

CLEARPATH

NRC Grants Centrus Energy License to Produce Advanced Nuclear Fuel

Washington, DC – Tuesday, June 15, 2021 – The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) granted a license to [Centrus Energy](#), a nuclear fuel supplier, to produce high-assay low-enriched uranium (HALEU) at their Piketon, Ohio facility. This is the culmination of a 3-year, \$115 million cost-share between Centrus Energy and the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) to demonstrate the production of HALEU.

“We are on the front end of a resurgence in nuclear energy, but without a domestic HALEU supply, advanced nuclear companies will be unable to develop their designs without importing fuel from Russia,” said ClearPath Executive Director Rich Powell. “Filling this supply here will help solidify America’s nuclear energy leadership role over China and Russia, who have been trying to corner the advanced reactor technology and fuel market.”

Provisions in the Energy Act of 2020 will develop a U.S. supply of advanced nuclear fuel for new reactors by requiring the DOE to establish a program to develop HALEU. HALEU is uranium enriched beyond what current models of nuclear reactors require, but much lower than what is necessary for any nuclear weapons.

There are dozens of advanced nuclear designs under development in the United States, some of which will be building demonstration reactors in the next five to seven years. Most of these reactors can only run on HALEU, the nuclear equivalent of premium gasoline, which doesn’t currently have a commercial supply in the U.S. Currently, Russia is the only country developing fuel that could accommodate most of the advanced reactor designs.

The use of HALEU will require transportation infrastructure, and Congress also authorized the DOE to research new types of transportation packaging for HALEU.

ABOUT CLEARPATH

ClearPath 501(c)(3) was established by businessman Jay Faison in 2014. ClearPath’s mission is to develop and advance policies that accelerate breakthrough innovations that reduce emissions in the energy and industrial sectors. To advance that mission, we develop cutting-edge policy solutions on clean energy and industrial innovation. An entrepreneurial, strategic nonprofit, ClearPath 501(c)(3) collaborates with public and private sector stakeholders on innovations in nuclear energy, carbon capture, hydropower, natural gas, geothermal, energy

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