



Civil Nuclear Credit Program

The Civil Nuclear Credit Program (CNC) is a \$6 billion strategic investment through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) that aims to prevent the premature retirement of nuclear reactors across the country while reserving thousands of good-paying energy jobs. Nuclear reactors are a reliable and consistent energy resource with stable generation capacity allowing the grid to more effectively integrate electricity from variable energy resources like solar and wind, while providing all Americans access to clean, resilient and affordable electricity, anytime, anywhere.

Why Do We Need the Civil Nuclear Credit Program?

Nuclear reactors support energy independence by ensuring the reliable availability of clean, resilient, and affordable power for homes and businesses across the country.

However, shifting energy markets and other economic factors have already led to the early closures of 13 commercial nuclear power reactors across the United States in the last decade. Data shows that closing nuclear power plants can lead to an increase in air pollutants and carbon emissions, which results in poorer air quality in surrounding areas and the loss of thousands of clean energy jobs that contribute to building strong local economies.

What is the Civil Nuclear Credit Program?

Under CNC, owners or operators of commercial U.S. reactors can apply for certification to bid on credits to support their continued operations. An application must demonstrate the reactor is projected to close for economic reasons and that closure will lead to a rise in air pollutants and carbon emissions. The Secretary of Energy must also determine that the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission has reasonable assurance that the reactor will continue operating according to its current licensing basis and poses no significant safety hazards.

Credits will be allocated to selected certified reactors over a four-year period beginning on the date of the selection and credits can be awarded through September 30, 2031, if funds remain available.

What are Civil Nuclear Credits?

All operating U.S. reactors are invited to apply for CNC certification. Those determined to be eligible will be invited to submit sealed bids for civil nuclear credits. Credits are allocated based on bids submitted to DOE by certified reactors.

The conditional award value represents the maximum credit value and corresponds to the difference between the projected costs plus risk and revenues. Allocated credits are redeemable for future payment (like a voucher) after each award year. Actual costs and revenues will be submitted for audit, and any adjustment, which would only result in less money for the awardee, will be completed prior to payment. Credits will only be paid after the annual audit.

Visit <https://www.energy.gov/gdo/civil-nuclear-credit-program> for additional information.