

they demonstrate the positive impact of excellent teachers on student achievement.

The PAEMST application and award process consists of the following components:

Nomination --> Application --> State Review --> State Finalist Selection --> Application Refinement --> National Review --> Award Notification -->

Award Announcement --> Awardee Recognition --> Awardee Engagement

PAEMST applicants are evaluated according to five “dimensions”:

*Dimension 1:* Mastery of content appropriate for the grade level taught.

*Dimension 2:* Use of effective instructional approaches that are appropriate for the students in the classroom and that support student learning.

*Dimension 3:* Effective use of student assessments to evaluate, monitor, and improve student learning.

*Dimension 4:* Reflective practice and life-long learning to improve teaching and student learning.

*Dimension 5:* Opportunity, access, and leadership in education inside and outside the classroom.

The PAESMEM award serves as the nation’s highest recognition of excellence in mentoring in STEM. It was established by the White House in 1995. Annually, up to 15 individuals and organizations are honored for their passion, dedication, and impact on mentoring, which supports the future productivity of the U.S. STEM workforce. Over 350 mentors have received the award to date.

Nominations (including self-nominations) are encouraged from all geographic regions of the United States. Individuals and organizations from the public and private sectors—including industry, academia, K–12, military and government, non-profit organizations, and foundations—are eligible.

Exceptional STEM or STEM-related mentoring in both formal and informal settings is eligible for recognition. Each individual or organization selected for an award receives \$10,000 and a certificate signed by the President.

Awardees are also invited to participate in a recognition ceremony in Washington, DC, which includes meetings with leaders in STEM education, research, and policy. New awardees join a community of award-winning mentors and have opportunities to expand their impact on a national scale.

The PAESMEM application and award process consists of the following components:

Nomination --> Application --> National Review --> Award Notification

--> Award Announcement --> Awardee Recognition --> Awardee Engagement

PAESMEM applicants are evaluated according to four “dimensions”:

*Dimension 1:* Mentoring Philosophy and Strategies

*Dimension 2:* Assessment and Outcomes

*Dimension 3:* Reflective Practice

*Dimension 4:* Leadership and Sustainability

## II. Solicitation of Comments: Reviewing the PAEMST and PAESMEM Programs

As part of NSF’s commitment to supporting the development of a robust, high-quality STEM workforce in the United States, the agency wishes to continue to stimulate innovation and promote high-quality teaching at the K–12 level and mentoring across all levels. NSF seeks information to inform an assessment and update of the PAEMST and PAESMEM programs. In particular, NSF requests insights on exemplary practices and input on lessons learned from the programs; the information that the programs should require nominators and applicants to provide; and the criteria that the programs should use to determine which applicants/nominees should be selected to receive an award.

Responding to the questions below is voluntary; all questions are optional. If you choose to respond, please respond to *any* or *all* of the questions and respond with regard to *both* programs (PAEMST and PAESMEM) or *either* program.

1. Do you think that any components of the PAEMST and/or PAESMEM application and award processes should be revised to more effectively promote identification and recognition of the highest quality teachers and mentors from all types of institutions across the nation?

2. Do you think that any of the “dimensions” (outlined in the background section above) that are used to evaluate applicants/nominees should be revised or removed/eliminated? Should any new dimensions be considered? Please provide justification for the changes suggested.

3. How do you think applicants’/nominees’ success in each dimension should be indicated in applications and assessed as part of the review process? In particular, how should the applicants/nominees demonstrate that they are using effective pedagogies, models, and frameworks to achieve success in teaching or mentoring for the communities they serve? How should they demonstrate the use of research and data to set goals, to monitor progress toward goals, to address gaps

and defects in their practices, and to ensure success and impact?

4. How do you think applicants/nominees should demonstrate the effectiveness and impact of their efforts on the STEM workforce (including the teacher/faculty workforce)? Important elements of such efforts include a commitment to success for all students; promoting students’ persistence in STEM and advancement in the STEM workforce; engaging in professional development; providing advice to colleagues and service to the community; building knowledge in STEM education; and exhibiting transparency regarding outcomes.

