

The Rundown

By: CLEARPATH
ACTION



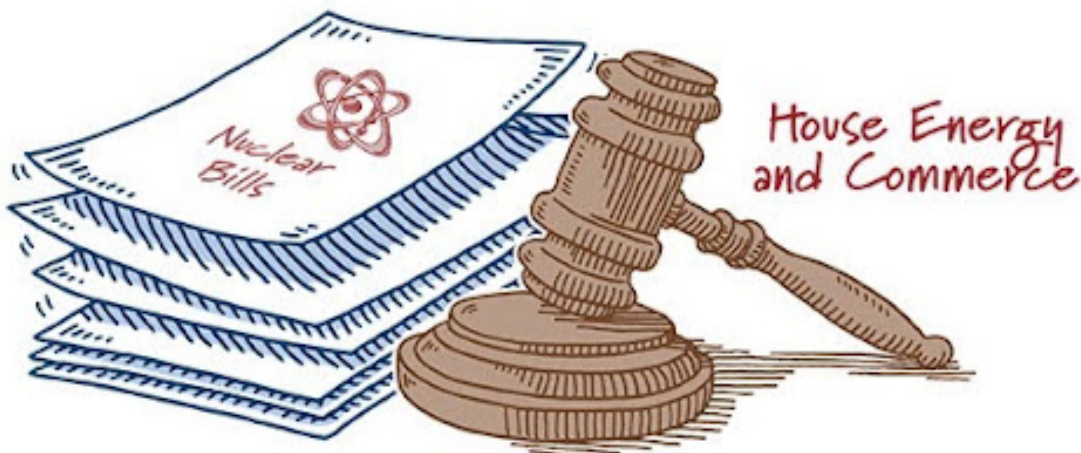
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ClearPath Action Rundown July 17th, 2026

The ClearPath team extends its heartfelt condolences on the passing of Senator Lindsey Graham (R-SC). He was a tireless advocate for American leadership, national security and U.S. energy interests on the world stage. Our thoughts are with his family, staff and colleagues.

1. House panel advances six nuclear energy bills



The House Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Energy **unanimously advanced six bills**, building on the bipartisan **ADVANCE Act** of 2024, which the committee helped pass to modernize Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) licensing.

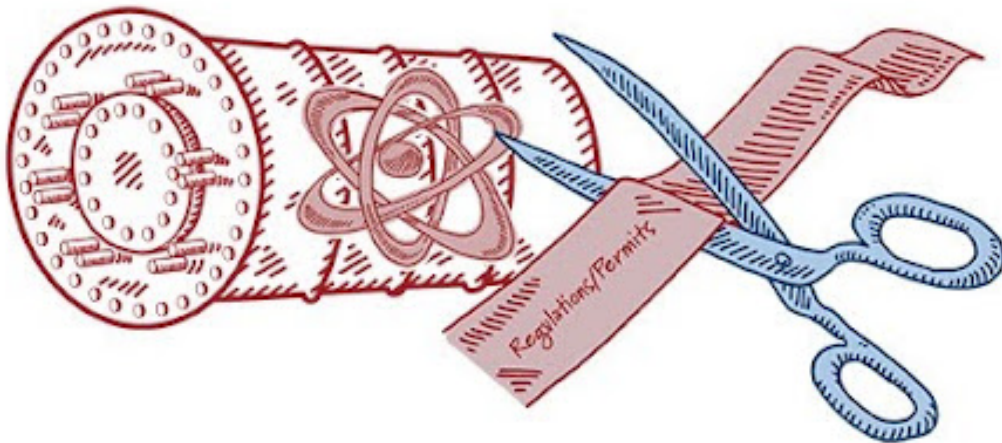
The legislation:

- Removes mandatory hearings on uncontested reactor licensing decisions;
- Accelerates uranium enrichment construction timelines by at least 12 months; and
- Provides regulatory clarity for new spent nuclear fuel recycling facilities.

What's clear: The ADVANCE Act proved nuclear regulatory modernization is a bipartisan issue. Moving targeted bills that continue modernizing nuclear regulation supports the execution of bipartisan Congressional and White House nuclear fuel and deployment programs.

Plug in: **Watch** ClearPath Action CEO Jeremy Harrell's testimony before E&C on why modernizing NRC licensing is critical to keeping American nuclear ahead.

