



NRC NEWS

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GRAND GULF APPLICATION FOR NEW REACTOR AVAILABLE ON NRC WEBSITE

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission today made available the public version of a combined license (COL) application for a new reactor at the Grand Gulf site near Port Gibson, Miss.

The applicant, Entergy, submitted the application and associated information Feb. 27. The application, minus proprietary or security-related details, is available on the NRC Web site at: <http://www.nrc.gov/reactors/new-licensing/col.html>.

The Entergy COL application seeks approval to build and operate an Economic and Simplified Boiling Water Reactor (ESBWR) at the site, approximately 25 miles southwest of Vicksburg. The ESBWR is a General Electric-designed, 1,500 MWe natural-circulation boiling water reactor that incorporates passive safety systems. The NRC is currently reviewing the design for possible certification. More information on this design is available on the NRC Web site at: <http://www.nrc.gov/reactors/new-licensing/design-cert/esbwr.html>.

The NRC staff is currently conducting an initial check of the application to determine whether it contains sufficient information required for a formal review. If the application passes the initial check, the NRC will "docket," or accept it for review; this decision is expected by early May. If the application is accepted for formal review, the NRC will then notice an opportunity for the public to participate in an adjudicatory hearing on the application.

The NRC is currently reviewing COL applications for reactors at five locations:

- the Lee site in South Carolina;
- the South Texas Project site in Texas;
- the Bellefonte site in Alabama;
- the North Anna site in Virginia, and;
- a partial application for the Calvert Cliffs site in Maryland.

The agency is also conducting an acceptance check on an application for the Harris site in North Carolina. The NRC expects an additional 12 applications in 2008. Information about the new reactor licensing process is available on the NRC Web site at: <http://www.nrc.gov/reactors/new-reactor-licensing.html>.

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