



Minnesota Nuclear Energy Study

Frequently Asked Questions

LAST UPDATED: August 14, 2026

WHAT IS THE MINNESOTA NUCLEAR ENERGY STUDY?

At the direction of the Minnesota Legislature, the Minnesota Department of Commerce has contracted with the Great Plains Institute (GPI) to conduct a study to: “inform policymakers regarding the potential impact of new nuclear generation on the public interest of Minnesota, including affordability, reliability, environmental protection, and public health.” The study must be completed by January 2027 and will reflect a balanced representation of perspectives.

WHY IS THE STUDY BEING CONDUCTED?

The study is required by [HF 2438, Article 8, Section 11](#). The legislation directs the Department of Commerce to ensure that the study reflects a balanced representation of perspectives and addresses a set of issues related to the potential development of new nuclear generation in Minnesota. The completed study will provide policy makers with information about potential benefits, costs, risks, uncertainties, and other considerations associated with new nuclear generation.

DOES THE STUDY ASSUME THAT MINNESOTA WILL DEVELOP NEW NUCLEAR GENERATION?

No. Under current state law (Statute 216B.243 Subd. 3b), Minnesota maintains a moratorium on building new nuclear electricity-generating plants. The moratorium may only be changed through legislation. As such, the study does not assume that new nuclear facilities will or should be developed in Minnesota. The study is intended to provide information to policy makers. It will not make recommendations to the Legislature, the Department of Commerce, utilities, regulators, or communities.

IS THE STUDY EVALUATING A SPECIFIC NUCLEAR PROJECT OR LOCATION?

No. The study is not evaluating any specific project or location. It will examine the potential implications of new nuclear generation in Minnesota more broadly, including the factors that could affect where a facility might be located.

WHAT TOPICS WILL THE STUDY EXAMINE?

The legislation requires the study to address:

- Changes in federal nuclear licensing regulations
- Technological advances affecting the safety and cost of conventional nuclear facilities
- Full lifecycle costs compared with alternative baseload resources
- Potential effects on electricity rates and ratepayers
- Public subsidies, tax expenditures, and financial incentives that may be applied to new nuclear investments
- Small modular reactors and factory-built portable modules with capacities of up to 300 megawatts
- Siting considerations, including water, colocation, environmental and public health impacts, host community acceptance, community engagement, transmission, and interconnection
- Nuclear waste generation, storage, disposal, and reprocessing
- Economic and tax impacts on host communities
- Emergency planning and impacts on public safety officials and emergency responders
- Impacts on Minnesota's greenhouse gas reduction and carbon-free electricity goals
- Project development timelines, including permitting, construction, and operation
- Minnesota statutes and administrative rules that would require modification to enable the construction and operation of new reactors
- The feasibility of replacing retiring generation facilities with advanced nuclear reactors
- Workforce availability and training needs

About the Request for Information

WHAT IS THE REQUEST FOR INFORMATION?

The Request for Information, or RFI, is an opportunity for interested parties to share factual information relevant to the specific topics identified by the Minnesota Legislature. These topics include nuclear technologies, costs, ratepayer impacts, siting, waste management, economic and workforce impacts, public safety, state energy goals, and Minnesota's existing laws and regulations.

The RFI is intended to help GPI identify information to consider in its research and analysis.

WHO MAY RESPOND TO THE RFI?

GPI welcomes organizations and individuals with expertise in the legislatively directed topics to submit relevant factual information in response to the RFI.

DO I NEED TO ANSWER EVERY QUESTION?

No. Respondents may answer as many or as few questions as they choose. You are encouraged to focus on the topics for which you have relevant information or expertise.

WHAT TYPES OF INFORMATION MAY I SUBMIT?

Responses may include:

- Research reports, studies, or datasets
- Technical or economic analyses
- Factual information on nuclear projects or technologies
- Community, workforce, public health, safety, or emergency response information
- Examples from Minnesota, other states, or other countries
- Other information relevant to the topics identified in the legislation

Respondents are encouraged to provide citations, links, supporting documents, or explanations of the methods and assumptions underlying submitted information when available.

