



NRC NEWS

U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

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No. 04-122

October 1, 2004

NRC OFFERS OPPORTUNITY FOR HEARING ON RELICENSING APPLICATION FOR NIST TEST REACTOR

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission has issued a notice of opportunity for hearing on the application by the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) to extend the license of its test reactor in Gaithersburg, Md., for an additional 20 years.

NIST submitted the license renewal application on April 9, and the NRC has determined that the application is complete and acceptable for docketing. Details of the acceptance review and the opportunity to request a hearing were contained in a *Federal Register* notice published Sept. 21.

The NIST reactor operates at 20 megawatts thermal. It is used extensively for a wide range of government and private research; to characterize the structure and dynamics of materials; to develop material and radiation standards; to generate radioisotopes for analysis; and to study the effects of radiation on various materials.

The reactor began operation in 1967 and had its operating license renewed for 20 years in 1984. The current operating license expired May 16, 2004, but is considered to remain in effect because NIST filed its renewal application within the required period.

Any person whose interest may be affected by this proceeding has until Nov. 22 to file a request for a hearing and petition for leave to intervene with respect to the renewal of the license. The NRC's rules for requesting a hearing are contained in 10 CFR 2.309, and spelled out in the Sept. 21 *Federal Register* notice.

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