American Nuclear Society

Position Statement #54

The Price-Anderson Act

The American Nuclear Society endorses the extension of the Price-Anderson Act enacted through the Energy Policy Act of 2005. The Price-Anderson Act covers all licensed nuclear power plants, research and test reactors, and contracts entered by the U.S. Department of Energy through December 31, 2025. It also establishes the framework for liability claims that arise from the use or exposure to radioactive materials.

The indemnity provisions of the Price-Anderson Act ensure that adequate and timely funds are available to compensate the public in case of a nuclear incident. In case of an extraordinary nuclear occurrence, the Act channels the full liability from all those associated with a nuclear project to one single licensee or contractor.

Existence and extension of the Price-Anderson Act do not imply declining safety performance by nuclear facilities. In particular, the safety records of commercial nuclear power plants have improved significantly during the last decade. However, failure to renew the Act would deter private sector participation in nuclear activities.

The Price-Anderson Act has proved to be beneficial to the public at no cost to the taxpayer

American Nuclear Society

Communications & Outreach Department
555 North Kensington Ave.
La Grange Park, IL 60526-5592

708-352-6611 telephone

outreach@ans.org e-mail
www.ans.org

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