



Eielson Microreactor Pilot Newsletter | January 2026

Welcome,

We're excited to share the tenth 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 Pilot at Eielson Air Force Base (AFB) in Alaska. In this newsletter, you'll find highlights on the pilot'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 Pilot, please email us at SAF.IEE.MicroreactorPilot@us.af.mil.

Pilot Updates

On May 30, 2025, the DAF, in coordination with the Defense Logistics Agency (DLA) Energy Office, reached a critical milestone in piloting nuclear energy technology with the issuance of a Notice of Intent to Award (NOITA) to Oklo Inc. If ultimately awarded the contract, Oklo would be required to site, develop, operate, and decommission a Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC)-licensed microreactor facility at a DAF installation selected for site exploration.

Eielson AFB in Fairbanks, Alaska is the DAF's preferred location for the pilot, and the DAF and NRC are preparing an environmental analyses for the project as a next step. This pilot marks a potentially groundbreaking advancement for U.S. energy security, pioneering the first deployment of a commercial microreactor for the Department of Defense.

DAF is working closely with DLA Energy, Oklo, federal partners, and local stakeholders to draft a comprehensive timeline of next steps, which will be shared as soon as possible.

Read more here: www.eielson.af.mil/News/Display/Article/4213214/microreactor-pilot-reaches-major-project-milestone/



Oklo has been issued a Notice of Intent to Award to potentially design, construct, own, and operate a microreactor as part of a nuclear energy pilot at the Air Force's preferred location, Eielson AFB, pending their successful completion of the NRC-licensing process.
(Image courtesy of Oklo)

CAMP Week Activity

From August 25–28, the bi-annual Council for the Microreactor Pilot (CAMP) convened in Fairbanks, Alaska concurrently with the Alaska Defense Forum, bringing together senior DAF leaders, federal and Tribal representatives, state and local officials, academic institutions, and industry experts. The multi-day event served as a pivotal moment to advance the pilot and foster meaningful engagement with the local community.

Council for the Alaska Microreactor Pilot (CAMP) Meeting: On August 25, Ms. Nancy Balkus, Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Air Force for Infrastructure, Energy, and Environment (SAF/IEE), hosted an in-person CAMP meeting at the 8 Star Event Center in Fairbanks to engage with pilot partners and community leaders. The SAF/IEE team presented pilot updates and answered questions, shared the wider DAF advanced nuclear energy strategy, and discussed the impacts of new executive orders (EOs) on the pilot process and timelines.



Colonel Matthew Johnston, Commander of the 354th Fighter Wing at Eielson AFB, speaks about Alaska's strategic location at the Council for the Microreactor Pilot in Fairbanks, AK, August 25, 2025. (U.S. Air Force photo)

Federal partners from Eielson AFB, Idaho National Laboratory (INL), NRC, and the Department of Energy (DOE) Arctic Energy Office provided updates from their respective agencies. Local leaders from the surrounding area also attended and provided updates, such as the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation and Doyon Limited.

A key highlight of CAMP was the participation of Oklo, the selected offeror who received a Notice of Intent to Award in May. Oklo is designing and deploying advanced fission power plants to provide clean, reliable, affordable energy. Visit Oklo's website to learn more: www.oklo.com/overview/.

Alaska Defense Forum Panel: On August 27 at the 8 Star Events Center, Mr. Lucian Niemeyer of the United Coalition of Advanced Nuclear Power (UCAN) moderated the Alaska Defense Forum panel "Powering the Mission: Nuclear Energy as a Strategic Advantage," with panelists Ms. Nancy Balkus of SAF/IEE, Dr. Jess Gehin of INL, Dr. Jeremy Kasper of the University of Alaska-Fairbanks' Alaska Center for Energy and Power, Mr. Bill Goodman of Oklo, and Col. Matthew Johnston, Commander of Eielson AFB.

The panel discussed growing energy demands and evolving threats to infrastructure, and how nuclear energy is emerging as a critical component of installation resilience, national security, and operational readiness. The panel examined the transformative potential of advanced nuclear technologies, from microreactors to strategic energy planning, and its implications for Alaska and the nation.



Panelists discuss advanced nuclear strategy as part of the "Powering the Mission: Nuclear Energy as a Strategic Advantage" at the Alaska Defense Forum in Fairbanks, AK, August 27, 2025. (Credit: Alaska Defense Forum)

Town Hall: The week culminated in a well-attended public town hall on August 27, moderated by Dr. Mike Sfraga, Ambassador (ret.) and Interim Chancellor at the University of Alaska–Fairbanks. Over 120 community members gathered to learn how the DAF is leveraging advanced nuclear solutions to ensure safe, secure, resilient and reliable power.

Ms. Nancy Balkus of SAF/IEE, Col. Matthew Johnson, Commander of Eielson AFB, Dr. Jess Gehin of INL, Ms. Laura Willingham of the NRC, and Mr. Bill Goodman of Oklo participated in the Town Hall panel, addressing audience questions about the pilot. The briefing is available on the [microreactor website](#).



Panelists discuss advanced nuclear energy strategy with local community members as part of a public town hall on the Department of the Air Force Microreactor Pilot in Fairbanks, AK, August 27, 2025. (U.S. Air Force photo)

Local Leadership Meetings

In addition to larger stakeholder meetings like the CAMP and Town Hall, the DAF Microreactor Pilot team held smaller group meetings with local and Tribal leaders, including the Tanana Chiefs Conference, Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation, DOE Arctic Energy Office, Fairbanks North Star Borough Mayor, and Doyon Limited. This local engagement is crucial to ensure the pilot addresses community-specific questions and concerns, fostering trust, transparent communication, and maximizing the potential benefits for the region.

Other Relevant News

Since the publication of the April 2025 Newsletter, the president published four new EO s relevant to the DAF Microreactor Pilot. These new EO s are pivotal instructions that directly drive the deployment of nuclear energy technology:

- EO 14299 - “Deploying Advanced Nuclear Reactor Technologies for National Security” - directs the rapid deployment of nuclear reactors to support national security objectives, including Artificial Intelligence (AI) computing infrastructure.
- EO 14300 - “Ordering the Reform of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission” - directs the reform of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission and decreases regulatory barriers for nuclear reactors.
- EO 14301 - “Reforming Nuclear Reactor Testing at the Department of Energy” - directs the reform and streamline of nuclear reactor testing at National Laboratories and the Department of Energy.
- EO 14302 - “Reinvigorating the Nuclear Industrial Base” - expedites and promotes the production and operation of nuclear energy facilities.

While the pilot team continues evaluating the full impact of these additional EO s on the pilot, we are already positioned for compliance, thanks to our innovative approach and long-term nuclear energy strategy.

Save the Date

Spring 2026 CAMP activities are planned for the week of March 23-27, 2026. Please visit www.eielson.af.mil/microreactor/ for the most up to date information.

We want to hear from you!

Please fill out this short survey: https://qualtricsxmc96n6mfv6.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_9N6qS5GneqTxlns.