This is a request for information only. It is not a Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) or a promise to issue a NOFO. Information and documents submitted in response to this RFI become the property of the U.S. Government and will not be returned.

*Accessible Format:* If you need this document in an accessible format, contact the person(s) listed under “For Further Information Contact” above for an accommodation. Please specify the format(s) that would meet your needs.

*Electronic Access to This Document:* The official version of this document is the version published in the **Federal Register**, which is available online at <https://www.federalregister.gov>.

(Authority: 42 U.S.C. 1861, *et seq.*)

Dated: April 24, 2026.

**Suzanne H. Plimpton,**  
*Reports Clearance Officer, National Science Foundation.*

[FR Doc. 2026–08226 Filed 4–27–26; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 7555–01–P**

## NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

[NRC–2026–0001]

### Sunshine Act Meetings

**TIME AND DATE:** Weeks of April 27, May 4, 11, 18, 25, and June 1, 2026. The schedule for Commission meetings is subject to change on short notice. The NRC Commission Meeting Schedule can be found on the internet at: <https://www.nrc.gov/public-involve/public-meetings/schedule.html>.

**PLACE:** The NRC provides reasonable accommodation to individuals with disabilities where appropriate. If you need a reasonable accommodation to participate in these public meetings or need this meeting notice or the transcript or other information from the public meetings in another format (*e.g.*, braille, large print), please contact the

Reasonable Accommodations Resource by email at [Reasonable\\_Accommodations.Resource@nrc.gov](mailto:Reasonable_Accommodations.Resource@nrc.gov). Determinations on requests for reasonable accommodation will be made on a case-by-case basis.

**STATUS:** Public.

Members of the public may request to receive the information in these notices electronically. If you would like to be added to the distribution, please contact the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Office of the Secretary, Washington, DC 20555, at 301-415-1969, or by email at [Betty.Thweatt@nrc.gov](mailto:Betty.Thweatt@nrc.gov) or [Samantha.Miklaszewski@nrc.gov](mailto:Samantha.Miklaszewski@nrc.gov).

**MATTERS TO BE CONSIDERED:**

**Week of April 27, 2026**

There are no meetings scheduled for the week of April 27, 2026.

**Week of May 4, 2026—Tentative**

*Tuesday, May 5, 2026*

10:00 a.m. Briefing on Human Capital and Equal Employment Opportunity (Public Meeting) (Contact: Erin Deeds: 301-415-2887)

*Additional Information:* The meeting will be held in the Commissioners' Hearing Room, 11555 Rockville Pike, Rockville, Maryland. The public is invited to attend the Commission's meeting in person or watch live via webcast at the Web address—<https://video.nrc.gov/>.

*Thursday, May 7, 2026*

9:00 a.m. Strategic Programmatic Overview of the Fuel Facilities and Spent Fuel Storage and Transportation Business Lines (Public Meeting) (Contact: Annie Ramirez: 301-415-6780)

*Additional Information:* The meeting will be held in the Commissioners' Hearing Room, 11555 Rockville Pike, Rockville, Maryland. The public is invited to attend the Commission's meeting in person or watch live via webcast at the Web address—<https://video.nrc.gov/>.

**Week of May 11, 2026—Tentative**

There are no meetings scheduled for the week of May 11, 2026.

**Week of May 18, 2026—Tentative**

There are no meetings scheduled for the week of May 18, 2026.

**Week of May 25, 2026—Tentative**

There are no meetings scheduled for the week of May 25, 2026.

**Week of June 1, 2026—Tentative**

*Friday, June 5, 2026*

10:00 a.m. Meeting with the Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards (Public Meeting) (Contact: Rob Krsek: 301-415-1766)

*Additional Information:* The meeting will be held in the Commissioners' Hearing Room, 11555 Rockville Pike, Rockville, Maryland. The public is invited to attend the Commission's meeting in person or watch live via webcast at the Web address—<https://video.nrc.gov/>.

