

Hello January,

Thank you for taking the time to send your inquiry. The U.S. Department of Energy's Office of Nuclear Energy works to advance nuclear energy science and technology to meet the nation's energy, environmental, and economic needs. As an applied energy research and development organization, we enable innovation, support unique research infrastructure, and solve crosscutting challenges facing the nuclear energy sector.

We would like to clarify that the Department of Energy is not a part of the Operation Gigawatt initiative in Utah. We recommend reaching out to the state of Utah to address your question about the health of the Great Salt Lake and comments on the state's energy initiatives, project decisions, and environmental and geologic factors. To help further address your inquiry, we recommend contacting [Utah's Office of Energy Development](#) at energy@utah.gov.

As far as your inquiry pertains to nuclear reactor technology generally, we can share that U.S. nuclear reactors are safe and secure, and built to protect people and the environment. They are subject to rigorous technical, environmental, and regulatory reviews before they are approved to be built. Environmental assessments evaluate potential impacts on land, water, air quality, and local ecosystems. Evaluations also include independent geological surveys and seismic safety assessments. Once a reactor is built, the site is constantly monitored to ensure reactors can operate safely. Advanced nuclear reactor designs also incorporate passive safety systems that enable automatic shutdown and heat removal without human intervention.

The Department of Energy's Office of Nuclear Energy funds research and development that enhances the safety of the current and future nuclear fleet. Other federal agencies set regulations and ensure nuclear reactors operate safely, including the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

Thank you again for your inquiry.

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