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## **Nuclear Energy Innovation and Deployment Act (NEIDA)**

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**Sec. 1. Short Title:** Section 1 sets forth the short title of the bill as the “Nuclear Energy Innovation and Deployment Act.”

**Sec. 2. Department of Energy Authorities for Nuclear Facilities:** Section 2 amends Section 202 of the Energy Reorganization Act of 1974 (42 U.S.C. § 5842) and Section 110 a. of the Atomic Energy Act (42 U.S.C. § 2140(a)) to: 1) clarify the Department of Energy’s (DOE) authority with respect to facilities constructed and operated and activities conducted “under contract with and for the account of” DOE, including demonstration reactor projects; and 2) broaden DOE’s authority to allow it to authorize and regulate the construction and operation of commercial nuclear facilities, including reactors and fuel cycle facilities, on federal land or for federal purposes. In addition, this section amends Section 958 of the Energy Policy Act (EPA) of 2005 (42 U.S.C. § 16278(g)(1)) to clarify DOE’s authority for National Reactor Innovation Center (NRIC) supported projects, and directs the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) to revise its regulations in 10 CFR § 30.12, 40.11, 50.11, and 70.11 to remove regulatory limitations on DOE’s existing statutory authority, including with respect to activities performed off of federal government-owned or controlled sites.

**Sec. 3. Nuclear Energy Launch Pad:** Section 3 amends Section 958 of the EPA (42 U.S.C. § 16278) to establish the Nuclear Energy Launch Pad within the Office of Nuclear Energy as a component of NRIC. Under the program, the Assistant Secretary for Nuclear Energy is directed to identify and designate portions of federal land, including DOE and National Laboratory sites, as Nuclear Energy Launch Pad Zones for the purpose of testing and demonstrating the commercial feasibility of advanced nuclear technologies by private entities under DOE authorities. The Assistant Secretary is also directed to ensure the Launch Pad provides a pathway for private entities to test and demonstrate advanced nuclear technologies under DOE authorities at non-federal sites, also to be called Nuclear Energy Launch Pad Zones. Technologies demonstrated under the Launch Pad would then have opportunities for expedited NRC commercial licensing. This section aligns with DOE’s Nuclear Energy Launch Pad initiative, which builds on the Reactor and Fuel Line Pilot programs established in response to President Trump’s May 2025 nuclear energy executive orders (EOs).

**Sec. 4. Role of PMAs with respect to Nuclear Power:** Section 4 amends Section 302(a) of the Department of Energy Organization Act (42 U.S.C. § 7152) to clarify that the Secretary may utilize the power marketing agencies (PMAs) to “purchase, transmit, or enter into contracts to market electric power generated by nuclear facilities.” This section also provides that electricity generated by a nuclear facility shall be treated as federal power if it is purchased, transmitted, or marketed by a PMA. Together, these amendments remove ambiguity about whether the PMAs may serve as the federal marketing entity for nuclear power, clarify that PMAs may integrate nuclear power into their existing power marketing activities, and ensure that electricity generated by nuclear facilities can be treated consistently with other federal power under applicable statutes. Importantly, this section provides that PMAs must exercise this

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authority subject to their existing statutory authorities and limitations governing the acquisition of electric power resources.

**Sec. 5. Advanced Reactor Demonstration Program:** Section 5 amends Section 959A of the EPA Act (42 U.S.C. 16279a) to ensure that the Advanced Reactor Demonstration Program is administered by the Office of Nuclear Energy.

**Sec. 6. Surplus Plutonium for Commercial Reactors:** Section 6 terminates the Surplus Plutonium Dilute and Dispose Program (except as it relates to DOE's legal obligations to the State of South Carolina) and transfers the unobligated balance of any amounts previously made available for that program to the Office of Nuclear Energy to carry out a new program known as the Surplus Plutonium for Commercial Reactors Program. Under this program, the Assistant Secretary for Nuclear Energy, in coordination with Under Secretary for Nuclear Security and the Assistant Secretary for Environmental Management, is directed to identify, enter into agreements with, and distribute the material to qualified "participants" through a milestone-based program for use in advanced nuclear reactors. This section aligns with efforts already underway at DOE per EO 14302.