Eielson Microreactor Project
Quarterly Newsletter | June 2026

Welcome,

We're excited to share the 11th edition of updates from the Office of the Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Air Force for Infrastructure, Energy, and Environment (SAF/IEE) on the Department of Air Force (DAF) Microreactor Project at Eielson Air Force Base (AFB) in Alaska. This edition highlights the project's progress, recent engagements with public officials, and key news and events shaping the effort. Previous newsletters can be found on the Eielson Microreactor website at www.eielson.af.mil/microreactor/.

If you'd like to subscribe to our newsletter, or have any questions regarding the Microreactor Project, please email us at SAF.IEE.MicroreactorPilot@us.af.mil.

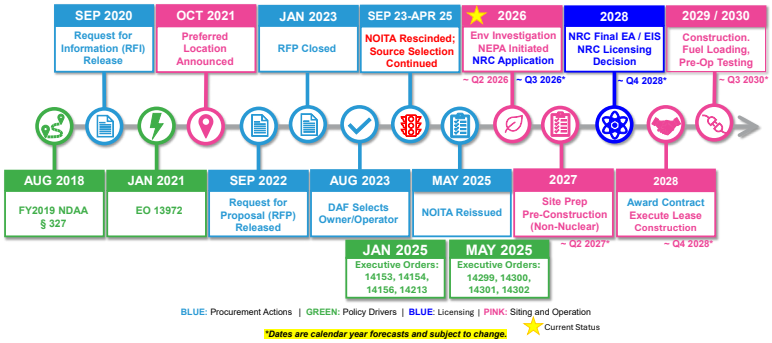
Project Updates:

Last summer, DAF, in coordination with the Defense Logistics Agency (DLA) Energy Office, awarded the Notice of Intent to Award to Oklo Inc. Next steps for the project include initiation of environmental analyses for the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process, anticipated to begin on base in Summer 2026.

The primary goal of the project is to provide Eielson AFB with a reliable, independent power source to supplement the existing coal-fired heat and power plant. This initiative is especially critical given Eielson's arctic location, as it will guarantee a consistent power supply for essential missions, even if the commercial grid is unavailable. This ensures the 354th Fighter Wing can remain ***"Ready to go at 50 below."***

Following discussions between Oklo and the DAF Microreactor Project Team, DAF announced the estimated completion date for the project is 2030. See an updated timeline below:

Microreactor Project Timeline



CAMP Week & Community Engagement:

From March 23-26, the semi-annual Council for the Microreactor Project (CAMP) convened at Eielson AFB in Fairbanks, brought together senior DAF leaders, federal and Tribal representatives, state and local officials, academic institutions, and industry experts.

The event underscored the DAF's commitment to engaging openly with all partners and the base community. Panelists stressed that open forums are essential for building trust and demonstrating the safety and reliability of advanced nuclear technology.

Beyond its critical resilience role, the project serves as a pathfinder to establish a scalable model for deploying advanced nuclear technology to remote communities across Alaska, strengthening the state's overall energy security. The reactor, in development by Oklo, is based on proven technology with inherent safety features that make it self-stabilizing and reliable in extreme conditions.

The DAF is committed to a transparent and community-focused process, recognizing that local partnership is critical to success. Regular updates and public engagement will continue as the project moves forward.

Council for the Alaska Microreactor Project (CAMP) Meeting

On March 23, Ms. Nancy Balkus, Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Air Force for Infrastructure, Energy, and Environment (SAF/IEE), hosted the Spring 2026 CAMP at Eielson AFB. Other federal attendees included representatives from Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), Idaho National Laboratory (INL), industry representatives from Oklo Inc., and Tribal, state, and local officials from the Fairbanks, Alaska area.

Ms. Balkus provided a detailed overview of the Microreactor Project at Eielson AFB, a project aimed at securing the installation's critical defense missions while pioneering a new energy model for Alaska. The reactor will provide a resilient, independent power source for the strategically vital base.

Oklo Co-Founder and CEO Jake DeWitte provides an overview of Oklo's microreactor technology at the Spring 2026 CAMP meeting.

Col Matthew Johnston, Commander of Eielson AFB emphasized that the project is a mission-critical investment in energy resilience, ensuring that Eielson's combat and homeland defense operations in the Indo-Pacific are not vulnerable to disruptions. As Eielson's strategic importance grows, energy and water security are paramount.

Base Town Hall

On March 24, SAF/IEE hosted a Base Town Hall at the Eielson AFB Yukon Club. Airmen, personnel, and families gathered to learn how the DAF is leveraging advanced nuclear energy solutions to ensure safe, secure, resilient and reliable power.

Ms. Balkus, Col Johnston, Mr. Jake DeWitte, Oklo CEO and co-founder, Mr. Brian Smith of INL, and Ms. Laura Willingham of the NRC participated in the Base Town Hall panel, addressing audience questions about the project.

Ms. Balkus of SAF/IEE addresses the Base Town Hall attendees.

Questions from the Eielson AFB community centered on several topic areas including safety and potential environmental impacts, particularly concerning water resources, how Oklo intends to engage with installation personnel, and about microreactor technology.

Panelists (left to right) Ms. Balkus of SAF/IEE, Col Johnston of Eielson AFB, Mr. Jake DeWitte of Oklo, Mr. Brian Smith of INL, and Ms. Laura Willingham of the NRC share updates

Showcasing Our Advanced Nuclear Strategy:

The Eielson Microreactor Project and DAF's broader advanced nuclear energy strategy have generated significant interest across federal, state, and industry sectors. Since our last newsletter, SAF/IEE has been actively engaging key partners at multiple high-level forums to discuss the future of energy resilience.

National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA)

On March 8, Ms. Balkus joined a panel at NRECA's PowerXchange titled ***"Mission Critical: The Coop Role in National Defense."*** This was a valuable opportunity to directly address the cooperatives that support military installations, outlining our energy priorities and the unique challenges and opportunities we face together.

Edison Electric Institute (EEI)

On March 18, Ms. Balkus participated in an ***EEI-hosted roundtable*** with electric industry CEOs and Department of War senior leaders in Washington, D.C. The discussion focused on how power generators can best support military energy needs, ensuring grid reliability, and developing coordinated strategies and communication to protect critical facilities. This forum allowed us to engage directly with leadership from multiple utility partners that serve our installations in a single, focused and private setting.

In-Q-Tel (IQT)

On March 18, Ms. Balkus participated in a panel on ***"Advanced Nuclear Energy for National Security"*** at IQT's Nuclear Energy Frontiers Forum. This event brought together influential leaders from government, industry, and the investment community to explore how next-generation nuclear technologies can enhance energy resilience, support defense missions, and secure America's strategic advantage.

Association of Defense Communities (ADC)

On May 12, Ms. Balkus participated in a panel at the Association of Defense Communities (ADC) National Summit titled ***"Powering Defense Installations from Within the Fenceline."*** The conversation highlighted recent progress in our nuclear energy initiatives and their potential to strengthen resilience for defense installations and neighboring communities. This session allowed for meaningful engagement with defense community leaders on nuclear energy at ADC's historic 50th-anniversary summit.

Facility & Campus Energy Summit (FCES)

On May 13, Ms. Balkus participated in the ***"A Glimpse into Defense Installations' Evolving Approach to Energy Assurance"*** panel at the Facility & Campus Energy Summit (FCES). The summit convened leaders from energy-intensive, large facilities such as universities, data centers, and hospitals. This session offered an opportunity to highlight how nuclear energy supports our resiliency goals and how it can help address similar challenges in non-defense sectors.

Save the Date:

The next CAMP Week is planned for August 24 – 27, 2026.