal funds allocated to an owner or operator of a certified U.S. nuclear reactor that is projected to stop operations due to economic factors.

Eligibility

The Civil Nuclear Credit Program is open to all operating reactors in the United States. Owners or operators of reactors that compete in competitive electricity markets and are at-risk of ceasing operations due to economic factors can qualify to submit a proposal to DOE for certification. This includes reactors that receive payments from states through zero-emission credits, clean energy contracts, or other programs.

How It Works

Nuclear reactor owners or operators can apply for certification based on certain requirements described in the BIL. For instance, applications must prove that a reactor will close for economic reasons and demonstrate that closure will lead to a rise in air pollutants. The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission must also provide assurance to DOE that the reactor will continue to operate safely.

Certified reactors will be invited to participate in a sealed bid process to receive credits from DOE. The Department will evaluate the bids and allocate credits to as many certified reactors as possible.

Oversight

DOE will conduct periodic audits over the four-year credit period and can recapture credits if a reactor ceases operation

during that timeframe or if it does not operate at an average annual loss in the absence of credits.

What's Next?

The U.S. Department of Energy issued a Notice of Intent (NOI) and /Request for Information (RFI) to assist in the development of the Civil Nuclear Credit Program. The NOI lets interested parties know that DOE plans to issue a notice of applications and provides an opportunity for potential applicants to submit voluntary, non-binding expressions of interest in the CNC Program. The RFI seeks input regarding the structure and execution of the program, including the certification process and eligibility criteria, invitations to submit bids for credits, and the allocation of credits.

The Impact

Commercial reactors currently provide more than half of the nation's emissions-free electricity and are essential in helping the United States reach its net-zero emissions goal by 2050.

Shifting energy markets and other economic factors have led to early closures of 12 commercial reactors across the United States and thousands of good-paying jobs were lost in the process. More economically at-risk facilities could end operations in the coming years.

Data sets suggest that closing nuclear power plants results in an increase in air pollutants and carbon emissions because fossil fuel plants typically fill the void left by carbon-free nuclear facilities.