



NRC NEWS

U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

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NRC OFFERS OPPORTUNITY FOR HEARING ON PROPOSED SPENT NUCLEAR FUEL STORAGE FACILITY AT HUMBOLDT BAY

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission has accepted for detailed technical review an application from Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E) for a license to possess spent nuclear fuel in an independent spent fuel storage installation (ISFSI). The ISFSI would be located on the site of the former Humboldt Bay nuclear power plant in Humboldt County, California. NRC is offering an opportunity for interested persons to request a hearing.

PG&E submitted the application on December 15, 2003. If granted, the license would authorize the company to store spent fuel in the ISFSI for 20 years. The Humboldt Bay nuclear plant has been shut down since 1976. Spent fuel has been stored in a water pool inside the reactor refueling building since that time. Under PG&E's proposal, the used fuel would be moved into a dry storage cask system that the company would construct and operate at the site.

The NRC will conduct a comprehensive review of the application and conduct safety and environmental evaluations to determine if it would meet requirements of the agency's regulations, would not be inimical to the common defense and security, and would not constitute an unreasonable risk to public health and safety.

Within 30 days from the publication of a *Federal Register* notice on this subject on February 11, any person whose interest may be affected by the ISFSI and who wishes to participate as a party in the proceeding may file a written request for a hearing on the license application and a request to participate in the proceeding. The *Federal Register* notice gives details on specific information that must be included in the request, which should be sent to the Secretary of the Commission, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555, Attention: Rulemakings and Adjudications Staff. Other copies should be sent to the addresses set out in the *Federal Register* notice. If petitions are filed during the last 10 days of the 30-day notice period, petitioners are asked to notify E. William Brach, Director, Spent Fuel Project Office, NRC Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards, by telephone at 800-368-5642, extension 415-8500.

The application is available for review on the NRC's Agencywide Document Access and Management System (ADAMS) at <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams/web-based.html>. Help in using ADAMS is available from the NRC's Public Document Room (PDR) by calling

301-415-4737 or 1-800-397-4209. A copy is also available for viewing at the Public Document Room, 11555 Rockville Pike, Rockville, MD.

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