

Nickalus Holmes

From: Nickalus Holmes on behalf of Records Clerk
Sent: Tuesday, February 17, 2026 9:13 AM
To: 'Robert Trento'
Cc: Consumer Contact
Subject: RE: As Demand Grows, US Nuclear Energy Industry Faces Looming Crunch in Reactor Fuel Supply | The Epoch Times

Good Morning

We will be placing your comments below in consumer correspondence in Docket No. 20260000, and forwarding them to the Office of Consumer Assistance.

Thank you,
Nick Holmes
Commission Deputy Clerk II
Office of Commission Clerk
Florida Public Service Commission
850-413-6770

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From: Robert Trento <btrento60@icloud.com>
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Subject: As Demand Grows, US Nuclear Energy Industry Faces Looming Crunch in Reactor Fuel Supply | The Epoch Times

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As Demand Grows, US Nuclear Energy Industry Faces Looming Crunch in Reactor Fuel Supply

The Epoch Times

Note:FL legislators:

- **CCP** will never run out of “Thin Wafer Solar Panels”, Batteries-(No one wants, X FL) 😞😞????????
- World converting to Nuclear, LNG- FL Planting CCP Solar Farms everywhere 😞!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Please advise

- Why FL Utilities continue to expand Solar?
- MUST Expand Nuclear, LNG clean fossil fuel Plants, stop closing coal, Diesel plants!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

https://www.theepochtimes.com/business/as-demand-grows-us-nuclear-energy-industry-faces-looming-crunch-in-reactor-fuel-supply-5985712?ea_src=frontpage&ea_med=section-1

As Demand Grows, US Nuclear Energy Industry Faces Looming Crunch in Reactor Fuel Supply

Experts laud \$2.7 billion outlay to rebuild nation’s capacity to enrich uranium, but warn it may take a decade for domestic production to meet burgeoning need.

2/15/2026



The Three Mile Island Nuclear Plant is seen in Middletown, Pa., in the early morning hours of March 28, 2011. Jeff Fusco/Getty Images

SEATTLE—The Department of Energy (DOE) has invested billions in incentivizing domestic production of enriched uranium for the commercial development of advanced nuclear reactors, including \$2.7 billion issued last month to three companies to build centrifuges and processing plants necessary to produce fuel for reactor cores.

Yet, a fuel crunch that could cobble President Donald Trump’s “nuclear renaissance” initiatives looms as soon as 2028, several experts warned during the two-day U.S. Nuclear Industry Council’s 13th annual Advanced Reactors Summit in Seattle that concluded Feb. 12.

“If America wants to lead in advanced reactors, we have to do the nuclear fuel here. Make no mistake about that,” Centrus Energy Senior Vice President Patrick Brown told more than 400 nuclear industry professionals on Feb.12. “Unfortunately, we’re really building from zero.”

Right now, he said, less than 1 percent of the nuclear fuel that the nation’s 94 commercial reactors annually consume is produced domestically, and that is exclusively dedicated to the

Pentagon. The nation’s commercial nuclear energy industry is “completely reliant on foreign imports” of enriched uranium, he said, primarily from Kazakhstan and Canada.

Those imports include up to 5 percent from Russia that won’t be available soon. In response to Russia’s invasion of Ukraine in 2022, Congress in 2023 banned U.S. companies from importing Russian uranium. That ban goes into effect on Jan. 1, 2028.

Brown said with the global nuclear fuel market already constrained, domestic industry’s scramble to revive enrichment—a process American companies invented and once dominated—is now a race to have supply available to meet demand as new reactors come online.

Because that demand—spurred by the *president’s May 2025 executive orders to license 10 new reactors by 2030 and quadruple commercial nuclear energy output by 2050—is likely to outpace domestic fuel production until the early 2030s, he said a timing shortage will emerge in 2028.*

“That’s when we’ll see that the problem is there’s not enough non-Russian supply” of enriched uranium to replace even the relatively small amount it now produces in a tight market where restrictions on one supplier impacts the entire market.

“Fortunately,” Brown said, the industry and the Trump administration recognize there is an approaching gap between burgeoning demand and static supply, and has deemed restoring domestic capacity to enrich uranium a national security priority akin to “a second Manhattan Project.”



The entrance of Urenco's uranium enrichment plant in Gronau, Germany. Urenco USA also operates a commercial enrichment plant in New Mexico and is among the few companies in the United States authorized to do so. Volker Hartmann/DDP/AFP via Getty Images

Industry Must Respond

The nation's domestic nuclear fuel supply chain got a \$2.7 billion boost when the Department of Energy on Jan. 5 [issued](#) awards to three domestic companies to enrich low-enriched uranium and high-assay low-enriched uranium.

Securing \$900 million awards each to build uranium enrichment plants are California-based General Matter in a former Paducah gaseous diffusion plant in western Kentucky, North Carolina-headquartered Orano Group's Federal Services operation in Oak Ridge, Tennessee, and Maryland-based Centrus Energy's uranium enrichment plant in Piketon, Ohio.

Story continues below advertisement

Brown said unlike the array of demonstration projects the Department of Energy is sponsoring, such as the Energy Reactor Pilot Program that has 10 companies

ving for federal funding if they can demonstrate functionality of their designs by July 4, 2026, enriching uranium is not a new process.

“We’re not here to do science experiments, right?” he said. “We’re here to go big or go home. We’re not going home. The era of demonstration is over. We are moving onto large-scale commercial production.”

Centrus is already licensed to produce low-enriched uranium and high-assay low-enriched uranium in its Ohio plant, he said. Its Technology and Manufacturing Center in Oak Ridge, Tennessee, is the only domestic manufacturer of centrifuges needed for the enrichment process. It’s ready to gradually scale-up production.

“We have the site. We have the facility,” Brown said. “We have the room to expand” at the Piketon plant, which is demonstrating with 18 centrifuges what could be replicated by thousands. “Our technologies are proven and are actively producing [high-assay low-enriched uranium] today,” he said.

The Department of Energy award is designed to induce a long-term “demand signal” for investors and utilities, he said, by assuring them there will be ample domestic supply of enriched uranium available should they incorporate nuclear power into their grid expansion plans.

However, Brown said, the Piketon plant and other projects nationwide are not expected to reach peak production until the early 2030s, meaning there could be more demand than supply until production can catch up.

While the Department of Energy funding is critical in seeding domestic capacity to be self-sufficient in producing nuclear fuels, how swiftly that can be achieved is now up to the industry itself, he said, encouraging operators to begin negotiating “off take” agreements with Centrus and others engaged in uranium enrichment so they can secure their fuel supply and processors can commit to ramping up with confirmed orders.

“This is the chicken-and-the-egg problem that [the Department of Energy] was trying to solve. They said, ‘Build the capacity and the advanced reactor development will come while we’re building it,’” Brown said. “That’s the message. So we need firm contracts to proceed to build further. So let us know. We’re ready.”