



The Price-Anderson Act

Position Statement

November 2005

The American Nuclear Society endorses the extension of the Price-Anderson Act enacted through the Energy Policy Act of 2005. The Price-Anderson Act covers all licensed nuclear power plants, research and test reactors, and contracts entered by the U.S. Department of Energy through December 31, 2025. It also establishes the framework for liability claims that arise from the use or exposure to radioactive materials.

The indemnity provisions of the Price-Anderson Act ensure that adequate and timely funds are available to compensate the public in case of a nuclear incident. In case of an extraordinary nuclear occurrence, the Act channels the full liability from all those associated with a nuclear project to one single licensee or contractor.

Existence and extension of the Price-Anderson Act do not imply declining safety performance by nuclear facilities. In particular, the safety records of commercial nuclear power plants have improved significantly during the last decade. However, failure to renew the Act would deter private sector participation in nuclear activities.

The Price-Anderson Act has proved to be beneficial to the public at no cost to the taxpayer.

Position Statement No. 54 was first approved and issued in March 2001. Revision #3 was issued in November 2005

The American Nuclear Society, founded in 1954, is a not-for-profit scientific and educational society of more than 11,000 scientists, engineers, and educators from universities, government and private laboratories, and industry.

Position Statements are the considered opinions and judgments of the Society in matters related to nuclear science and technology. They are intended to provide an objective basis for weighing the facts in reaching decisions on important national issues.