2. Record year for nuclear: DOE reactor pilot program



The U.S. is now the first country in history to reach criticality in multiple unique advanced microreactor designs within a single month. Four DOE-authorized test reactors, including Antares Nuclear's **Mark-0**, Valar Atomix's **Ward 250**, Deployable Energy's **Unity** and Aalo Atomix's **Aalo-X**, achieved criticality by the July 4 deadline set by President Trump's May 2025 **nuclear executive order**.

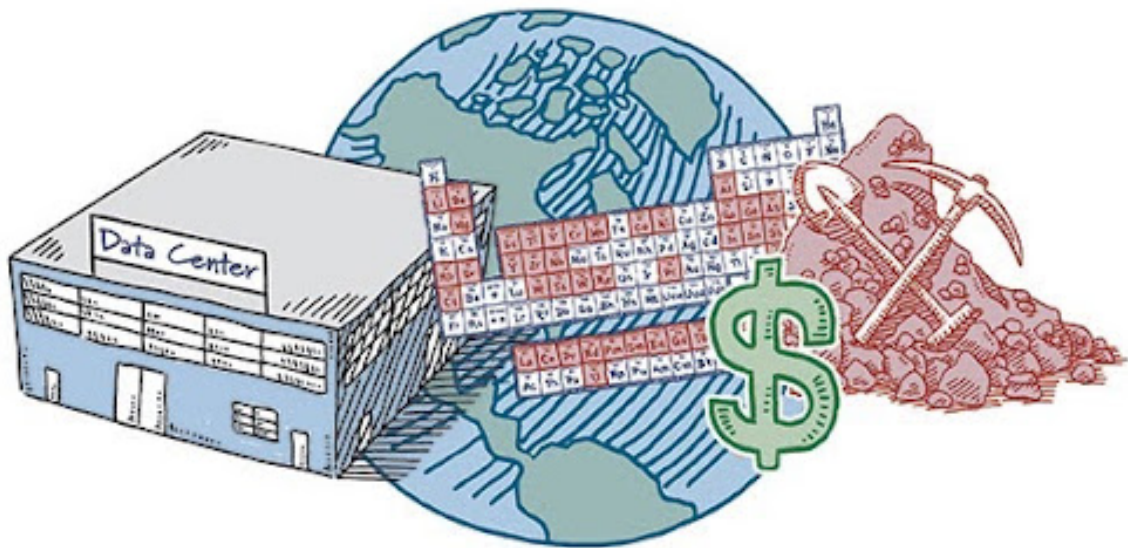
The next phase, **Launch Pad**, is the institutionalized version of this program, administered by the National Reactor Innovation Center (NRIC) at Idaho National Laboratory (INL). Launch Pad gives developers three ways to prototype:

- Launch Pad INL offers developers 2,000 acres at INL to site new test reactors;
- Launch Pad USA extends that access to other national labs and non-federal land nationwide; and
- **DOME**, a microreactor test bed that opened at INL in April 2026, gives companies a dedicated facility to test designs before committing to a commercial build.

What's clear: Hitting criticality made headlines, but the bigger win is proving that a privately-led, publicly enabled testing pathway can accelerate advanced technology development. Commercial deployment now depends on what comes next: reliable operation, repeatable manufacturing and a domestic supply chain built to scale.

Plug in: Read ClearPath's **blog** for the full breakdown of what Launch Pad means for America's advanced reactor pipeline.

3. U.S. assumes chair of global critical minerals coalition



Energy infrastructure, defense technologies and data centers all rely on secure access to critical minerals. To expand capacity and reduce dependence on adversarial sources, the Trump Administration launched the **Forum on Resource Geostrategic Engagement** (FORGE), a coalition of partner nations working to build secure and resilient critical mineral supply chains. The United States **is now chair** of the coalition.

The coalition released guiding principles establishing two working groups:

- The Projects Investment Working Group will identify strategic mining, processing and recycling projects, connect them with downstream demand and coordinate public and private financing to accelerate investment.
- The Policy Coordination Working Group will coordinate policy measures, share information and support high standards in mining, processing and recycling to improve transparency and traceability across the critical minerals supply chain.

What's clear: It is imperative to build both domestic and allied critical mineral supply chains. Under U.S. leadership, FORGE could unlock investment, expand secure supply and strengthen America's energy and national security.

Plug in: Read ClearPath CEO Jeremy Harrell's [testimony](#) on the importance of securing critical mineral supply chains.

