



## Overview of Project and FAQ

Texas has long been a global innovation leader, pushing the frontiers of space, energy, and medical breakthroughs. Through Groves, Oklo is laying the foundation to restore U.S. isotope independence. Isotopes are materials that support life-saving cancer therapies, strengthen American manufacturing, and bolster American expeditions into space.

Currently, the majority of isotopes are produced overseas. By bringing this production back to the United States, Oklo is helping ensure patients, researchers, and industries have reliable access to these essential materials. Groves is intended to help validate systems and operating procedures that can support future commercial isotope production in the United States. Our work at Groves will also support job creation and economic investment in Caldwell County and central Texas.

### **Q: Is Groves the same as VIPR? What is Oklo building in Lockhart?**

No. Groves is not a commercial nuclear power plant, and it is not the same project as VIPR. Groves is a pool-type, water-cooled, non-pressurized reactor using low-enriched uranium fuel. It is being developed to build operating experience for future isotope production systems. It is not designed around large-scale steam generation, high-pressure operation, or commercial electricity production.

### **Q: How is Groves supporting Lockhart and the central Texas economy?**

Oklo has contracted with more than 20 companies during the construction of Groves, with the majority of companies based in Texas. This work has supported more than 200 full-time jobs and included more than \$20 million in local economic investment. As the project advances, Oklo expects to continue investing in Lockhart and surrounding communities in central Texas.

### **Q: Who oversees Groves?**

The project is being developed under the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Reactor Pilot Program (RPP). DOE is the federal authorization authority for this research, development, and demonstration project. Before startup, the project must complete DOE safety reviews, including safety analysis and readiness review steps. The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) also monitors RPP projects, and future commercial deployments would go through the NRC's commercial licensing process. State and local authorities are involved, where applicable, for non-nuclear matters such as construction, emergency coordination, environmental permits, and local compliance.

### **Q: What fuel does Groves use?**

Groves uses low-enriched uranium, or LEU, which is a fuel that is manufactured in the United States and has been used for decades in large commercial reactors around the country. Nuclear fuel is subject to strict nuclear safeguards and security requirements. That includes material control and accounting, physical protection, and secure transportation.



**Q: What waste will Groves produce, and will it stay in Lockhart?**

Groves is not being developed as a long-term waste disposal site. Materials from the project, including used fuel, will be managed under approved safety and waste management procedures. Used fuel will initially remain contained within the reactor system and adjacent facility structures, where it is passively cooled, and then will be transferred to another Oklo site. Other waste streams will be characterized, packaged, stored, transported, and disposed of through the appropriate regulatory channels.

**Q: Is the waste high-level or low-level?**

Materials are classified based on their source, radioactivity, and regulatory treatment. Oklo will provide more detail as project safety and waste management documentation advances, but the key point is that each material stream must be identified, characterized, controlled, and managed under applicable federal requirements.

**Q: How much water will Groves use?**

Groves will use far less water than a commercial power plant because it is not designed to produce electricity, generate large amounts of steam, or use evaporative cooling towers. Water in Groves is used in controlled reactor systems for cooling and shielding.

**Q: Could Groves affect local groundwater, springs, or the aquifer?**

Protecting local water resources is a core part of project planning. Groves is not a commercial power plant and is not designed around large-scale steam generation or evaporative cooling. Water use is limited to controlled reactor systems for cooling and shielding. Wastewater handling, stormwater management, site drainage, and any applicable construction or operating permits will be addressed through the appropriate local, state, and federal processes. Oklo will provide more information on site-specific water and environmental controls as those reviews advance.

**Q: What safety reviews happen before startup?**

Groves is designed to be a small, low-power isotope production reactor, not a large commercial power reactor. It is not designed around high-pressure steam generation, and it does not operate like a large, pressurized nuclear power plant. As a pool-type, water-cooled, non-pressurized reactor using low-enriched uranium fuel, Groves uses water in a controlled pool environment for cooling and shielding.

Before startup, DOE will review the project's safety basis to confirm that the reactor can be operated safely. That review includes hazard and accident analyses, operating controls, safety-classified structures, systems, and components, emergency-management requirements, procedures, training, and readiness reviews needed to support safe startup and protect workers, the public, and the environment.

The review also evaluates all potential accident scenarios, including fuel damage and potential release pathways, as well as material stress, component reliability, seismic and natural-hazard conditions, mechanical failures, and off-normal events. Under DOE's RPP authorization process, those issues must be addressed before startup authorization is granted.



**Q: What happens in the unlikely event of an emergency?**

Offsite protective actions, if they are deemed necessary, would be coordinated with all the appropriate federal, state, and local emergency management authorities. At Oklo, we are committed to working with Caldwell County officials and will share appropriate public information on emergency planning as the project advances. Community members can expect clear information on who is responsible, how notifications would occur, and what protective actions, if any, are required.

**Q: Will there be a written emergency-response plan?**

Yes. Emergency planning will be documented and coordinated with the appropriate federal, state, county, and local authorities before startup. Oklo is committed to working with Caldwell County officials and first responders, including fire and emergency management personnel, so that roles, notification procedures, and any required protective actions are clearly understood. As the project advances, Oklo will share information so residents know what to expect and who is responsible.

**Q: Will Oklo coordinate with local fire departments and emergency responders?**

Yes. Oklo will coordinate with local emergency management and fire response officials as part of project planning. That coordination is expected to include information sharing, site-specific response planning, and clear points of contact before startup. We understand that local responders need practical information, not just regulatory assurances.

**Q: What happens if Groves shuts down? Who pays for decommissioning?**

Decommissioning planning is part of responsible nuclear project development. Oklo will be required to plan for the safe shutdown, decontamination, and decommissioning of the facility in accordance with applicable requirements. That includes demonstrating how decommissioning responsibilities will be managed so that the community is not left with an unmanaged site. More details will be provided as the project progresses through the authorization process.

**Q: How will Oklo keep the Lockhart community informed?**

Oklo understands that residents want direct answers, not corporate language. We are committed to meeting with community members, local officials, emergency responders, and other stakeholders as the project advances. That includes sharing plain-language information about what Groves is, how it is reviewed, how safety and emergency planning work, how materials are managed, and how residents can ask questions.