NATIONAL ACADEMIES Sciences Engineering Medicine

Nuclear and Radiation Studies Board

PUBLIC AGENDA
December 4, 2025

This is a VIRTUAL meeting. All times are U.S. Eastern.

1:30 PM – 1:35 PM **Welcome and opening remarks**
Will Tobey, Nuclear and Radiation Studies Board (NRSB) Chair

1:35 PM – 2:40 PM **Presentation and discussion on powering AI data centers and the Department of Energy's Data Center Initiative**

Executive Order (EO) "Removing Barriers to American Leadership in Artificial Intelligence" along with EO "Unleashing American Energy" directs the federal government to develop an Artificial Intelligence Action Plan to ensure energy infrastructure. The Department of Energy (DOE) identified 16 federal sites for data center and AI infrastructure development and issued a Request for Information on Artificial Intelligence Infrastructure on DOE Lands. The board will learn about the ongoing work to support the Department of Energy's Artificial Intelligence (AI) Data Center Initiative and options and opportunities for powering data centers.

Department of Energy – Office of Environmental Management: Updates on AI/Data Centers and Advanced Reactors
Holly Akers, Environmental Protection Specialist with the Department of Energy's Office of Environmental Management (DOE-EM)

Promoting SMRs Will Slow or Stop any 'Nuclear Renaissance' and Undermine U.S. Leadership in AI
Joseph Romm, Senior Research Fellow at the Penn Center for Science, Sustainability and the Media, University of Pennsylvania

Fast, Flexible Solutions for Data Centers
Yuki Numata, Senior Associate, Strategy Team, RMI

Moderator: *Shaheen Dewji*, Associate Professor, Woodruff Faculty Fellow, Nuclear and Radiological Engineering and Medical Physics Programs, George W. Woodruff School of Mechanical Engineering, Georgia Institute of Technology, and Member of the Nuclear and Radiation Studies Board

2:40 PM – 3:00 PM **Board discussion with the panel and Q&A**

3:00 PM **Adjourn Open Session**
Will Tobey

BIOGRAPHIES

Ms. Holly Akers has two decades of experience working in private consulting and federal service on environmental remediation and regulatory compliance programs. Ms. Akers joined the federal workforce in 2014 at the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers where her roles included project engineering, project management, and environmental engineering and groundwater subject matter expertise. In 2023, Ms. Akers joined the Office of Regulatory Compliance in the Office of Environmental Management for the U.S. Department of Energy where she supports environmental cleanup and the effort to leverage land assets for the development of new and innovative artificial intelligence and energy infrastructure. Ms. Akers has an undergraduate degree in biochemistry, a master's degree in environmental engineering, and is a licensed Professional Engineer in the State of New York.

Yuki Numata is a Senior Associate with the RMI Strategy Team. She conducts research and analysis on systems change and energy efficiency, developing tools and frameworks that help RMI's partners design and implement effective energy transition strategies. She recently co-authored an RMI report on Fast, Flexible, Solutions for Data Centers. Prior to RMI, Yuki was a policy researcher and consultant, working on topics such as industrial heat, food and land-use, smart cities, and hydrogen. She holds a BA in International Relations from Pomona College and a Master in Public Policy from Harvard University.

Dr. Joseph Romm is a leading expert on the solutions to climate change and their economics. He has worked on nuclear energy policy and analysis for over thirty years. He holds an MIT physics PhD and is a Senior Research Fellow at the UPenn Center for Science, Sustainability, and the Media, which published his April 2025 research paper, *Smaller nuclear reactors (SMRs) are a costly dead end, especially for AI*. From 1993 to 1995, Romm helped the Deputy Secretary oversee the billion-dollar Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy (EERE) as well as the Office of Nuclear Energy. From 1995 to 1998, he helped to run EERE and oversee technology and policy analysis for the office—ultimately serving as Acting Assistant Secretary. In 2008, Romm testified to the Senate EPW Subcommittee on Clean Air and Nuclear Safety on the economics of nuclear power. In 2024, he was awarded the Ban Ki-Moon Award for Environmental Leadership by the former UN Secretary-General. In April, Island Press published his book, "The Hype About Hydrogen: False Promises and Real Solutions in the Race to Save the Climate," which includes a chapter on nuclear power and SMRs.