**CONTACT PERSON FOR MORE INFORMATION:** For more information or to verify the status of meetings, contact Wesley Held at 301-287-3591 or via email at [Wesley.Held@nrc.gov](mailto:Wesley.Held@nrc.gov).

The NRC is holding the meetings under the authority of the Government in the Sunshine Act, 5 U.S.C. 552b.

Dated: April 24, 2026.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

**Wesley W. Held,**

*Policy Coordinator, Office of the Secretary.*

[FR Doc. 2026-08236 Filed 4-24-26; 4:15 pm]

**BILLING CODE 7590-01-P**

**NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION**

**[Docket Nos. 72-1031, 50-413, and 50-414; NRC-2026-1486]**

**Duke Energy Carolinas, LLC; Catawba Nuclear Station, Units 1 and 2; Independent Spent Fuel Storage Installation; Exemption**

**AGENCY:** Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

**ACTION:** Notice; issuance.

**SUMMARY:** The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) issued an exemption to Duke Energy Carolinas, LLC (Duke), permitting Catawba Nuclear Station (CNS) to maintain one loaded transportable storage canister (TSC) and to load nine new TSCs in the MAGNASTOR® storage system at the CNS Units 1 and 2 independent spent fuel storage installation, beginning July 6, 2026, in a storage condition where the terms, conditions, and specifications in the Certificate of Compliance No. 1031, Amendment No. 15, are not met.

**DATES:** The exemption was issued on April 21, 2026.

**ADDRESSES:** Please refer to Docket ID NRC-2026-1486 when contacting the NRC about the availability of information regarding this document. You may obtain publicly available information related to this document using any of the following methods:

- *Federal Rulemaking Website:* Go to <https://www.regulations.gov> and search for Docket ID NRC-2026-1486. Address questions about Docket IDs in [Regulations.gov](https://www.regulations.gov) to Bridget Curran; telephone: 301-415-1003; email: [Bridget.Curran@nrc.gov](mailto:Bridget.Curran@nrc.gov). For technical questions, contact the individual listed in the **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**, section of this document.

- *NRC's Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS):* You may obtain publicly available documents online in the ADAMS Public Documents collection at <https://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html>. To begin the search, select "Begin ADAMS Public Search." For problems with ADAMS, please contact the NRC's Public Document Room (PDR) reference staff at 1-800-397-4209, at 301-415-4737, or by email to [PDR.Resource@nrc.gov](mailto:PDR.Resource@nrc.gov). The ADAMS accession number for each document referenced (if it is available in ADAMS) is provided the first time that it is mentioned in this document.

- *NRC's PDR:* The PDR, where you may examine and order copies of publicly available documents, is open by appointment. To make an appointment to visit the PDR, please send an email to [PDR.Resource@nrc.gov](mailto:PDR.Resource@nrc.gov) or call 1-800-397-4209 or 301-415-4737, between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. eastern time (ET), Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** John-Chau Nguyen, Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555; telephone: 301-415-0262; email: [John-Chau.Nguyen@nrc.gov](mailto:John-Chau.Nguyen@nrc.gov).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The text of the exemption is attached.

*Authority:* 42 U.S.C. 2011 *et seq.*

Dated: April 24, 2026.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

**Yaira Diaz-Sanabria,**

*Chief, Storage and Transportation Licensing Branch, Division of Fuel Management, Office of Nuclear Material Safety, and Safeguards.*

**Attachment—Exemption**

**NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION**

**Docket Nos. 72-1031, 50-413, and 50-414**

**Duke Energy Carolinas, LLC Catawba Nuclear Station, Units 1 and 2 Independent Spent Fuel Storage Installation**

**I. Background**

Duke Energy Carolinas, LLC (Duke) is the holder of Facility Operating