4. DOE signals upcoming funding to advance chemical innovation



More than 96 percent of manufactured goods depend on chemicals. Investing in innovative, low-emissions chemicals would allow the U.S. to capitalize on an increase in demand for low-emissions industrial materials. DOE's Alternative Fuels and Feedstocks Office (AFFO) wants to strengthen domestic chemicals supply chains, **proposing** up to \$58 million for Accelerating Scale-up and Pre-piloting of Emerging Chemical Technologies to help scale early-stage technology that turns alternative feedstocks into chemicals.

What's included in the opportunity:

- Bench-scale R&D for technologies past proof-of-concept, with an option to pre-pilot individual unit operations; and
- Pre-pilot facility design, construction and operation for technologies with prior-scale data that are ready to integrate.

What's clear: By funding these two key phases of technology commercialization, DOE is enabling American innovators to build a resilient, clean future of American chemical manufacturing.

Plug in: Check out ClearPath's [blog](#) on how American chemical innovation can secure supply chain independence.

5. Powering Your Energy Career: CCLP hosts young energy professionals



ClearPath's Conservative Leadership Program (CCLP) is hosting a half-day professional development event next week. This is a unique opportunity for early-career professionals to explore pathways in energy policy, connect with like-minded peers and gain insight from leaders shaping conservative energy innovation policy.

This event features:

- A fireside chat with **Rep. Celeste Maloy** (R-UT) and former Congressman **Greg Walden** (R-OR);
- A professional development session on communication and career skills;
- An interactive activity to build energy policy literacy;
- A panel showcasing the breadth of career opportunities in the energy sector; and
- A networking lunch with energy professionals.

What's clear: At ClearPath, we are always looking for the nation's top talent to participate in CCLP. The program aims to foster, educate and empower the next generation of clean energy leaders.

Plug in: The event is 8:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m on July 22. Please share this opportunity with your network or register yourself **here**!

6. 250 years of American energy innovation



As America celebrates its 250th anniversary, ClearPath is **highlighting** America's innovation story. From the earliest discoveries in electricity and steam power to modern nuclear, natural gas, advanced grid technologies and agriculture, American innovators have consistently pushed the boundaries of what's possible.

Quick history lesson – Hydrogen gas

- **1932** - Engineers **develop steam-methane reforming**, the process that transforms natural gas into hydrogen **and makes up over 95% of U.S. hydrogen production today**.
- **1965** - **NASA's Gemini program** becomes the first U.S. spacecraft powered by hydrogen fuel cells, a technology later used on Apollo and the Space Shuttle.
- **2023** - **The Department of Energy selects** seven Regional Clean Hydrogen Hubs to receive federal funding, launching the buildout of a domestic hydrogen economy and boost American manufacturing, refining and transportation.
- **2025** - **HyTerra records natural hydrogen** concentrations of 83% at its Nemaha Project drilling site in Kansas, pointing to a new domestic source of hydrogen in the subsurface.

What's clear: American innovators keep advancing new ways to produce and use hydrogen. As the U.S. builds out its domestic hydrogen economy, this resource has the potential to drive American energy dominance with an all-of-the-above approach.

7. Coming down the pipeline

July 23, 12:00 PM ET, Washington, D.C. - **Niko McMurray** will join the **Breakthrough Institute** for a lunch briefing on the Hill to discuss the NRC's ongoing wholesale rulemaking efforts.

8. ICYMI

- E&E **reported** that Scott Prutting joined ClearPath as the Senior Advisor of Regulatory Policy to lead its regulatory and permitting portfolio, advancing the effort to modernize NEPA, reform judicial review and bring efficiency to the permitting process.
- Topsoe **announced** it will supply its SynCOR Ammonia technology to a new J Westling & Co., blue ammonia facility in Gothenburg, Nebraska. When it is operational in 2029, this will be the first blue ammonia project built specifically to supply fertilizer to regional farms, reducing emissions while supporting American farmers.
- The **Fusion Industry Association** released its 2026 Global Fusion Industry Report, finding that 56 private fusion companies have now raised \$14.2 billion in total, with \$4.5 billion raised in the last year.
- **SuperCritical Materials** secured an exclusive license from the Department of Energy for extracting uranium from seawater, used for low-carbon nuclear electricity.
- The Senate ENR Subcommittee on Public Lands, Forests and Mining held a **hearing** on 15 bills, including five geothermal permitting bills.



ClearPath believes America must lead the world in innovation over regulation... markets over mandates...providing affordable, reliable, clean energy.

That's all from us. Thanks for reading and have a great weekend!

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