HOW DO I SUBMIT A RESPONSE?

Responses may be submitted through the online RFI form available at:

<https://www.cognitoforms.com/GreatPlainsInstitute1/RequestForInformationMinnesotaNuclearEnergyStudy>.

View the website and learn more about the study at: <https://betterenergy.org/minnesota-nuclear-study/>.

The form allows respondents to provide written answers and upload supporting materials. For questions about submitting a response or requesting an alternative submission format, please contact us at mnnuclearstudy@gpisd.net.

WHEN ARE RESPONSES DUE?

Responses must be submitted by 11:59 p.m. CT on September 14, 2026.

Information submitted after the RFI closes may be considered as time—and the study process—allows, but GPI cannot guarantee that late submissions will be reviewed.

WILL RESPONSES BE MADE PUBLIC OR ATTRIBUTED TO RESPONDENTS?

Responses may be made public and attributed to organizations or respondents. Respondents should not submit sensitive personal information, confidential business information, copyrighted materials they are not authorized to share, or other information that should not be included in a public study.

HOW WILL RFI RESPONSES BE USED?

GPI will review and organize responses to identify relevant information and assess any resulting information gaps. Responses may inform the study's research, analysis, and discussion of the topics directed by the Legislature.

Submitting information does not guarantee that it will be cited or incorporated into the study. GPI will evaluate submitted information for relevance, reliability, methodology, context, and consistency with the study's scope.

IS THE RFI A PUBLIC VOTE ON NUCLEAR ENERGY?

No. The RFI is an information-gathering process, not a referendum, poll, or vote. The number of responses expressing a particular position will not affect the study's findings. The purpose of the RFI is to collect relevant information.

HOW WILL THE STUDY ENSURE BALANCED REPRESENTATION OF PERSPECTIVES?

GPI will seek information from a broad range of parties, including technical experts, Tribal Nations, communities, government agencies, utilities, environmental advocates, consumer advocates, business and industry advocates, workforce advocates, and others. The research team will also review relevant technical literature, data, laws, regulations, project information, and other evidence.

Balanced representation does not require agreement among participants. GPI will document differing perspectives and evaluate the quality, relevance, credibility, and limitations of available information when developing the study's findings.

WILL THERE BE OTHER OPPORTUNITIES TO PARTICIPATE?

The RFI is the primary opportunity for anyone to provide information relevant to the study. In addition, GPI may conduct targeted outreach to Tribal Nations, technical experts, affected communities, and others.

Study Process and Final Report

WHO IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE STUDY?

The Minnesota Department of Commerce is responsible for overseeing the study required by HF 2438, Article 8, Section 11. The Department has contracted with GPI to complete the study.

The Department provides project oversight and reviews the study deliverables. GPI is responsible for conducting the study and preparing evidence-based findings consistent with the legislative requirements.

WILL THE STUDY'S DATA AND ASSUMPTIONS BE AVAILABLE TO THE PUBLIC?

The legislation requires the study to be conducted transparently, with data, assumptions, and models made publicly available. GPI and the Department of Commerce will document the information and analytical assumptions used in the study, subject to applicable legal, contractual, privacy, accessibility, and data-use limitations.

WHEN WILL THE STUDY BE COMPLETED?

The study must be completed by January 30, 2027. The Minnesota Department of Commerce must submit the study to the chairs and ranking minority members of the legislative committees with jurisdiction over energy policy and finance by February 1, 2027.

WHERE WILL THE COMPLETED STUDY BE AVAILABLE?

The completed study and information will be posted on the Minnesota Legislature Reference Library [website](#).

OTHER QUESTIONS

We will continue to update this document with additional information throughout the study period. If you have additional questions about the RFI or the Minnesota Nuclear Energy Study, please email us at mnnuclearstudy@gpisd.net.